

A Man with Nerves of Steel

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Over on the other side, Bernard had also gotten the report from his subordinates. His expression darkened as he paced back and

forth in the room.

Helen came over, asking, “The driver is here. Why aren’t you leaving yet?”

“What Cora did for Joseph has put me in a really awkward position!”

Bernard told her about his men’s condition and that he’d have to pay them off to smooth things over, which would cost him a lot. Then he asked, “With how close you and Cora are, surely you can see what kind of person she is now?”

“Do you not trust Cora? What exactly are you suspicious of?”

A single look at the photos was enough for Helen to understand that Cora was getting revenge for Joseph. From Cora's perspective, her actions were understandable. It was just a matter of which side one stood on.

"Nat isn't that loser Joseph's!"

"Are you saying the paternity test results are correct?"

"Those results came from a legitimate judicial authority. It can't be fake. Joseph also had it double-checked by testing centers in the major cities, so it's definitely accurate. Try to find out who the other man is when you get the chance."

"So, Joseph wanting a divorce is justified?"

"Even if Natalie isn't Joseph's, his proposing divorce and demanding money is wrong! If this marriage is to end, it should be Cora who initiates it!

"Joseph secretly got a paternity test, asked for a divorce, and even sued. With all this premeditation, what are people supposed to think of our family?"

Bernard patted his cheek to stress his point of not wanting to lose face. Clearly unwilling to let Joseph off easily, he

contemplated for a moment before adding, “And Cora... She should have told us about something this serious! We are supposed to be the people she trusts most!”

“Isn’t that the truth?”

Helen thought about it. It had been many years since she had a good heart-to-heart with Cora. Maybe her daughter really did have a secret, wild side.

Back at the house, Joseph placed Cora on the desk and tried to pull her into a kiss, but she stopped him with her hand. “We can’t. I need to go see Fiona about something...”

“No, I want to do it now. Since you went out of your way for me, I should show my appreciation in return.”

Joseph didn’t give Cora a chance to refuse. He kissed her deeply, fiercely, and greedily. The desk began to shake, causing books to fall to the floor one after another.

At moments, Cora threw her head back, and at others she kissed Joseph passionately, but throughout it all, their fingers remained intertwined.

Before noon, Cora made Joseph take the sedatives. Once he was fast asleep, he went to Mary. “Joe is asleep. He probably won’t wake up until the evening. Keep an eye on things.”

“Is Mr. Hart okay?”

“He’s fine.”

+15 Bonus

After giving Mary a few more instructions, Cora left with Fiona when the latter arrived.

Mary closed the door, then went to do Cora’s laundry, busying herself before taking a short nap.

When she woke up before 3:00 pm, she heard noises coming from the gym in the basement. She went to check, only to find Joseph working out.

Just as she was about to approach him, the doorbell rang. She went back upstairs to check the monitor. Walt was at the door.

Mary reported this to Cora first, and only after getting permission did she let him in.

When Walt found Joseph, he said, “I’ve already suppressed the whole matter. You can return to the hospital and resume work.”

“Even though what happened that night wasn’t my fault, that woman did, in fact, come into my dorm, and the things in the photos and video did happen. I can’t clear my name of the incident.”

Joseph was deeply frustrated, but that was the truth. In the end, no one cared about the truth. People would only remember that his private life was a mess.

“That matter isn’t entirely your matter alone. It’s also something that reflects poorly on our hospital. Don’t worry. I won’t let anyone gossip about it anymore.

“Oh; I should still tell you something. Do you know who submitted that evidence for you?”

“Who?”

“It was Bill. He said he saw you going in and out of nightclubs. Of course, I didn’t believe it. I know your situation after all.”

Joseph had suspected Bill, but he didn’t expect it to be true. Hearing Walt speak in a lowered voice made it hard for Joseph to turn him down.

“That cholera patient is here. She specifically asked to see you. This might be a good thing for you.”

+15 Bonus

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“Mr. Hart, are you heading out?” Mary asked when she noticed Joseph was dressed and ready to leave.

Since she couldn’t stop him, she quickly reported it to Cora. Mary was told not to stop him, but to follow him by car.

Walt brought Joseph to a specialized sanatorium, and Mary had tailed them the entire way. Her vehicle-lacked access permission, so she was unable to enter.

“Is he really here to treat someone? Looks like getting beaten up didn’t affect him much. Ms. Lowell sure knows how to keep her husband under control!”

Mary reported back to Cora, and that was the end of her involvement.

The sanatorium was extremely high-end, featuring private villas. If not for the medical staff walking around in uniforms, it would have looked no different from an upscale residential community.

Walt went in first to speak with the patient and her family while Joseph waited outside the villa. Joseph could feel someone watching him through the one-way glass, scrutinizing his every move. Fortunately, he didn't have to wait long before Walt came out and led him inside.

Inside was a listless old woman sitting in a wheelchair. Her hair was completely gray. She had a gaunt face, and her pale complexion carried a faint bluish hue. This expressionless woman was the rumored cholera patient.

To her right stood a middle-aged female doctor wearing a mask, the director of the sanatorium, Dolly Fleming.

And to her left was another middle-aged woman, the patient's personal caregiver.

"Dr. Hart, forgive me for not rising to greet you properly. My condition simply doesn't allow for formal pleasantries. I trust you won't take offense."

The old woman, Mavis Boyd, nodded slightly, her withered hands making a polite gesture.

“Of course not. You’re being too kind. I’m just an ordinary doctor with limited ability and no position or authority. How could I deserve such courtesy?” Joseph hurriedly replied, feeling unworthy of such respect.

“There is no need to be modest, Dr. Hart. I’ve suffered from this illness for a long time, and no one knew the cause.

“Yet you, with your vast knowledge and talent, identified it as cholera at a glance, freeing me from endless suffering. For this kindness alone, it would not be too much for me to thank you on my knees.”

“That... You give me far too much credit. Anyway, we’re getting off topic now. Let’s get back to where we started. I’m a doctor, and you’re a patient. Now that I am here, I can examine you if you need me to.

“But if my skills fall short and there’s nothing I can do, I hope you won’t hold it against me.”

Joseph didn’t care for pleasantries.

“Then I’ll be in your hands.”

Mavis had been waiting for Joseph to say that. She cooperated with Joseph’s examination.

After a thorough round of observation, questioning, and pulse-taking, Joseph described her symptoms without her needing to express them. His words left her feeling pleasantly surprised and unexpectedly more hopeful.

With the examination done, Joseph took another look at the test results from the state-of-the-art medical equipment. He was confident in his diagnosis, but he did not rush to say anything.

Instead, he turned to Walt and Dolly. Since the two of them had already run out of options, they naturally deferred to Joseph's judgment.

+15 Bonus

After Joseph presented the treatment plan, he excused himself to step outside for a smoke, giving them some privacy to talk it over. Half an hour later, Walt called him back in.

Having consulted with her team, Mavis agreed to proceed with Joseph's treatment plan on the spot.

However, before using Joseph's acupuncture approach on her, her personal caregiver tried it first to confirm its safety. Only after that did they proceed with treatment on Mavis.

After a round of treatment, her condition visibly improved, leaving both the doctors and the patient optimistic.

After another treatment session that evening, they agreed to continue the next day, and Joseph left with Walt.

On the way back, Walt couldn't stop praising Joseph. "You haven't handled much clinical work in recent years, so I thought you were mainly strong in theory.

"I never expected you to be such a genius who can handle everything on your own. In terms of medical expertise, you've already surpassed all of us. You're the best in our hospital, and in all of Jenton, you're among the very best!"

Joseph said emotionally, "You flatter me, Dr. Loughlin! I'm not that amazing. I still have many shortcomings. Actually, our hospital doesn't lack medical talent.

"What they lack are opportunities and resources. My father-in-law once said that no matter how many years I spend studying, it can't compare with the wealth accumulated over three generations."

"That's not necessarily true. A man may lack opportunities, but he cannot truly lack ability!"

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Joseph walked into the house and noticed that Cora wasn't home. In the past, he would have sent her a message to ask where she was, and no matter how late it got, he would have waited for her to come home. But he had no heart for that now.

"Mr. Hart, you're back. Have you eaten? Should I make you something?" Mary asked.

"What's Cora up to?"

“Ms. Lowell only said she wouldn’t be coming back for dinner. She didn’t say anything else.”

“Oh, right. Would it be too much to ask you to give me a massage and rub some oil on me?”

“Well, Ms. Lowell wouldn’t allow that...”

Mary knew how to do it, of course, but without Cora’s permission, she didn’t dare lay a hand on Joseph.

“You seem to do whatever Cora says. I guess if she told you to sleep with me, you’d do that too.”

Joseph gave a contemptuous smile before heading into the study to work. After summing up his key takeaways from treating the cholera patient, he looked for information to create a more comprehensive treatment plan.

Once he was done, he went out to a massage place. He ordered a standard massage and oil rub to start, then asked the female worker for the full service.

However, the additional services never came. After the worker finished the massage and oil rub, she left and never came back. Lying on the bed, Joseph eventually dozed off. When he woke up again, he found Cora sitting by the bed, staring at him with a solemn expression.

It was just as he had expected. He remained calm, making no attempt to explain himself. After checking his watch, he said casually, "It's this late already? Oh, what are you doing here?"

"Do you not know what kind of place this is? Why would you come to a place like this?"

Cora wanted to slap Joseph and give him a harsh scolding. Who gave him the guts to come to a place like this for a full service?

"Right. You managed to find me at a place like this. So either you followed me here, or this place is part of your territory. Whichever it is, the Lowell family really is something else!"

Joseph had achieved his goal, and since there was no way Cora would make a scene here, they left the place together.

When they got home, Cora asked Mary to retire for the night. She wanted to lecture Joseph and lay down the house rules, but she found Joseph swimming in the pool instead.

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Upon reaching the edge of the pool, she called out to him. “How can you act as if nothing happened? You still haven’t explained

your reasons for going there.”

“I was feeling worn out today, so I thought I’d go unwind. I didn’t do anything, so what explanation do I need to give? Besides, you haven’t given me an explanation for the things you’ve been doing outside either. Enough of that. Get in, let’s have some fun.

Joseph splashed water at Cora.

“Do you think I’m as free as you are?”

Cora ignored him, avoided the splash, and went back inside.

Joseph muttered to himself, “I’m in this situation because of you. Isn’t this the outcome you wanted, Cora? If you can’t stand this, then divorce me...”

Letting out a sneer, he submerged himself in the water and continued swimming to relax. When he went back inside, he found

that Cora had locked the master bedroom door. Clearly, he was not welcome there that night.

+15 Bonus

The next day, Joseph waited for Walt to arrive, and they went to the sanatorium together. After another day of treatment, Mavis seemed noticeably better. Aware that Joseph didn't have his car with him, she specifically asked her personal caregiver to take him home.

Once the drop-off was done, the caregiver returned to the sanatorium and truthfully reported that Joseph was staying at Cofa's

home.

Upon hearing this, Mavis fell into deep thought for a moment, making no attempt to comment.

The caregiver then mused aloud, "If Dr. Hart is divorcing Cora, why is he still living with her? He doesn't own any property, so he probably has nowhere else to go."

Since they had sought Joseph for treatment, naturally, they had to investigate his situation thoroughly.

Joseph and Cora's relationship was easy enough to look into, but when they found that Joseph had already filed for divorce twice, they suspected that there was more to this than met the eye.

"If Dr. Hart asks for our help with the divorce, then we'll put pressure on Bernard. If he doesn't, then we should stay out of his personal affairs," Mavis said after considering it carefully.

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After several consecutive days of treatment, Mavis' overall condition showed clear improvement. By around the eighth day, she was able to ditch the wheelchair and stand and walk on her own.

That day, after the treatment session ended, Mavis asked Joseph to stay for a meal. She made no immediate mention of compensation and instead waited for Joseph to bring it up first.

Joseph also knew that Mavis no longer needed his medical skills and that she would be leaving Jenton tomorrow. But asking a patient for payment went against his original intent and principles, so he couldn't bring himself to do it. ¹

Finally, Mavis asked him, “Would you like to change workplaces? Perhaps a top hospital in one of the major cities?”

“I can’t leave just yet. I still have some matters holding me back in Jenton. If I need anything in the future, I’ll be sure to trouble

you.”

Joseph decided to bank this favor for the time being and left the sanatorium.

When he got home, he was organizing his treatment notes when Cora came in. Her revealing nightgown and her seductive expression made it obvious that she had certain needs that night.

Sure enough, Cora came up behind him, kissed the top of his head, and smiled. “Still mad at me for not letting you get the full service? Are you really that petty? I’ve made some good money these past few days. If you still want to go, you can go tomorrow. But tonight, you are mine.”

“How much did you make?”

Joseph gave a slight smile. Cora was clearly playing a tactical retreat. If he actually took her words at face value and went with it, Cora would simply catch him in the act, and he would be humiliated!

“It’s not a lot, but it’s not nothing. Honey, to be honest, I make money for you and the kids. I want to create the best living conditions for you, so you can be happy and fulfilled.”

“In that case, thank you so much!”

Joseph set aside his work and carried Cora back to the master bedroom in a princess carry. After tossing her onto the soft, spacious bed, he impatiently undressed. They then lost themselves in the throes of passion.

The next day, Joseph wasn’t in a rush to go to work, even though Walt had repeatedly assured him that the gossip at the hospital had been smoothed out and wouldn’t affect his job.

In the afternoon, he hopped into the pool to swim. When he surfaced at the edge of the pool, he caught sight of a pair of familiar

sight canvas shoes. It was Natalie.

“School isn’t out yet. Did you cut class?”

“My business is none of your concern! Tell me-why are you back living here again?”

Natalie noticed Joseph was drinking Cora's most expensive vintage wine, something she had planned to open only after graduating high school. She never expected it to be wasted on him now.

Thinking back on what Mary had said, she became even more convinced that Joseph had revealed his greedy, pleasure-seeking

nature.

Upon hearing Natalie's disrespectful tone, Joseph couldn't help but feel disappointed, so he deliberately provoked her.

"And how is my business any of yours? If you have this much free time, you'd be better off finding that nobody father of yours. If you don't, your classmates and friends are going to start calling you a bastard."

"You're the bastard! My dad isn't a nobody! He's my real dad, someone with status and dignity! My real dad is way better than you. He's a thousand times better."

+15 Bonus

“You’re not even qualified to shine his shoes. You’re just a good-for-nothing and a worthless freeloader!”

Natalie ran her mouth like a machine gun, firing off insults without pause. She seemed determined to hurl every curse word she knew at Joseph.

She absolutely despised being called a bastard. When she saw Joseph pouring another drink, she angrily snatched the bottle and threw it into the pool, making sure he couldn’t have any more.

Joseph downed the wine in his glass, then got out of the pool. As he wrapped a towel around his waist, he said unhurriedly, “What did I teach you before? Anger is the most useless reaction of all.

“At this rate, you won’t even find your so-called father. You’re just deluding yourself so that you’ll feel better. Anyhow, you’ll never understand that Cora has absolutely no boundaries. I bet the man she slept with to have you isn’t any better either.”

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+15 Bonus

Joseph was about to provoke Natalie further when he saw Mary walking over. She handed Natalie the phone. It was Cora calling.

“Mom, I just came back to pick up a few things. I’m heading back to school right now...

Natalie could not avoid the call. She could offend Joseph, but she did not dare go against Cora. If Cora cut off her allowance or sent her off to some godforsaken place to study, she’d really be up a creek without a paddle.

Afraid that Joseph would continue bothering Natalie, Mary deliberately tried to get in his way.

“Mary, you need to understand your place. You’re better off turning a blind eye to the stuff between Cora and me. Do you really think you’d still be able to stay in this house if it ever comes down to choosing between you and me, or even between you and the children?

“And if you were observant, you’d have noticed that Natalie looked off. Besides not eating well at school, it’s probably that time of the month for her.

“Make her something good to eat and drink. She’ll appreciate you for it,” Joseph said calmly as he dried his hair.

Mary froze for a second. After considering it, she decided to listen to Joseph and went to the kitchen to prepare food instead of rigidly following Cora's instructions to keep a constant eye on Joseph and Natalie.

Joseph didn't know exactly what Natalie and Cora discussed in the room, but judging by Natalie's expression, the conversation wasn't pleasant. He opened a new bottle of wine, earning himself several eye-rolls from Natalie.

"What? If you want to curse me out, then go ahead. Don't be a chicken. Tsk, tsk! Natalie, you really don't take after Cora or me at

all.

"You always bottle things up and back down when things happen. You must have gotten that soft nature from your father. Goes to show that he's no prize either."

"Y-You're the one who's no good! I'm going to tell Mom everything you said, Joseph. Just wait until she gets back. She'll deal with you."

"Your mother is nothing but a liar. Other than using dirty tricks, what else can she do? Once I find your biological father and you two acknowledge each other, I'd like to see how Cora explains herself then!"

Joseph poured himself another drink and lit a cigarette.

“Hmph! All you do is eat my mom’s food, drink her booze, and smoke her cigarettes. You’re good for absolutely nothing, a total waste of space. If I were you, I’d be too ashamed to stay here!”

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Natalie kept rolling her eyes at Joseph, her gaze full of resentment.

Joseph found her behavior somewhat strange. How could someone so young harbor so much hostility toward him? In the end, he figured this was a classic case of how too much kindness only breeds resentment.

His strict upbringing of Natalie had already made her dissatisfied with him, but their father-daughter bond had held things together.

Now that Joseph had produced the paternity test, that bond no longer existed. As a young lady from a wealthy family, Natalie would no longer see Joseph as someone important. Rather, she wanted nothing more than to trample him underfoot.

Natalie did not stay home long. She went back to school soon after.

At 10:00 pm that night, Cora came home looking somewhat drained. Her damp hair and the scent of hotel shampoo suggested she had checked into a room somewhere and showered before coming back.

Joseph knew Cora would never settle for a cheap hotel. If she were meeting a man in secret, she would definitely choose a high- end, discreet place like a private resort villa, making any records of the accommodation nearly impossible to find.

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+15 Bonus

Plus, unless he caught them in the act, Cora would never admit it. And if the person she was with wasn't the father of her children, then there was little value in pursuing it. Looking into it would just prove she cheated yet again.

Standing at the doorway of the study, Cora looked at Joseph. "You must be feeling bored after idling at home for so many days.

Go back to work tomorrow."

"Fine. I was just thinking the same thing," Joseph answered with a nod.

He could not stay at home forever. Sooner or later, he would have to face the situation at the hospital.

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Chapter 48-

+15 Bonus

As soon as Joseph reported for duty, Walt dragged him straight to the ICU to try and save an elderly patient who was on his last legs. The patient was in the late stages of cancer and was on palliative care.

The retired old man had once been a very influential figure back in the day. Now, neither his family nor his associates wanted him to die, and they were trying every possible way to prolong his life.

Earlier that morning, his condition suddenly took a turn for the worse. Travis and the others had done everything they could, but they were unable to stabilize him.

Knowing how capable Joseph was, Walt told him to give it a shot.

Joseph didn't say much about it. Out of professional duty, he went all in to save the old man. Two hours later, he managed to completely stabilize the patient's condition.

Walt was extremely pleased and decided to use the opportunity to hold a small meeting to finalize Joseph's appointment as deputy director.

At the meeting, Marvin strongly opposed it, even slamming his hand on the table at one point. Walt's face instantly darkened.

He wanted to use his authority as the hospital director to shut down the dissent, but a phone call passed to him by his secretary forced him to cut the meeting short.

The call was from a senior official in the local health department that oversaw the hospital. They cautioned him against appointing a doctor with a stain on his record if Walt wanted to avoid trouble.

Though Joseph was never mentioned directly, the implication was obvious.

Walt explained the situation to Joseph. While Walt couldn't make him a deputy director, Joseph would still remain at the hospital and retain his title of Associate Chief Physician.

Joseph just brushed it off with a laugh. Still, he had underestimated the impact this issue would have. That afternoon, Walt got a notice to attend a meeting with the higher-ups.

As such, he left, leaving Marvin temporarily in charge. Marvin immediately called a general meeting for all the doctors.

At the meeting, Marvin showed Joseph no courtesy whatsoever, singling him out, criticizing his personal conduct, and even projecting compromising photos and videos of Joseph onto the big screen.

The doctors at the scene broke into an uproar. They finally understood why Joseph's name for deputy director had been removed from the announcement.

All their previous speculation had now seemingly been confirmed. It really was because of problems with his personal conduct.

The male doctors looked almost gleeful, as if they were only waiting for Marvin to announce Joseph's dismissal so they could enthusiastically support it.

The female doctors, on the other hand, had entirely different thoughts. After all, Joseph was a top-notch man, an absolute catch.

At first, Joseph had still been wearing a mask, trying to preserve some dignity. But now that he'd been exposed so blatantly, he had nothing left to lose.

He simply took off the mask. Enough was enough. If he didn't fight back now, he'd only end up crushed beneath someone's foot.

Slamming his hand on the table, he stood up furiously. He stared coldly at Marvin. "Dr. Pierce, you're making such a huge scene and insisting I have problems with my personal conduct, but have you ever stopped to think that this woman is my wife?"

"Let me ask you and everyone here—what's wrong with a husband and wife doing what married couples do? What are you trying to do by secretly filming such a private moment between spouses?"

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+15 Bonus

The crowd gasped again. But Marvin didn't give them a chance to discuss it, immediately rebutting Joseph. "That woman isn't your wife at all-

"You really can just say anything with a straight face! If I don't know who my own wife is, then who does? If she isn't my wife, then whose wife is she? And who exactly is my wife then?"

“How would I know whose wife she is? I only know she’s an escort who works in a nightclub...”

“And who says an escort can’t be my wife? Who made a rule that my wife can’t work in a nightclub? Marvin, have you ever fucking seen my wife?

“Have any of you present seen my wife? I’ve been married for years and never brought her to the hospital. Was I supposed to announce to everyone that my wife works at a nightclub? Am I obligated to do that? Well?”

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Support

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“My wife is an escort!”

+15 Bonus

The implication behind that sentence shocked every doctor present, including Travis. None of them expected Joseph to say something like that. Who would tolerate their wife's shameful behavior, let alone admit it so openly in front of everyone?

Marvin and his people had intended to corner Joseph, and even the bystanders were ready to enjoy the spectacle. But in the end, they got nothing out of it.

If that woman were really Joseph's wife, then there would be nothing wrong with her coming to him for marital relations, even if it was in the hospital dormitory.

Upon noticing that his words had momentarily silenced the crowd, Joseph continued to press Marvin. "Dr. Pierce, you owe me an explanation. Why were you secretly filming me while I was having marital relations with my wife?

"What exactly were your intentions? If you can't give me a proper explanation today, then I'm taking this to the higher-ups. I believe the organization will handle this fairly."

Naturally, Marvin wouldn't admit to it. Otherwise, he'd be the one losing his job. "It wasn't me who filmed it. Why would I film you? That makes no sense. Someone merely reported it to me, and as the one in charge of discipline and professional conduct, I couldn't just turn a blind eye.

"Wait, Joseph, don't change the subject. We all know that this woman isn't your wife—"

Joseph interrupted Marvin. “Now I have to prove my wife is indeed my wife? You keep claiming she isn’t my wife. Then let me ask you this. How do you plan to prove she isn’t?”

“How? That’s easy. Call her over here. Have her admit in front of us that she’s an escort and your wife. Then we’ll believe you.”

“Marvin, even if you are shameless, does that mean my wife and I are supposed to be shameless too? If you’re so capable, go call her here yourself!”

“You’re the one who said...”

“Hmph! I say she is my wife, and you don’t believe it, yet you demand I prove it! Marvin, if I said your wife isn’t your wife and demanded you prove she is, how would you prove it?

“Would you bring her here, have her admit your marriage in front of everyone, and then have marital relations so we can be witnesses?”

“You’re just being unreasonable and twisting logic! We will be forming a special investigation team, Joseph. Once we find out the truth, I’d like to see how you’re going to defend yourself!”

“I’ll wait for the truth to come out then. I refuse to be wrongly accused like this without cause!”

Joseph didn't back down an inch at the meeting, causing much of Marvin's plan to fail. In the end, Marvin could only temporarily relieve Joseph of his duties. After the meeting, Marvin immediately formed an investigation team to look into the

matter.

Walt had actually tried to find out why a woman had entered Joseph's dorm room. When he sent people to investigate, they discovered the surveillance cameras had been out of order at the time, so no one knew how the woman got in. Joseph, however, knew very well that Cora had set it all up.

The investigation team called Joseph in for questioning. They wanted him to explain what happened and sign a statement, but Joseph refused to budge.

That evening, Walt returned from his meeting. He read the minutes of the meeting Marvin chaired twice. Seeing that Joseph hadn't been brought down, he breathed a sigh of relief. But he was still very worried about what Joseph said.

"Joseph, won't Cora be angry with you for insulting her like that?"

+15 Bonus

“Dr Loughlin, you know Cora and I are getting a divorce, so I don’t need to worry about her feelings. That’s not the main issue here anyway, so let’s drop it, I really don’t get it.

“I have no grudge with Marvin, so why is he going so hard against me? He’s even going head-to-head with you just to get me kicked out of the hospital. He’s making this a situation where either I go, or he goes.”

Joseph knew that his divorce from Cora would not happen overnight. And this conflict with Marvin was far more urgent at the

moment.

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Even Walt was at a loss for an answer to Joseph’s question.

While the two were talking, a call came in from the ICU. Another retired elderly patient had a sudden emergency and needed Walt’s support. After hearing about the patient’s condition, he didn’t feel confident handling the case, so he wanted Joseph to go with him.

Joseph refused, citing his conflict with Marvin. He did not want to make any mistake in medical work that Marvin could use against him to further harm him. 1

Joseph wasn't the type to play it safe out of fear, but right now, he needed to avoid any more issues.

Cora was home when Joseph got back. He was annoyed as hell on the inside, but on the surface, he acted as if nothing had happened. After washing his hands, he sat down to eat.

As Cora had a small appetite, it didn't take long for her to finish eating. She elegantly wiped the corner of her mouth before asking Joseph, "You went to work today. How did it go?"

Joseph didn't answer right away. He handed his plate to Mary for an extra serving of pasta, then drank some soup first.

"I'm basically public enemy number one at the hospital now. But I don't blame anyone. I'm planning to just accept this hand fate has dealt me."

"Oh? What do you mean by that?"

"The associate director of our hospital called a meeting to expose what happened in my dorm room. He claimed my scandalous private life was problematic and wants to fire me.

“The deputy director position that was supposed to be mine has gone down the drain. What I can’t figure out is how Marvin got those pictures and video. Did you give them to him?”

“Oh, it wasn’t me. I didn’t know anything about this...”

“I believe you didn’t know. You said you love me, so you wouldn’t hurt me. Anyway, let me be clear in advance-if I lose my job, I’ll just stay at home and live off you, You’d better not have issues with that.”

After taking the extra serving of pasta Mary brought him, he dug into the food with gusto, seemingly enjoying his meal.

While chewing, he mumbled, “Mary, next time, make the pasta a little softer. And also cook the vegetables longer. That way, the food will be easier to digest, and I wouldn’t have to work so hard on chewing my food.”

Mary did not dare respond, merely turning to Cora.

“Honey, I’m full. You take your time eating.”

Cora picked up on the subtext in Joseph’s words. She frowned in annoyance, but since the dorm incident was indeed arranged by her, she couldn’t avoid responsibility. She left the dining table and went to her study.

Mary turned to Joseph. “Mr. Hart, there’s no need for you to treat Ms. Lowell like that. She’s actually very good to you and works very hard. When she comes home tired after a busy day, you should be more considerate and put her in a good mood.”

“You don’t know anything, so don’t go meddling. Your good intentions aren’t worth a dime. Just do what you’re supposed to do well!”

“I’m telling you this for your own good! Haven’t you learned your lesson from the beating last time? With your temper, you’re going to get beaten up again. Don’t say I didn’t warn you!”

“Then thank you for the warning!”

After dinner, Joseph did not go to his study but watched the news. Unexpectedly, a business opportunity caught his attention.

Chapter 48-

+15 Bonus

There was a new energy policy in Jenton that favored automotive batteries.

An idea suddenly struck him and he went straight into Cora's study. Cora was in a video meeting with Fiona. Being interrupted so abruptly, Cora looked at Joseph with a stern gaze..

But Joseph paid no attention to her reaction. He walked over, ended Cora's video call, and said, "I need 20 million dollars, preferably by noon tomorrow."

"I don't have the money right now! Joseph, I'll say it one last time-knock before entering the study. Don't disturb me when I'm working."

"You're not giving me money because you're afraid I'll go bad once I have it?"

"I said I don't have the money, so I don't! My piece is said. You can leave now. Oh, and you can sleep in the guest room tonight."

Joseph's face instantly fell. He slammed the door shut on his way out.

P

Support

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A Man with Nerves of Steel

+15 Bonus

Later that night, Cora walked out of the study, rubbing her neck after spending hours working at her desk.

She took the cup of tea Mary handed her and drank a sip. Mary seemed to have something on her mind, so Cora said, “Stop hesitating. Just say it.”

Mary finally spoke up, “Mr. Hart drove off earlier and still hasn’t come back. When he left, I saw him bring his briefcase, medical kit, and a few sets of clothes. I can’t reach him by phone. It’s already so late. Should we go look for him?”

Cora scoffed. “He’s a grown man. It’s not like he doesn’t know the way home. Leave him be and get some rest.”

Cora's head ached slightly. It was obvious that her refusal to give Joseph money earlier had caused some sort of misunderstanding between them. And with Joseph's temperament, she felt Joseph was being very immature.

Still, Cora felt a little uneasy. Joseph had changed. He was never like this before,

But she didn't go looking for him. She believed that everything was still under her control.

This time, Joseph didn't go drinking at a bar after he left, nor did he go to a hotel. Instead, he contacted Dolly and took on a private consultation.

The patient was a man in his early 60s suffering from severe rheumatism. He had been confined to a wheelchair for ten full years, but he hadn't recovered despite countless treatments.

Dolly knew Joseph's medical skills were exceptional. Not only was he highly skilled in modern medicine, but he was also skilled in traditional medicine. So, she arranged the consultation.

After experiencing Joseph's treatment firsthand, the patient chose to trust him. Although the first session didn't miraculously heal the patient, he was already feeling a lot better, which increased his confidence in Joseph.

Inside the car, Dolly handed Joseph the full ten thousand dollars consultation fee from the patient's family, but Joseph quickly pushed it back.

“Just give me half. We should split it evenly.”

Dolly smiled and said, “You did all the work. I didn’t do anything. Besides, you’re the doctor I recommended. If you cure the patient, I’ll benefit in other ways as well. No need to be so polite with me. I’ll be needing your help in plenty of ways in the future.

Joseph sighed. “You probably already heard about the embarrassing mess at the hospital. Yet you’re still helping me like this. No amount of thanks would be enough.”

“This is a mutually beneficial relationship. I’m looking forward to working with you,” Dolly said.

In truth, Dolly had been wanting to get to know Joseph better. It was hard to get close to a proper gentleman like him. But if he turned out to be a flirt, and an attractive one at that, then maybe she actually had a chance.

Joseph didn’t refuse further and accepted the money. After sending Dolly back home, Joseph went to a hotel and got a room.

In the middle of the night, the phone on the bedside table rang and woke him up. Joseph hung up in frustration, but the phone kept ringing again and again.

In the end, Joseph answered. The person on the other end of the line mentioned him by name and identified him as a doctor. They asked him to help save someone.

The caller was staying in the same hotel, but Joseph was staying on the eastern side, while the caller was on the western side.

“Dr. Hart, I know this is sudden, but I have no other choice. Please help me.”

Joseph discovered that the caller was a middle-aged woman with some charm. She looked vaguely familiar, but not enough that

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+15 Bonus

he could immediately remember who she was.

So Joseph asked, “Who are you? Do I know you?”

The woman replied, “I’m a family member of one of your patients. My husband was critically ill in the ICU, and you were the one who saved him.”

The woman mentioned the patient's name and room number, and Joseph could vaguely remember it. But the man had already left the ICU and returned to a normal ward for recovery

The woman said, "Dr. Hart, this is a humiliating situation, but please save him. You're a good doctor. Only you can help him."

Joseph noticed the woman was wearing a revealing nightgown, while a naked man lay on the large bed behind her. He instantly realized what was going on, and a wave of disgust rose within him.

Ever since he learned that Cora had cheated on him, he started hating cheating women.

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A Man with Nerves of Steel

But Joseph was a doctor. In the end, he went over to examine the inan and discovered that the man had suffered cardiac arrest from excessive excitement

What a pervert.

Joseph mocked the man inwardly, but still performed CPR. After the man was revived, Joseph called an ambulance, then returned to his room to rest. To prevent anyone else from calling again, he unplugged the hotel phone.

The next morning, at the hotel buffet downstairs, Joseph ran into the middle-aged woman again. She even sat down at his table.

She said, “Dr. Hart, thank you. I don’t know what I would have done if you weren’t around.”

Joseph scoffed. “No need to thank me. But let me be frank, I can’t condone you being out here doing this while your husband is lying in the hospital.”

Joseph put it as politely as he could, but what he really wanted to do was to accuse that shameless woman of betraying her marriage and family. He wanted nothing more to do with that woman.

The woman replied, “I’m sorry. I know it’s disgraceful, but I really do have my reasons. My husband has been sick for five years, and we’ve spent all our savings on his treatment. The hospital is pressuring me for more money when there’s no guarantee he’ll

recover.

“That’s when my first love offered to help me. I had no choice. After all, nothing’s free in this world. I really did have no choice. Dr. Hart, you can judge me if you want, but I still want to thank you.”

Joseph felt no sympathy for the woman, no matter how sincere or pitiful she sounded. “You don’t need to tell me all that. It’s none of my business.”

In his eyes, once a woman cheated, she had already crossed the line. If she could do something that shameless, then she could do even worse things, too. Just like Cora, who seemed so addicted to cheating that she’d tried to drag him down with her by setting him up in honey traps.

At that moment, Joseph’s phone rang. It was Selena’s homeroom teacher. He gestured for the woman to leave before he answered the phone.

The teacher informed him that there would be a parent-teacher meeting and asked him to attend. Joseph immediately told the

teacher to contact Cora instead.

The teacher replied, “I already called Ms. Lowell just now. She said she was busy and said you would come instead. I don’t think you should be using the same excuse to refuse. Your daughter will be receiving an award before the meeting. As parents, you should be there to share this moment with her.”

“Got it.” Joseph hung up and called Cora, asking her to attend the meeting.

“I’m busy. I have dinner with an important client tonight that I can’t cancel. You don’t have much to do at the hospital now anyway. You should go instead.” Cora’s tone was cold and forceful, leaving no room for refusal. She hung up almost immediately afterward.

Joseph’s lips twitched coldly. Cora was Selena’s mother, but Cora still insisted on going to meet a client instead of attending the parent-teacher meeting.

So, in Cora’s eyes, her client was more important than her own daughter. As for Joseph, Selena was Cora’s daughter, not his. What does it have to do with him?

Joseph went to the hospital to clock in. The investigation into him still hadn’t concluded, so the situation remained unclear. Since he wasn’t allowed to treat patients for the time being, Travis assigned him to do paperwork and documentation instead.

After work, Joseph went to look for Dolly to continue taking on private consultations.

+15 Bonus

That evening, just as he returned to the hotel, he received an unexpected call from the head of surgery at the Traditional Medicine Center. They wanted him to assist with an operation because the patient's family specifically requested him.

Joseph found it strange, but after learning more about the case, he immediately understood.

It was an extremely difficult heart surgery. The doctors at the Traditional Medicine Center were not very confident in handling it and didn't really want to take the case. Since the patient's family insisted on having Joseph, they decided to go along with it.

After thinking it over, Joseph accepted the surgery. First of all, he was confident in his abilities. Secondly, he was trying to secure a backup plan for the future.

But the moment he saw the patient, he nearly cursed out loud. The patient was the man from the hotel the night before, the one who got so excited that he went into cardiac arrest.

Life really did have a twisted sense of humor.

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