

A Man with Nerves of Steel

c 61-70

A Man with Nerves of Steel

+15 Bonus

Before dawn, Mary woke up and noticed the lights by the swimming pool were on, She went over and saw Joseph swimming laps inside.

She couldn't help thinking that his gorgeous physique was probably what kept Cora so interested in him.

Mary said, "Mr. Hart, it's already autumn. The water is coldest in the morning, too. You might catch a cold. Should I turn on the indoor pool instead? That one is heated."

Joseph swam two more laps before climbing out of the pool. As he stepped out of the pool, he casually stripped off his swim briefs right in front of Mary and tossed them to her, asking her to wash them. Then, he wrapped himself in a towel and headed

inside.

“What a pervert!” Mary exclaimed to herself.

She was speechless. She disliked Joseph’s behavior, but as a housekeeper, she didn’t dare complain. She simply picked up the briefs and placed them into the washing machine.

After returning inside, Mary intended to ask Joseph what he wanted for breakfast. But before she reached him, strange sounds drifted out from the master bedroom. They hadn’t even bothered to close the door.

“Honey, slower... slower...”

Soon, those sounds became more intimate and heated.

Mary wondered why they were doing it again. Did Joseph even come home for anything other than this?

Mary returned to her room and leaned against the headboard, waiting for sunrise.

She wasn’t sure how much time had passed when someone knocked on the door. The moment she unlocked it, Joseph pushed his way inside.

He was completely naked and looked aggressive. Mary backed away in a hurry.

“W-What are you doing?” She quickly grabbed her collar, afraid Joseph might really try something.

Joseph sighed. “Cora just lies there like a dead fish. I’m still not satisfied, so now it’s your turn.”

Joseph lay down on her bed.

“I... Ms. Lowell never told me to do anything like this. I... I don’t know anything.” Mary didn’t dare act recklessly.

Truthfully, she was tempted at the sight of such a fit, younger man. But Joseph was the man of the household and Cora’s husband. If she crossed the line and angered Cora, she could easily lose her job.

Joseph said, “I’m telling you to do it now. Why are you still standing there? What are you waiting for?”

Mary protested, “I... Mr. Hart, please let me go.”

Joseph scoffed. “You’re under Cora’s employ. It should be an honor for you to share in her responsibilities, yet you don’t even know how to appreciate it. What a mood killer! I’ll have you fired sooner or later.”

Mary replied, “Ms. Lowell would never hand me over to you, and she definitely won’t fire me. Mr. Hart, you can’t scare me.”

Joseph retorted, “Where does all your confidence come from? Fine, you’re old and washed up anyway. Even if Cora tied you up and delivered you to me, I still wouldn’t touch you. What a turn off!”

Joseph got off the bed and went to wash up. After packing a few things up, he left the house.

Meanwhile, Mary noted down everything that had happened, planning to report it to Cora once Cora woke up.

+15 Bonus

When Cora learned that Joseph was planning on being away from home for a few days again, the good mood she had built up overnight immediately soured.

Then, she heard that Joseph had barged into Mary's room, waving around some nonexistent authority to try to threaten Mary into submitting. It immediately caused her to frown.

She had every reason to believe that if Joseph was acting this boldly now, he might go even further next time. He might even force himself on Mary while relying on the fact that Mary wouldn't dare to speak up.

Cora asked, "What do you think Joseph is trying to do?"

Mary suggested, "I think he wants to challenge your authority, Ms. Lowell. He wants to become the one in charge of this house and do whatever he pleases. Forgive me for speaking bluntly, but he really has changed.

"Maybe your parents were right. He's finally showing his true colors. For the sake of this family, you really need to keep your guard up against him and control him properly."

Cora asked, "Right, after he entered his room, did he say anything else? Did he mention me?"

Mary replied, "Well, he said you can't satisfy him. He said you were a..."

Cora pressed further, "What did he say? Tell me!"

Cora said hesitantly, “A dead fish.”

Finally, a look of clear displeasure was on Cora’s face. “A dead fish? What does that mean?”

Cora slowly replied, “It means that you’re not enough for him. He said that if I refused him next time, he’d fire me and hire a younger, prettier housekeeper instead. He wants a woman who will obey him and satisfy him.”

Cora crossed her arms. “What an asshole. I’m the one paying for all his daily needs. What more does he want? He’s not the one in charge of this household!”

□

Support

す

Share

Chanter

+15 Bonus

admin

A Man with Nerves of Steel

The chemical plant scandal continued to escalate thanks to a new development that emerged. Residents living around the factory were also found to have toxic chemical residue in their bodies, with quite a substantial number of people affected.

After the media reported on it, the issue once again exploded into public controversy. What had originally just been a factory safety issue quickly escalated into a major environmental crisis.

At this point, Joseph no longer needed to involve himself directly. Instead, he focused more on his medical work.

One day, Joseph was notified to report to Walt's office. But when he arrived, he found only Bernard inside. It was the first time they had met since Bernard had arranged for people to beat him up. So, Joseph's eyes instantly reddened with anger.

Joseph said coldly, "What are you doing here? People who come to the hospital are either sick or dying. Are you ill? I can examine you, but I can't treat you since it'd be a conflict of

interest. Once Cora and I get a divorce, and we're no longer relatives, then I can treat you."

Bernard scoffed. "Looks like they didn't hit you hard enough last time. You still haven't learned your lesson if you're still acting so arrogant and disrespectful."

Bernard was extremely displeased with Joseph's attitude. He no longer even saw Joseph as his son-in-law, but just an ungrateful brat. Unfortunately, Cora refused to divorce Joseph, which left Bernard powerless to do anything.

Joseph sneered. "You want to hit me some more? That's true. In your eyes, I'm just a nobody. I'm someone you can crush whenever you want. But so what? Does that change the fact that the Lowell family is rotten to the core?"

"I really didn't expect the Lowell family to be involved in the toxic chemical plant, too. You people really are willing to make money off anything. If you continue doing such heartless and immoral acts, your whole family will face retribution sooner or

later."

Bernard clenched his teeth. "How dare you curse the Lowell family? Do you want to die?"

Joseph retorted, "The Lowell family is finished. You're getting old and senile. Whenever there's a problem, you immediately jump to violence. But you've forgotten something.

Fists are something the young use. When someone stronger punches back, you won't even be able to fight back.

"Meanwhile, Cora betrayed her marriage and family. She has lovers outside, and even got addicted to cheating. Once all that gets exposed, everyone will finally see what kind of person she truly is. Who would still dare to work with her then?"

Bernard shouted, "That's slander! You'll pay for those words!"

Joseph snapped back, "Pay? What, are you going to have someone beat me to death? Do you think I'm afraid? I've been cheated on by your daughter for over ten years. Do you know how suffocated and miserable I feel now? Sometimes, I even want to die."

Joseph walked over, sat down, and lit a cigarette. Then, he took several deep drags. He had just finished consecutive emergency rescues and hadn't even had time for a sip of water.

Then, he continued, "Compared to Cora, your methods are so crude. What she says and does is far more vicious and ruthless than you. She told me herself that if I keep pushing for a divorce, she'll send me to a psychiatric hospital and make me suffer for the rest of my life.

"Do you see the difference between you and her now? There's a clear gap in your methods."

Hearing this, Bernard swallowed back the insults he was about to throw out. People of their status were supposed to maintain dignity. Even if they were going to attack, they should use more sophisticated means. At that moment, he realized that he had just been lectured by that ungrateful brat.

Joseph sneered. “What are you staring at me for? Everything I said is true. Go ask Cora yourself. You can’t stand the sight of me anyway. Why don’t you try to get her to agree to the divorce? Though honestly, you’re old now. You probably don’t have much time left. Cora doesn’t even listen to you anymore.”

Chapt

Bernard spat coldly, “You’ll die before I do.”

ENJOYING THE BOOK?

Give it a rating to show your support!

Support

Share

+15 Bonus

Chapter

+15 Bonus

admin

A Man with Nerves of Steel

In truth, Joseph had no way to deal with Bernard's threats. Someone as ordinary and insignificant as he couldn't possibly fight against the Lowell family, the richest family in Jenton.

With their money and influence, the Lowell family had countless ways to make a nobody like Joseph disappear from Jenton

without a trace.

But Joseph wasn't afraid of dying. He had nothing left to care about, after all. His parents had died long ago and left him no inheritance. His wife had cheated on him for more than ten years, and the three daughters he had raised himself turned out to be the children of other men.

Was there anything left in this world for him?

There was nothing.

Joseph smoked calmly, looking like he didn't have a care in the world.

Bernard said coldly, "For all these years, the Lowell family has provided you with everything you needed. And now you've caused such a massive disaster. You deserve to die.

"But before you die, you'll make one final contribution to our family. You'll personally visit every worker you diagnosed with chronic poisoning and tell them your diagnosis was wrong. Tell them they were never poisoned-"

Joseph cut him off immediately. "That's impossible. My diagnosis is correct. There's also official verification from the government. What you're asking for is impossible."

Bernard scoffed. "Impossible or not, you'll do it."

Joseph sneered. "You really think you can force me? Fine, then have Cora come talk to me herself. Let's see if she dares to tell me who that lover of hers is."

Bernard retorted, “Cora said she never betrayed you. Stop slandering her.”

Joseph laughed mockingly. “Like father, like daughter. Cora sure is impressive. After twisting the truth, she even managed to convince you to help her hide the truth.”

Bernard shrugged. “What truth? You were the one who brought the DNA report. You’re just trying to use a fake to confuse people

Joseph exploded, jumping to his feet and shouting, “Even the DNA report is fake? Then tell me, what is real? What the hell is actually real?”

The two men glared at each other furiously. When Bernard said nothing further, Joseph no longer bothered wasting words. He

turned around and slammed the door behind him as he left.

And so, the two of them parted on terrible terms.

Bernard didn’t leave immediately. Instead, he waited until Walt returned before saying, “That ungrateful bastard is crossing the line more and more. He shouldn’t stay in this hospital any longer. Kick him out. In fact, kick him out of Jenton. Send him as far away as possible.”

“And why do you want that?” Walt asked carefully. He could tell their discussion had clearly ended badly, but he still couldn’t fully understand Bernard’s true intentions.

Bernard said, “I don’t need a reason. I just want him gone. The farther, the better.”

Walt sighed. “Bernard, you might not realize this, but Joseph is currently one of the most knowledgeable doctors in our hospital. His clinical skills are excellent, too. After more than ten years in the field, he’s already one of the strongest among the middle- aged doctors here.

Cha

+15 Bonus

“Recently, he even saved a very special patient. So special that he might have a chance to become a department head of a major hospital, or maybe even a deputy director.”

Walt wasn’t exaggerating. The elderly cholera patient Joseph had saved last time was incredibly influential. If she said she could secure Joseph a deputy director position at a top hospital, she probably could.

At her age, illnesses were unavoidable. She had clearly taken a liking to Joseph's medical skills and wanted him close by

whenever she needed treatment.

Bernard frowned. "A deputy director at a major hospital? Is he even qualified enough to do that?"

Walt nodded. "He's definitely skilled enough. He's just lacking in background and connections."

Bernard said, "Then we absolutely can't let him rise that high. Send him away from Jenton. Let him become a doctor in some small town and waste his entire life there."

Walt tried to persuade Bernard. "Bernard, is that really necessary? Joseph's only a doctor. He can't pose a threat to the Lowell family. If you dislike him, just give him his freedom."

Bernard scoffed. "He's disloyal to the Lowell family. What's the point in keeping someone like that around? I've already shown him mercy enough by not just killing him off."

Walt continued, "Bernard, Joseph is really talented. He's an incredibly rare talent."

Bernard's expression turned icy. "Talent? What even counts as talent? Only people who stand on the same side as me and you, who can be used, are talents. Walt, stop speaking up for that traitor. Remember your place. Remember how you got where you are today."

With that, Bernard stormed out after coldly warning Walt one last time.

P

G

Support

Share

+15 Bonus

admin

A Man with Nerves of Steel

Right before he was done with work, Joseph was called to Walt's residence. When he arrived, he saw that Walt had several dishes prepared, as well as a couple of bottles of good liquor. It seemed like Walt wanted to treat Joseph to dinner.

Joseph joked, "Dr. Loughlin, you make at least several million dollars a year, if not ten million. Why are you still so frugal? If you're going to treat me to dinner, you should at least take me to a proper restaurant."

Walt replied, "The dinner isn't what's important. I actually have something to talk to you about. Going to your house or mine wouldn't be convenient, and restaurants are too crowded with too many ears around. This was the only choice."

Walt poured Joseph a drink, and the two of them started to eat and chat.

At first, Walt didn't mention his conversation with Bernard at all. Instead, he chatted casually about hospital matters and amusing incidents at work.

Only after they finished their dinner did he finally get to the point. "I want to transfer you to our hospital's branch in Paxon County. You'll serve there as the associate director."

"What? Why?" Joseph was surprised. Paxon County was a few hundred miles away and one of the poorest counties around. Naturally, the facilities there were extremely underdeveloped. He could still save lives there, of course. But why him?

Looking at Walt's hesitant expression and shifting gaze, Joseph felt a bad premonition.

Walt said, “Dr. Hart, this is the hospital’s decision.”

Joseph nodded slowly. “The hospital’s decision? Sure, I’m an employee of the hospital, so I should respect the hospital’s decisions. But I also deserve to know more.

“Why am I being sent there? How long will I stay? What happens after I return? What position will I be given then? You can’t possibly want to hide all that from me.”

Walt replied. “You’ll be there for three years. After that, when you come back, you’ll take over Travis’ position.”

Joseph exclaimed, “Three years? That long? Then I’m sorry, but this arrangement conflicts with my career plans. I can’t accept it. Even if it means I’ll never become the head of the department, I still won’t go. Find someone else instead. If you need a recommendation, I suggest Bill.”

Right now, Joseph’s biggest priority was divorcing Cora. If it weren’t for that last commitment, he would have already accepted the opportunity to work at a top hospital.

Walt sighed. “Joseph, this is for your own good. Just go to Paxon County.”

Joseph shook his head, “No. Until my divorce is finalized, I’m not going anywhere.”

Walt frowned. “Divorce? What divorce? Just stay with Cora and live your life of luxury. Cora’s beautiful, and she’s the richest woman in Jenton. The two of you are perfectly matched. You shouldn’t be thinking about divorce right now. Just calm down and spend three years in Paxon County.

“During those three years, you should sort through everything in your mind. Then, you won’t be so confused anymore. After that, when you look back, you may realize all the hardships and obstacles you’re facing now no longer matter.

“A real man knows when to lower his head and endure things. If you endure what’s coming at you now, you’ll gain much more in the future.”

Joseph sneered. “So you no longer support my divorce from Cora? It looks like she’s managed to persuade you again. If that’s the case, there’s no point in continuing this conversation. The position in Paxon County doesn’t suit me. Find someone else.”

At that moment, Joseph finally understood everything. Walt stood with the Lowell family. Or rather, Walt was simply another puppet of the Lowell family.

+15 Bonus

Walt said coldly, “If you refuse to go to Paxon County, then there’s no place for you here either. I’m going to fire you. Starting tomorrow, you don’t need to come to work anymore.”

Joseph shrugged. “Fine. go to HR tomorrow to handle the paperwork. You’ve taken good care of me all these years. Thank you very much.”

Joseph even gave a slight nod before he turned toward the door.

Walt called out, “Joseph, you can’t beat the Lowell family. You have no idea how capable Cora really is. The Lowell family’s roots run too deep. 18 years of studying hard won’t be enough for someone like you to shake them.”

Joseph stood by the door. “My issues with Cora are matters between husband and wife. It’s none of your concern. You should worry about yourself instead. Marvin’s ready to push you out at any moment.”

With that, Joseph opened the door and left.

P

Support

Share

₹

Chapter

+15 Bonus

admin

A Man with Nerves of Steel

By the time Joseph woke up, it was already the next day. He went to clock in at the hospital, but instead of going about his duties, he went straight to the HR department to process his resignation.

However, he was told that his resignation could not be processed for the time being. The hospital's senior leadership was still in a meeting discussing whether he should stay or leave.

What was the point of the meeting? Were they planning on slapping him with a disciplinary notice to humiliate him one last time? Joseph really hoped Walt wouldn't push things too far.

Since he'd effectively been fired, he no longer bothered seeing any patients.

Still, Joseph accepted an invitation from the Traditional Medicine Center to examine Jerome again. He had actually turned them down several times before, because he trusted the place's own doctors to handle the case.

Besides, he'd just taken over the ICU duties at the hospital and hadn't been able to spare the time. Now that he was packing up and leaving, time was the one thing he had plenty of.

After the examination, Joseph found that Jerome's recovery was progressing exceptionally well. Naturally, the biggest credit for that belonged to the surgery he had performed.

At noon, Jerome's wife, Sally Hawke, invited Joseph to lunch. He could tell from her gaze and her tone that there was something more behind the invitation, but he accepted anyway.

Although she had rarely lived in Jenton over the years, Sally still knew that Armour Seafood Restaurant was a good place to entertain Joseph.

After they finished an excellent meal, Sally took out a check from her purse and slid it across the table toward him, though she kept her fingers resting on it.

"You'll have to answer a few questions first," she said.

“Go ahead.” Joseph narrowed his eyes slightly. Under normal circumstances, he would have refused the money and walked away immediately. But now that he’d lost his job, he needed money badly, so he didn’t want to turn it down.

Sally asked, “Who was Jerome’s mistress? How far had they gotten? Were they planning on getting married? I heard that there was a woman in the hotel room when he collapsed. The doctors and my in-laws wouldn’t say anything, but I managed to piece together the truth from the medical staff.

“He suffered a heart attack because he got too excited. But after all these days at the hospital, I haven’t seen anyone suspicious. Now I really want to know.”

Joseph said, “Judging by your tone, you’ve probably known about his affair a long time ago. So are you gathering evidence for a divorce settlement right now? Or are you after something else?”

Sally replied, “I can’t really tell you much, but this should be enough money to make you talk.”

Joseph shook his head. “I don’t want any trouble. I can’t provide any evidence, nor will I help you testify in court. I definitely won’t help you catch anyone cheating, either. I’m just a doctor. I only concern myself with saving lives. What happens between you and your husband is your own business.”

Sally said quietly, “I just want to know where I lost. Why would Jerome get so excited over that woman that his heart gave out, but never with me? Who exactly is she? What does she have that I don’t?”

Joseph answered bluntly, “Well, I think her facial features are prettier than yours. And her chest is bigger. Her hips are too. She’s just someone who can stir a man’s desires.”

Sally rolled her eyes at him. “Am I really that bad? I think I’m pretty attractive! But Dr. Hart, you really don’t hold back.”

Then, she removed her hand from the check. When Joseph glanced at the amount, he was a little surprised to see one hundred

thousand dollars.

+15 Bonus

But he didn’t mind accepting it. After all, Jeronte was someone worth in the tens of millions. This amount was nothing to him.

Then, Sally extended another offer. “Dr. Hart, that surgery you did for Jerome was extremely difficult. It’s obvious that you are a skilled doctor. I have some connections overseas. I could introduce you to some top-tier medical research institutes.

“You’d get at least ten times your current salary and benefits. How about coming abroad with me?”

Joseph replied, “I have no plans to relocate or leave the country for now. Ms. Hawke, thank you for lunch, but I have some other things I need to attend to.”

After leaving the restaurant, Joseph returned home, turned off his phone, and slept for a while. When he woke up, he went swimming, pushing himself to his limits.

When he climbed out of the pool, he saw Cora already standing nearby with a towel in her hands, waiting for him.

す

Chapter g

+15 Bonus

admin

A Man with Nerves of Steel

“No dinner plans tonight?” Joseph took the towel from Cora’s hands and casually asked the question. In truth, he deeply resented the woman standing before him, but those many years of love couldn’t simply be erased overnight.

After days apart, Cora was still breathtakingly beautiful. She was, without a doubt, the most beautiful woman he’d ever seen. Even after living together for nearly two decades, he had never once grown tired of her. At least, not before he discovered the ugly side of her.

He couldn’t help but think that everything would still be perfect if only Cora hadn’t cheated. But she did cheat, and now everything was ruined.

This woman filled him with regret, anger, and helplessness all at once.

Cora replied, “There are some dinner parties going on, but I didn’t feel like going. Honestly speaking, with my current status, most people aren’t even qualified to dine with me.”

Joseph raised an eyebrow. “Really? Then what about me? I’m just an ordinary nobody. Am I qualified to dine with you?”

Cora smiled. “Of course you are. You’re my husband. We’re family, so we’re equals. Alright, now that you’re home, stop sulking. Everyone in this house is family, so there’s no need to keep giving each other the cold shoulder. Wouldn’t it be better if we all got along peacefully?”

“You’ve probably been eating and sleeping badly these past few days, so I asked Mary to make some good food for you. You should eat up.”

Joseph nodded. “Yes, a prosperous life starts from a harmonious family.”

Then, after a pause, Joseph added, “Right, your father came to the hospital looking for me. Did you know about that?”

Cora frowned. “No, what did he say to you?”

Joseph shrugged. “Just the same old stuff. And he made some demands that were beyond my ability to handle. I ignored him, and he was furious. He probably wishes we’d divorce immediately. But judging from your reaction, it seems you didn’t know about it. Maybe he just wanted to handle it himself.”

Cora said, “If Dad gives you trouble again, just let me know. I’ll talk to him and make him back off.”

Joseph said nothing further, but inwardly he thought that the two of them were on the same side. Neither of them deserved his

trust.

After dinner, Joseph sat watching the news, especially the reports about the chemical factory scandal. Nearly every local station was covering it. Clearly, the issue would remain in the spotlight until it was resolved.

Joseph asked, “So, how’s the situation with Nonagon Chemical being handled?”

“Why are you asking about that?” Cora wanted to change the channel, but Joseph held onto the remote.

Joseph scoffed. “Because Bernard blamed the entire scandal on me, as if I personally ordered your company to manufacture toxic products. He told me to solve the mess, but I’m just a doctor. All I know how to do is save lives. How exactly am I supposed to solve it?”

Cora said, “Dad was just speaking out of anger. Don’t take it too seriously. We’re already at the final stages of resolving the issue. The responsible parties will be held accountable, and both the employees and nearby residents who suffered losses will receive appropriate compensation.” 1

Cora shot a sideways glance at him. “Joseph, let me make one request. Don’t get involved in the Nonagon Chemical matter anymore. And if any officials approach you for help, refuse them.”

“No one’s going to approach me anyway. Right, Cora, how deeply are you involved in this?” Joseph asked directly. If any officials actually did approach him, he’d handle things professionally.

12

Chapter

+15 Bonus

Gora asked, “What do you mean?”

Joseph stared intently at Cora “If you really did break the law, then I hope you reflect on yourself properly, turn over a new leaf, and start over. So, Cora, how deeply involved are you?”

Cora stared back. “How deeply involved am I? Nonagon Chemical is just a small subsidiary under the Lowell Group. It has its own people in charge, so none of these trace back to me.

“Besides, I have no need to reflect or turn over a new leaf. I’ve always conducted myself in an upright and honorable manner. What you’re worried about will never happen.”

Cora smiled lightly to herself, thinking to herself that Joseph was still far too inexperienced to trap her like that.

BIG SALE: 3500 bonus free fou you

7

P

Support

Share

i

get it

X

Chapter

+15 Bonus

admin

A Man with Nerves of Steel

Cora felt that Joseph still misunderstood her. He had no evidence at all, so why was he so convinced that she cheated? Men really were sensitive. And stubborn as hell, too.

Cora could see the resentment in Joseph's heart, but she had no desire to explain herself further or comfort him.

She said, "Alright, enough with all this talk about crimes and being punished. Honey, you haven't been home for so many days. Do you still remember where our bed is?"

Joseph replied, "You go shower first. I'll come join you later."

Joseph knew that it was pointless to talk any further. He needed undeniable proof that would leave his cunning, arrogant wife with nothing left to say.

Cora winked at Joseph. “Then hurry up.”

After instructing Mary to turn away any visitors, Cora went off to shower. Mary read the room and immediately knew that Joseph and Cora planned to sleep together tonight. She shot Joseph a resentful look, already thinking about how she could protect herself from him.

After he finished watching the news coverage about the chemical plant, Joseph could tell from the footage that the authorities had already gathered substantial evidence. An official conclusion would likely be announced soon.

Yet he still saw no sign of Mavis making a move to help him. Perhaps her methods operated on a level far beyond what an insignificant outsider like him could ever notice.

Trust between people wasn’t something that was easily built in the first place. Plus, she didn’t need Joseph to treat her anymore. Joseph was of no benefit to her now. Forget owing him a favor. She might even forget who he was soon.

Joseph laughed bitterly at himself and returned to the bedroom. Now, whenever he slept with his wife, he never felt any joy. It was nothing more than surrendering to raw physical instinct.

Cora was exhausted and sleepy afterward. She was about to doze off when Mary knocked on the door at the worst possible moment. “Ms. Lowell, your parents are here. They want to see you.”

Hearing that, Cora nudged Joseph. “Why are my parents here so late? Go talk to them for a bit. I don’t want to move.”

Joseph replied, “You know perfectly well that they don’t like me. They came to see you.”

Joseph got out of bed and headed for the bathroom.

A moment later, Cora also went in to wash up. After changing into her nightgown, she went downstairs. I

Not long after, Mary came back to relay the message that they wanted Joseph downstairs, too.

Yawning, Joseph walked out. The moment he entered the living room, he saw Bernard and Helen staring at him like they wanted to kill him.

He didn’t avoid their gaze. Instead, he walked right past them and poured himself a drink at the bar, downing it in one gulp.

“Joseph, stop drinking for a second and come over here,” Cora said with visible displeasure. Joseph had even rudely neglected to greet her parents.

Joseph stayed leaning lazily against the bar, sipping his drink. “You can all just talk. Don’t mind me.”

“Forget about him. This is more urgent. Jackson’s been arrested. We need to figure out a way to get him out as soon as possible.” Bernard sounded incredibly anxious.

Cora replied, “If you hadn’t told me, I wouldn’t even have known that Jackson was arrested. Let Fiona and the others handle the negotiations first. What’s done is done, and panicking won’t help. Let’s wait until tomorrow and see how things develop.”

Chaptic

+15 Bonus

After thinking for a moment, she turned to Joseph. “You know who Jackson is, right? What do you think about his arrest?”

Joseph answered indifferently, “I can’t really comment on the Lowell family’s business, nor do I have the right to. You should all just discuss it yourselves. have no opinion on the matter.”

Bernard snapped. “What kind of answer is that? Jackson got arrested because of you, you ungrateful brat!”

Joseph answered, “Right, you’re absolutely right. I’m just an ungrateful brat. I’m an unlucky burden that has dragged the Lowell family down. I’m a useless piece of trash. If you’re not satisfied yet, then keep cursing.”

He poured himself another drink and swallowed it down before sweeping a cold gaze across the three members of the Lowell family.

To him, all three of them were cut from the same cloth.

す

hapley

+15 Bonus

admin

A Man with Nerves of Steel

Cora felt that Joseph’s presence was doing more harm than good. Not only was he offering no useful advice, but he was also upsetting Bernard and Helen further. So, she told him to go back upstairs and rest.

Joseph couldn't be bothered dealing with them anyway. He took the bottle back to the bedroom, poured himself another drink, then washed up and went to sleep.

Outside, Helen asked Cora, "I heard that ever since Joseph came back, all he's done is eat, drink, and fool around without doing anything useful. Why bring back such a useless man?"

Cora answered, "Mom, don't badmouth him. Everything he's been doing is just a deliberate act. Deep down, he's not like this. After all, there's no way he just suddenly changed so drastically after almost 20 years."

If she couldn't even tell that Joseph' was acting on purpose, she wouldn't deserve the position and success she had now.

Helen retorted, "But time reveals a person's true nature."

Cora shook her head. "I've shared the same bed as Joseph for years. No one understands him better than I do. If you just treat his recent behavior as an act, then he doesn't seem nearly as awful."

Cora still insisted on defending Joseph. After all, there were things she could obtain from him that were on a deeper level. Those were things that no amount of status or wealth could replace.

Bernard pressed. “Cora, I think you should make a clean break before this turns into an even bigger disaster. That ungrateful brat is trash. Keep letting him stir things up, and he’ll drag the Lowell family through the mud.

“What happened to Jackson should serve as a warning. We need to cut our losses quickly and get that bastard out of Jenton for good.”

Cora replied calmly, “Dad, shouldn’t you understand Jenton better than this? The current situation actually benefits us greatly. Jackson’s arrest is a warning, but it’s also an opportunity for us to shed some useless baggage and rise again.

“In a way, Joseph’s accidental interference helped us solve a hidden problem before it became irreversible. The Lowell family’s empire is far too large to be overturned by someone as insignificant as him. When it comes to that, I understand Joseph better than either of you.”

There was nothing Bernard and Helen could say about that. They could clearly tell that Cora was standing on Joseph’s side.

Cora continued, “Mom, Dad, stop trying to plead for Jackson. He’s definitely at fault here. He would harass any decent-looking woman at the plant. He turned the entire factory into a filthy mess. Honestly, I’ve wanted to remove him for a long time already.

“Since he’s been arrested and is willing to shoulder all responsibility without dragging anyone else from our family down with him, we can consider it making up for his crimes.

Naturally, we won't mistreat his family. You two need to accept this first before the rest of the family can."

The elderly couple exchanged glances.

Cora had clearly decided to sacrifice Jackson, and that decision would not change. The more they thought about it, the colder and more ruthless it felt. Yet, it was exactly the kind of choice someone qualified to lead the Lowell family was expected to make.

After seeing her parents out, Cora returned to the bedroom and found Joseph already asleep. She didn't wake him. Instead, she slipped into bed beside him, nestled into his arms, and drifted off sweetly.

The next day, Joseph did not go to the hospital. Walt had already effectively fired him. Instead, he stayed home and studied, planning to finish his doctoral coursework as quickly as possible and submit his dissertation so he could secure his doctorate.

After all, that degree would prove useful wherever he worked in the future.

At noon, he deliberately found fault with Mary over the food, trying to suppress the arrogance she had developed from believing Cora would always back her up.

That evening, Cora came home unusually early. But the moment she opened the door to Joseph's study, a thick wave of cigarette smoke hit her so hard she staggered backward, coughing repeatedly.

Cora said, "Joseph, Walt has been calling me nonstop today, saying your phone's been switched off. Are you really just ignoring everything happening at the hospital now?"

Chapte

+15 Bonus

admin

A Man with Nerves of Steel

Cora called Joseph out to talk The study reeked so badly of cigarette smoke that she couldn't stand it. She suspected that Joseph did it on purpose.

"The hospital? A nobody like me can't handle anything. Isn't Walt being a little overdramatic for calling you over this?" Joseph walked out of the study and then lit a cigarette. After that, he sat down and crossed his legs.

Acting like a big-shot again...

Cora knew Joseph was just putting on an act. If she really got angry with him, she'd be falling right into his trap.

Cora said, "Joseph, you shouldn't have turned off your phone and made it impossible to contact you. Call Walt back right now."

Joseph retorted, "Cora, didn't you once tell me that when you were young and interning somewhere, you clashed with the company leadership and got fired? Did you call them after that?"

The corners of Cora's lips twitched smugly. "Of course not. They fired me. Wouldn't it be shameful for me to call them? Wait, Joseph, stop changing the subject. Call Walt, now."

The company that fired Cora back then had already been ruined by her, and she made sure everyone involved paid the price.

Joseph continued, "Don't force onto others what you wouldn't accept yourself. Cora, did you know that Walt fired me? Yet you want me to call him? Who's the shameless one here? Is it me, or you?"

"He already humiliated me once, and now he wants me to go back for more? And he's even trying to drag you down with me. So tell me, should I be calling him or not?"

Joseph's tone was calm, but there was a hint of resentment in it.

"Walt fired you? Why didn't he tell me about this?" Cora didn't think Joseph would lie about something like this, and her expression darkened.

Joseph was clearly trying to drag her into this situation. She didn't know if it was to use her influence to get back into the hospital or for some other purpose, but she'd already been pulled in either way.

So, she could only ask, "Joseph, I really didn't know about this. What exactly did you do at the hospital for him to fire you? I remember he's always valued you."

"You didn't know? I thought you were all-powerful and knew everything. Honestly, I don't know what I did wrong either, so I can't tell you." Joseph smiled faintly, mocking both Cora and himself.

In the workplace, getting fired didn't necessarily mean you'd done something wrong. Sometimes it was implied because you had a different view from theirs.

Cora scowled. "If you have something to say, say it clearly. Stop talking in riddles and throwing out veiled insults."

Joseph shrugged. “Wasn’t I clear enough? Walt fired me. I already went to HR to process my resignation. The hospital no longer has anything to do with me. And to be frank, my business has nothing to do with you.”

Cora was getting frustrated. “Is that so? Then I’ll find out exactly why you were fired!” Cora took out her phone and called Wall right in front of Joseph.

Joseph didn’t want to listen, so he walked out into the yard and stared at the giant fish swimming in the pond.

A short while later, Cora came over and said, “The misunderstanding’s been cleared up. You can go back to work tomorrow.”

Joseph did not respond, so Cora left in exasperation.

A moment later, Joseph called Mary over and pointed at the largest fish in the pond. “Steam it, or fry it. Either way, I don’t want to see it alive anymore.”

..

Chapter o.

+15 Bonus

Mary panicked and explained in a hurry, “T-That’s Ms. Lowell’s favorite fish! They’re just ornamental. You can’t eat them!”

Joseph scoffed. “How ignorant. These fish are both ornamental and edible. What? Are you refusing to even cook some fish for me? Do I really have to do it myself?”

“I’ll ask Ms. Lowell.” Mary hurried back to report to Cora, and not long after, Cora came running over.

“Joseph, what’s wrong with you now? If you want seafood, I’ll take you out to eat some right now. But these fish can’t be eaten.”

Joseph replied, “Don’t you think the fish are acting strangely? They dare to eat the food we give them today, and tomorrow they might eat the hand that feeds them instead.”

Cora was flabbergasted. “What kind of nonsense are you talking about? Get back inside right now.”

Support

す

Share

Choptest, 2

+15 Bonus

admin

A Man with Nerves of Steel

The night passed without incident, but the next day, Joseph still caught the fish and took them into the kitchen to slaughter them.

When Mary saw this, she couldn't stop him, so she hurriedly called Cora and handed the phone to Joseph. Ignoring Cora's warning, Joseph loosened his grip on the phone and it dropped straight into the basin of blood-red water.

"You... You did that on purpose." Mary grabbed her phone, but it was already dead after it had fallen into the water. She glared at Joseph furiously.

Joseph said, “How dare you glare at me? Don’t forget your place.”

Mary spat back, “You’re the one who shouldn’t forget your place.”

Joseph raised an eyebrow. “And what’s my place? Go ahead, tell me.”

Joseph stared at Mary, waiting for her answer.

“You can save your explanations for Ms. Lowell.” Mary still didn’t dare to confront him head-on. She knew she’d already overstepped, so she immediately backed down and hurried out of the kitchen.

Joseph didn’t stop at killing one fish. He scooped every fish out of the pond and slaughtered them all. Then, he prepared them in every style imaginable, from fried to steamed to raw. It was a banquet of fish dishes.

He waved toward the stone-faced Mary nearby. “Come on, try my cooking.”

Mary didn’t dare to move an inch.

Joseph continued, “This is how you should cook fish from now on. You might be our housekeeper, but your cooking has room for improvement. Once you taste my cooking, you’ll realize your usual food isn’t that impressive.”

Joseph grabbed a tablet, took photos, and then uploaded them online. He even posted them on Cora’s company forum, openly showing off their “love”.

He claimed it was a loving lunch specially prepared for his wife, pairing it with photos from their children’s birthday party, where Cora looked blissful and content. It gave the impression that she absolutely adored the meal.

Very quickly, the post was flooded with likes, reposts, and endless flattery.

Joseph simply started counting down, and five minutes later, the post was deleted.

Half an hour after that, Cora stormed in furiously. When she saw the banquet of fish on the table, she widened her eyes in rage and shouted, “Joseph, what the hell are you trying to do?”

Joseph retorted, “What? I just killed a few of your fish, and you act like you want to kill me. Are a few fish really worth fighting me over? Cora, I personally made this lunch for you! They’re just fish. I’ll pay you back for them.”

Cora asked, “Do you even know what those fish meant to me?”

Joseph raised an eyebrow. “What did they mean to you?”

Cora was visibly frustrated. “You wouldn’t understand! But anyway, why aren’t you at work?”

Cora was suppressing her towering rage with visible effort.

“It’s my work, so it’s none of your concern. It’s just like how I don’t interfere with your work,” Joseph said.

Then, he turned toward Mary. “Go heat them up so Cora can try them. You said earlier that you didn’t dare to eat them if Cora didn’t, so have some later, too.”

Cora hadn’t spoken, so Mary didn’t dare to move.

+15 Bonus

Joseph pointed at Mary. “Cora, look at this. This housekeeper of ours dares to ignore my orders. Soon, she’ll be running wild.”

Cora cut him off. “Stop talking nonsense. Tell me, what the hell are you thinking?”

Joseph said, “They’re just a few fish. Is it really worth acting like this? Right, another thing. Your company’s IT department has already deleted my post twice. There’s a traitor in that department. You should just fire all of them.”

Cora scoffed. “My affairs are none of your concern”

Hearing that, Joseph let out a soft chuckle, lit a cigarette, and walked into the study.

Inside, he took out his phone and called Fiona. “Fiona, if you really think of me as your brother, then help me look into where

those fish are from.”

Fiona giggled. “You’ve got some nerve. You killed Cora’s favorite fish and even made a feast out of them. Those weren’t ordinary fish, you know. You can’t even buy them even if you have the money.” ¹

Joseph’s heart stirred. If money couldn’t buy them, then they must have been gifted by someone. So who was it?

Suddenly, he realized that while Cora appeared to care about the fish, what she truly cared about was the person who had given

them to her.

Could that person be her lover?

+15 Bonus

admin