

Substitute B 1021

Chapter 1021: Brother, I'm Pregnant with Justin Xavier's Child

At that time, Serena was pregnant...

The last word "pregnant" made Justin Xavier freeze, he looked at Hayden Crawford, "What do you mean?"

Hayden Crawford was also unsure, since men don't usually pay attention to these matters, "I just said it offhandedly, you can take it lightly, but when my Serena was pregnant, her appetite suddenly changed, she especially craved sour food, there's an old saying: sour means a boy, spicy means a girl..."

Before Hayden could finish speaking, Justin Xavier had already turned to leave.

Suddenly, Hayden felt a bit uneasy, he thought he might have...caused trouble...

Considering Leah Thorne's health, pregnancy was unlikely, but if Leah was pregnant, Serena would definitely know, both Serena and Leah were hiding it from Justin Xavier, now he accidentally exposed it...he might have to go home and kneel on durians tonight.

Hayden shouted quickly towards Justin's back, "Hey President Xavier, I didn't say anything!"

Don't betray me!

...

Justin Xavier went out to buy candied hawthorn, Leah Thorne soon followed, she had to see her brother.

Outside Tanya's neighboring ward were several bodyguards, this formation likely meant her brother Cain Shaw had arrived.

Leah waited for a while, then with a "tap", the ward door opened, Cain Shaw's tall and straight figure walked out.

Cain Shaw was out.

Leah's heart tightened, her gaze followed.

At that moment, Cain Shaw lifted his head and looked at her, their eyes met briefly in the air, Cain soon looked away, "Stay here and guard well."

"Sir Cain, where are you going?"

"To the restroom, do you need to follow me too?" Cain kicked a subordinate, then with hands in pockets, walked into the men's restroom.

Leah followed, when there was no one around, she pushed open the restroom door and went inside.

Inside the restroom, Cain leaned slightly on the washbasin, seeing his sister, he raised his enchanting eyes, opened his arms, "Sister, come, let your brother hold you."

Leah's pale eye sockets quickly reddened, she rushed over, into Cain's arms, "Brother, I missed you."

Cain embraced Leah firmly, his large hand rubbed her curls, "Sister, I missed you too, I came late."

Leah shook her head, her beautiful eyes filled with mist, she knew these years her brother must have survived many close calls, living in constant danger, "As long as you're alive, I once thought you were dead."

Cain's handsome brows furrowed deeply, his enchanting eyes showed a hint of coldness, yet he said nothing, instead, he glanced cautiously at the door, "Sister, did you receive the ticket? Leave with me in two days, I'll take you away from here."

Leah's heart trembled, she slowly released Cain.

Cain looked at her, "Sister, you don't want to leave with me? Because of the Xavier family's son...Justin Xavier?"

Though Cain hadn't returned all these years, he always heard of Leah's news, that she was adopted by the Xavier family, Justin Xavier's love for her was renowned throughout the city.

Later she and Justin Xavier had many stories, chaotic and entangled.

Cain recalled many years ago, seeing the young Justin Xavier outside the Thorne family's home.

"Brother, yes, I can't leave here, I want to stay, I want to be with Justin Xavier."

"You fell in love with Justin Xavier?"

Leah nodded, "Um, I fell in love, always have."

"Does he love you?"

Well...

Leah looked up at Cain.

Cain quickly frowned, "You're not sure? He never told you he loves you?"

Leah was unsure because she and Justin Xavier had a mistaken start, he always thought the Thorne family wronged the Xavier family, ten years of affection was just to lure her into love and then destroy her.

However, saying he doesn't love her, she can't believe either.

Seeing his sister so indecisive, Cain's lips slightly curled, "Leave with me in two days, if he loves you, he'll surely find me, he'll find you."

Leah knew Cain deeply held resentment against the Xavier family, as the eldest of the Thorne family, Cain wouldn't forgive the Xaviers, she felt the same way, yet...there was Justin Xavier in the Xavier family...

"Sister, mom and dad are gone, as the eldest brother I must oversee your lifelong affairs, our Thorne family's cherished Aurora cannot be casually given to that Xavier kid, leave with me in two days, until then let's not meet, to prevent causing you trouble." Cain released Leah, ready to leave.

"Brother." Leah suddenly called Cain.

Cain turned to look at Leah.

"Brother, I'm pregnant, I'm carrying Justin Xavier's child." Leah said slowly.

Cain's expression changed, his gaze fell on Leah's flat belly.

Suddenly, movement sounded outside the door, Carney Shaw's voice was heard, "Where's your Sir Cain? He said he went to the restroom why's he taking so long, isn't he meeting some beauty, I'll go check."

Carney's hand was about to grip the door handle, the restroom door might open any second.

Leah held her breath instantly, she didn't expect Carney to show up.

If Carney saw her with Cain, her brother Mort Thorne's identity would soon be exposed.

Her brother wasn't alone, he was admired by many.

Leah felt immense regret, this time she was too rash, her brother became the Shaw family's son, with suspicions from Old Shaw on one side, pressure from Carney on the other, her brother couldn't afford any missteps, but she risked meeting him for Justin Xavier, if anything happened to her brother, she would be to blame.

Leah's mind was chaotic when Cain extended his large hand to her shoulder.

Leah looked up at Cain.

Cain softly said, "It's okay, don't be scared, hide inside, whatever happens don't come out, what's a mere Carney Shaw, I'm not afraid of him."

Settling Carney was easy, but it would bring many troubles.

Yet, there's no choice, his identity can't be exposed, once exposed, Leah would be the most vulnerable.

Seeing her brother's calm and composed expression, Leah had to suppress her panic, she couldn't help under these circumstances, protecting herself was the least she could do to not be a burden to her brother, so Leah obediently hid.

Once Leah was hidden, Cain pocketed his hands, walked towards the door.

Carney outside was ready to open the door.

In the next moment, cries of astonishment came from a subordinate, "Someone jumped out to escape, we caught her! We captured her!"

Carney immediately released the door handle upon hearing this, turned and ran, "Follow me quickly!"

Chapter 1022: Reaching Out and Pinching Her Little Face

Ten minutes ago.

Cain Shaw left the ward, and Tanya Sullivan was sitting in the ward reading a book.

Very soon, unusual noises came from downstairs. Tanya put down her book and stood up. She walked to the window and looked down; Carney Shaw had arrived and brought many underlings.

"Surround this place. Not even a fly is allowed to get out today, understand?" Carney commanded.

"Yes, Fourth Brother."

"Follow me." Carney led a few trusted men straight upstairs.

Tanya's small oval face showed no expression, looking very cold. She opened the ward door and asked the bodyguard at the door, "Has Cain left?"

The bodyguard was quite respectful to Tanya, "Miss Sullivan, Mr. Shaw hasn't left yet, he's gone to the restroom."

To the restroom...

Tanya glanced at the time; many minutes had passed since Cain left.

At this moment, Serena Sterling had just come out of Leah Thorne's ward, and seeing that Leah was missing, she uneasily asked the young nurse, "Where is Miss Thorne?"

"Miss Thorne was just inside," the young nurse responded, puzzled.

Tanya looked at Serena, understanding now. Both Cain and Leah were missing; her suspicions were correct, Leah was someone from Cain's past.

Carney must have caught wind of something and came to blockade the place.

For years, Old Man Shaw had been heavily reliant on Cain, yet feared him in his heart. On one hand, Cain's past had been completely erased but still had many questionable points. On the other hand, Cain was too strong; Old Man Shaw feared that once the wings were strong enough, they would fly away. Hence, he used Carney to balance Cain. If anything unexpected happened at such a critical time, it would trigger a chain reaction with bloody consequences.

Growing up by her father's side, Tanya developed a natural sensitive sense for the scent of blood.

Hiss.

At this moment, Tanya quickly raised her hand to press against her chest.

"Miss Sullivan, what's wrong?" An underling immediately asked, concerned.

Currently, Tanya was Cain's new flame, highly favored. These men dared not slight her.

"My chest hurts..." Tanya weakly replied.

"Where's the doctor?! Call the doctor quickly!" the underling shouted.

Serena was just ahead. She rushed over immediately, supporting Tanya, "What's wrong, quickly lie on the bed, let me examine you."

Saying this, Serena checked Tanya's pulse.

But a second later, Tanya withdrew her small hand, gently holding Serena's hand instead.

Surprised, Serena looked up at her. Tanya's side profile showed a 19-year-old girl with downcast lashes, quiet and cool. She didn't look at her, but spoke in a voice only the two of them could hear, "Something's happened."

Serena's heart tightened. With her wits, she immediately guessed that something had happened to Leah.

Leah's inexplicable disappearance must be to meet Cain.

Serena, being who she was, had already figured out most of the implications in just a few seconds.

At this point, chaotic footsteps sounded outside, "Fourth Brother is here! Surround this place completely, hurry up!"

Serena's heartbeat sped up intensely, "ba-dump, ba-dump". She already foresaw what was about to happen; she turned to leave.

But Tanya stopped her. When Serena turned back, she met Tanya's clear autumn-like eyes. The girl looked up at her and said again, "Erase all records of Leah in the hospital. That's what you should do now."

Serena was stunned.

At this moment, Tanya released her hand and ran toward the window.

Serena didn't know what Tanya was planning, she stepped forward, "You..."

With a "whoosh", Tanya reached out and opened the window. She placed her hands on the windowsill and swiftly jumped up, leaping down from the third floor.

Oh my God!

Serena's eyes constricted; she never expected that this 19-year-old girl would jump off the third floor right in front of her, without a hint of hesitation or a single word.

Serena had seen many people but had never met someone like Tanya. Under her youthful, aloof exterior, there was a decisiveness and wisdom that didn't match her age.

Downstairs, chaos ensued, "Someone jumped to escape! We've caught her! We've caught her!"

At this point, Carney, standing outside the men's restroom, immediately relaxed his grip. He grabbed an underling and excitedly asked, "Did you catch her?"

"Yes, Fourth Brother, we've caught her!"

Carney immediately laughed triumphantly. Damn, Cain had finally shown his fox tail, letting him catch a flaw.

"Quickly, come with me!" Carney led his team downstairs in a grand manner.

In the restroom, Cain heard the footsteps gradually moving away. He pursed his thin lips, unsure why Carney suddenly left.

"Brother, what happened outside?" Leah came out at that moment.

Hiding inside, Leah also heard the dispersing sounds outside. The impending storm of bloodshed had dissipated just like that.

"I'll go take a look. Sister, I'll leave first, then you can come out afterward," Cain instructed.

"Okay," Leah obediently nodded.

Cain went out, and at this moment, his subordinate hurriedly ran over, "Mr. Shaw, something's wrong, Miss Sullivan... she jumped to escape!"

Tanya?

Cain quickly grasped the situation and turned around, heading directly downstairs.

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Downstairs.

Carney arrived with his men, but unfortunately, he didn't see Cain. His men had surrounded a girl.

"Who are you?" Carney stepped forward to ask.

His subordinate quietly reported, "Fourth Brother, this is Mr. Shaw's little secret, the one kept hidden in the ward that he wouldn't let you see."

Oh?

Carney's eyes lit up. He'd seen Cain's past women before, but this new favorite was highly treasured by Cain, kept away from prying eyes. Actually, he'd been curious for a while, not expecting her to fall into his net now.

Carney looked down at Tanya. She had jumped from the third floor, injuring her legs, with fresh blood seeping through the hospital gown.

Since she kept her head down, Carney couldn't see her face, but he saw the slender and delicate figure under the hospital gown, exuding a sense of taboo.

Carney smirked. He had heard that Cain had found a new favorite, but he hadn't expected her to be so young, looking like a minor. He had to admit Cain knew how to have fun.

"You, lift your head," Carney ordered.

Tanya didn't move.

Carney crouched down and reached out to pinch Tanya's small face, forcing her to look up.

The girl's palm-sized oval face came into view, her autumn-like eyes turning coldly aloof, skin as white as creamy jade, and cherry-like lips—an absolute beauty in the making.

Chapter 1023: Try Twisting Again and See What Happens!

Carney Shaw immediately flashed an evil smile, "So you're Cain's new flame, no wonder Cain's been hiding you away. I've never had the pleasure of playing with such a beautiful little beauty like you, hahaha."

The thought of Tanya Sullivan being Cain Shaw's woman was enough to spark Carney Shaw's desire for conquest. If he could get Cain's woman to play with him, wouldn't that be like... putting a green hat on Cain, hahaha.

Carney Shaw was inherently cruel and wicked, doing all sorts of evil deeds, and he was especially lustful. Now Tanya Sullivan had piqued his curiosity enough that he forgot all about Cain's matters.

"Little beauty, what's your name?" Carney asked with squinted eyes.

At this moment, a subordinate whispered, "Brother Carney, her name is Tanya Sullivan. I heard that after she got with Cain, she tried to escape several times. This time she got injured escaping, and now she jumped down from upstairs, guessing she's trying to run away again."

Carney's eyes lit up. He had only ever seen women throwing themselves at Cain, never one trying to run away.

"Little Tanya, don't be afraid. Tell Brother Carney why you want to escape. Is Cain not treating you well, or... is he not satisfying you?"

"How about this, come with Brother Carney, I'll make sure you live in luxury, and my skills are much better than Cain's. I guarantee you'll be satisfied, like you're in heaven."

Carney was getting high on his own speech and couldn't help but pounce on Tanya Sullivan.

But the next second, his hand was in excruciating pain as Tanya Sullivan ducked and bit him hard.

Tss.

Carney grunted, he didn't expect such a seemingly weak and harmless girl would dare to bite him, and she bit so hard it felt like she was going to tear a piece of flesh off his hand.

"You little bitch, daring to bite me!" Carney shouted, throwing Tanya Sullivan away, then raising his hand to slap her face.

He wanted to give Tanya Sullivan a harsh lesson.

But the slap never landed, because Carney's wrist was caught in midair by strong fingers that suddenly reached out and grabbed him.

A low and teasing voice came from above, "Carney, you dare lay a hand on my woman, are you looking to die?"

Carney immediately looked up, Cain Shaw was here.

The man stood at six foot three in front of him, forcing Carney, who was squatting, to look up at him, immediately lowering his momentum, making him feel like Cain's underling.

"Cain... Cain Master, you misunderstood, it's not what it looks like..." Carney chuckled awkwardly.

Cain slipped one hand in his pocket, holding Carney with the other. He slowly squinted his eyes, drawing a wild and unruly smile at the corner of his lips, "You think I'm deaf? Who just said I'm not as well-endowed and skilled as he is?"

As he spoke, Cain raised an eyebrow, his gaze falling on Carney's pants, "So many people here, Carney, do you dare to take your pants off with me and see who's got the smaller package?"

Poof~

The subordinates around couldn't hold back and laughed.

Tanya Sullivan was still sitting on the ground, giving Cain a glance, this man spoke without taboo, with no scale or principle, daring to say anything, even wanting to compare manhood by dropping pants, really... vulgar!

Being mocked by so many people, Carney's face became very unpleasant, he didn't dare compete with Cain, knowing he would lose horribly.

"Cain Master, I was just joking, don't take it seriously." Carney continued to laugh obsequiously.

Cain's face remained unchanged in its smile, "What a coincidence, I also want to make a joke with Brother Carney, don't take it seriously."

Cain wants to make a joke with him?

What joke?

Carney instantly had a bad premonition. At this moment, Cain moved his fingers, and with a "crack", a jarring pain shot through Carney's wrist.

Cain had broken his wrist.

Ah!

Carney let out a wretched cry.

"Brother Carney!" his subordinates quickly rushed forward.

Cain released Carney, giving him an indifferent and cold glance, then his gaze fell on Tanya Sullivan's face, extending his large hand, "Get up!"

Tanya didn't give him her delicate hand, instead struggling to stand by herself.

However, just as she stood up, she felt a sharp pain in her leg, her body going limp as she was about to fall to the ground.

At that moment, a strong arm wrapped around her, pulling her waist firmly, causing her to crash into a firm man's chest.

Tanya winced in pain; she didn't know what this man ate to grow up, his muscles hard like stone. Crashing into him felt like her bones were about to shatter.

Tanya was very resistant to bodily contact with him, so she squirmed a bit, trying to escape his muscular arm.

Soon, a low and wild threatening voice came to her ear, "Try squirming one more time, I made you feel good yesterday, want to feel it again?"

What is he saying?

Tanya raised her head and gave him a fierce glare.

Cain loved her toughness and wild spirit. Yesterday she gave him a slap, today she bit Carney, wild indeed.

Carney's face turned ashen with pain, in front of so many people, he'd lost all face. He angrily looked at Cain, "Cain Shaw, you dare lay hands on me, usually when I call you Cain Master you really think you're the master. We stand equal, now you started the war, I will definitely go complain to the old man about you!"

Cain looked at Carney, "Carney Shaw, how old are you still playing the complaint game? You go ahead, next time you try to steal my woman, I'll beat you every time, beat you till you cry!"

With that, Cain arrogantly left with Tanya Sullivan in his arms.

"..." Carney was so angry that steam almost came out of his ears. He remembered he came today to confront Cain, to expose him, yet ended up losing everything.

"Cain Shaw, you're so secretive, you better not let me catch something on you, or I'll make sure you have no place to die!" Carney gritted out.

Cain didn't even look back, carrying Tanya Sullivan into the hospital.

The girl in his arms suddenly spoke, "What's Carney trying to catch on you?"

Cain looked down at the girl in his arms.

"Brother Carney, here's a record list of all the patients admitted in the hospital, you can check them one by one," a subordinate handed the hospital list to Carney.

Cain's brow twitched, just then he heard the girl say calmly, "Don't worry, I've already notified Dr. Sterling to erase all traces of Leah Thorne's admission records. As long as Leah remains secure, you will be safe."

Cain looked at the side of the girl's face, Jason Hollis had trained this daughter well. She had an extremely keen insight and an innate sense of danger, wise and decisive, handling emergencies with ease.

Chapter 1024: When Two Men's Eyes Meet

From the very first meeting between him and Leah Thorne, she had already keenly sensed something.

Just now in the hospital room, listening to the commotion outside, she quickly guessed what was happening.

Every time he maneuvered with the people outside, every contact with Leah Thorne, she knew. She could glean the most information within limited conditions.

Just before he could have someone take care of the hospital records, she had already done so ahead of time.

She was only 19, looking like a frail and harmless girl, but in reality possessed a clever mind.

Cain Shaw wasn't planning to hide anything, but he wasn't going to be honest either. He lifted his thin lips, and instead of answering, he asked, "Why are you helping me?"

"You saved me. This time, I'm repaying you. After this, we're even," Tanya Sullivan said coolly.

Cain Shaw hooked his thin lips, "To save me, you used yourself as bait and handed yourself over to Carney Shaw. Do you think it's worth it?"

Tanya looked up, her bright eyes settled on his handsome, unruly face, showing a slyness like a little fox, "It was an emergency measure, but it saved you from your immediate dilemma, didn't it? Besides, I am your woman, Cain. Even with a ruffian like Carney coveting, you'll protect me, won't you?"

Cain could hear the teasing in her voice; she was smiling, her bright eyes curving like a crescent moon, unbelievably beautiful.

Besides his sister Leah, Cain had to admit Tanya Sullivan was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen.

The key was, Tanya was not only beautiful but also very interesting.

Cain had been accustomed to being alone for years; suddenly having such a young girl by his side, although his original intention was to protect the Hollis family's daughter, her calm presence gradually unveiled her past, and she could even hold her own in emergencies, which indeed impressed him.

Cain raised a brow, "So although I owe you gratitude, I still have to clean up the aftermath myself, is that what you mean?"

Tanya nodded, "Yes. Oh, and Cain, don't change the subject. Tell me, what is Carney looking to catch you with?"

Saying this, Tanya tilted her head, her bright eyes spinning with wisdom, "Let me boldly guess. Actually, Mr. Shaw and Carney have always been suspicious of your background. My father worked as a driver for the Shaw family for decades and turned out to be an undercover agent. They are scared, afraid another like my father might emerge. So, Carney has been watching you. If I'm not wrong, there's someone around you from Carney's side; otherwise, Carney wouldn't have been so keen to sniff out trouble and corner you this time."

"Regarding your background and past, it must be related to Leah Thorne. It's actually quite simple, just check up on Leah, and you can follow the thread to you."

"Cain, am I right?" Tanya looked up, her eyes gleaming as she gazed at Cain.

Cain was no longer surprised. He looked at Tanya approvingly and laughed, "Since you're so smart, you should understand that our conversation has to end here. Don't be curious about me, and don't dig into Leah Thorne. The truth behind it may not be something you can handle."

"Your father spent his entire life teaching you this principle — the less you know, the safer you are. Curiosity kills the cat. Perhaps the truth behind the facade is an abyss that could easily pull you in."

Tanya looked at Cain in front of her, again, revealing another unknown side of him. This aspect of him was marked with the scars granted by time. A 34-year-old man can no longer be described as young. His suddenly cold and icy eyes seemed to conceal a book, filled with tales of crossing mountains and rivers, stories of adventure.

In that instant, Tanya saw her father's shadow on Cain.

Her father's occupation was always a lonely one, walking alone in darkness, misunderstood and full of thorns and bloodshed.

Yet her father's occupation was also the greatest, because they pursued their beliefs throughout their journey.

Perhaps realizing her gaze lingered too long on his handsome face, Tanya quickly withdrew her gaze and lowered her head.

At this moment, Cain raised his hand and patted her head, "Tanya, as long as I am safe, you are safe. So you must behave and listen. Your stay by my side is only temporary because I have already contacted your mother."

"Once we get in touch, I will give you a new identity, erase your past, and send you to your mother. You will have a bright future, as your father had hoped, to be a normal, ordinary girl, growing up safely and healthily."

Tanya felt his large hand come up and rubbed her head, a gesture her father often made too.

Her father was only in his forties when he passed. If he were alive, he would probably be on brotherly terms with Cain, considering his age — 34 — while she was just 19.

Suddenly coming to his side was unexpected for him and her and destined to be just a small episode in life. She would return to her mother's side and begin a new journey.

Tanya looked up at Cain, "Are we that close?"

Cain was taken aback, "What?"

Tanya pushed away his hand, "If we're not that close, don't touch me in the future!"

Cain, "..."

At this moment, the sound of medical staff's voices came, "President Xavier, you've returned?"

President Xavier...

Justin Xavier...

Hearing this name, Cain looked up and gazed forward.

A silver Mercedes-Maybach was parked in the spot. Justin Xavier opened the driver's door and stepped out, holding a paper bag in his hand containing handmade candied hawthorns for Leah Thorne.

Perhaps realizing the gaze in this direction, Justin Xavier looked up, his cold black eyes meeting theirs.

Cain and Justin Xavier, for a moment, locked eyes with one another.

Justin Xavier showed no change in expression; in a finely tailored black suit, his handsome face adorned with refined gold-rimmed glasses, he exuded the distant and coldly detached aura of an upper-class elite man.

Locking eyes for a few seconds, Justin Xavier then blandly turned his gaze away.

He didn't seem to recognize Cain, just walked steadily into the hospital.

Cain watched Justin Xavier's back, his eyes deep and obscure, unreadable of his thoughts.

Tanya had already sensitively detected the subtle atmosphere between these two men. She turned her head and saw Carney Shaw's attention on Justin Xavier as well, his subordinate whispering something into his ear.

Tanya furrowed her delicate brows. This time she sensed... the scent of blood. She looked up at Cain, "This place is not safe to stay. Staying longer will lead to trouble. We will leave here and return to Starfall City tomorrow."

Chapter 1025: Justin Xavier Saw the Plane Ticket

Cain Shaw glanced at Tanya Sullivan, "Are you trying to teach me how to do things?"

Tanya Sullivan said, "Maybe I'm saving your life."

As she spoke, Tanya Sullivan looked again at Justin Xavier's back, "That man is very dangerous, either terrifyingly heartless or terrifyingly devoted."

Cain Shaw raised an eyebrow. For some reason, this girl's opinion always seemed to align with his. This intangible tacit understanding felt like a magnetic field. He let out a "hmm" and said, "It's a pity you didn't go to police school."

Tanya Sullivan looked at him, "If I got into police school, you'd be the first one I'd arrest."

Cain Shaw looked at her injured leg, "With just you?"

Tanya Sullivan snorted coldly, "I'm a champion in rock climbing and skydiving. Don't mention jumping from the third floor; even if I were to jump off a cliff, I'd survive."

With that, she turned and left.

Cain Shaw watched with interest as the girl's charming figure disappeared. This daughter of the Hollis family was indeed interesting.

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Justin Xavier went upstairs, and at that moment, his phone rang in his pocket.

It was Leah Thorne calling.

Justin Xavier pressed the button to answer, "Hello, Mrs. Xavier, I'm back with the candied hawthorn you wanted."

"Justin Xavier, I'm not in the hospital room now, and you don't need to return there. I'm waiting for you in Serena's office. I've almost recovered, and we should be discharged today," Leah Thorne said.

Justin Xavier nodded, "Alright."

After hanging up, Justin Xavier headed straight for Serena Sterling's office, walking with a steady, resounding stride, his handsome face calm and unflustered.

But soon, his shiny black leather shoes suddenly halted. Justin Xavier turned around, heading in the opposite direction—towards Leah Thorne's hospital room.

The hospital room had already been tidied up, with no trace of a patient having stayed there. All of Leah Thorne's hospital records had been erased, personally handled by Serena Sterling.

Justin Xavier walked in. The room was now cold and quiet, without a sound. His handsome features immersed in shadow, inexplicably revealing a sense of profound detachment, his piercing black eyes scanning the room sharply, before stepping forward to open the drawer of the bedside table.

He meticulously checked each drawer but found nothing.

When he opened the last drawer, his fingers paused, because lying quietly at the bottom was a plane ticket.

It was a plane ticket sent by Cain Shaw.

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In the office, Leah Thorne held the cup of hot water Serena Sterling handed her. She still felt uneasy, always sensing that a crack had opened regarding her brother's identity. A woman's sixth sense is always so accurate.

"Serena, I'm really scared. I think I've made the worst decision. I shouldn't have met with my brother."

Serena Sterling held Leah Thorne's cold little hand, "Leah, it's not your fault."

"If anything happens to my brother this time, I'll never forgive myself." Leah Thorne's face was as pale as paper, still unsettled.

Serena Sterling could understand Leah Thorne, knowing that concern causes confusion, "Leah, actually, even though your brother's current life seems calm, it's full of danger. This time, he came back entirely for you. Since you've chosen to stay here and be with Justin Xavier, your brother should leave here as soon as possible. You can't meet again; this is the most rational course of action right now."

Serena Sterling quickly analyzed the pros and cons, and Leah Thorne nodded firmly, "Okay."

Serena Sterling didn't know what she thought of, her lips curving gradually into a clever, bright smile, "Leah, don't worry too much, your brother doesn't want you to do anything. Just protect yourself. The important thing is, your brother is no longer alone; someone has come into his life."

Who?

"This person is young but really understands him. She understands his every careful step, is rapidly growing, and is on a path that matches his. She understands his beliefs and will one day stand by his side, protecting and watching with him. These are things Leah, you can't give your brother; that is his path. Now, someone is with your brother."

Leah Thorne looked at Serena Sterling, whose smile held a refined smartness and deep meaning, with an expression of... appreciation. Leah Thorne could see that Serena Sterling admired that "someone."

Is that "someone"... that girl named Tanya Sullivan?

In Leah Thorne's mind appeared the cool, oval face of Tanya Sullivan. The 19-year-old girl was already quite stunning, and in a few years, she'd certainly be a renowned ice beauty.

But, Tanya Sullivan is still too young. By the time she grows up in a few years, her brother will be nearing forty; this age gap...

Leah Thorne suddenly began to worry about her brother's lifelong happiness.

At this moment, there was a knock on the door. Leah Thorne looked up, and the office door was pushed open, with the tall, handsome figure of Justin Xavier coming in.

Justin Xavier is here.

"President Xavier, you've arrived. Leah's things are all packed, and you can take her home now. Please make sure to take good care of your Mrs. Xavier in the future," Serena Sterling ceremoniously performed a handover.

Justin Xavier gave Serena Sterling a calm look, as if to say, was that even necessary?

"What kind of candied hawthorn would you like?" Justin Xavier asked Leah Thorne softly.

Leah Thorne, "What kinds are there?"

"Strawberry, blueberry, cherry tomato... and traditional hawthorn."

He had practically bought out the candied hawthorn market.

"I'd like the hawthorn one." Leah Thorne currently had a strong craving for anything sour, and hawthorn is the sourest.

Justin Xavier wasn't surprised by her choice at all. He took out the hawthorn candied hawthorn and personally opened the sugar coat before handing it to her little hand.

Leah Thorne took a bite, relishing the tangy, sweet taste.

Justin Xavier, carrying the packed items with one hand and holding her small hand tightly with the other, said, "Let's go home."

Justin Xavier took Leah Thorne home.

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In the villa.

Leah Thorne returned to the master bedroom, where Justin Xavier hugged her from behind, his thin lips landing a kiss on her cheek, and asked in a hoarse voice, "What do you want for dinner? I'll cook it myself."

Leah Thorne softened her body, leaning into his embrace, "When did President Xavier turn into a chef?"

"Isn't it because your little mouth has become fussier, and I need to feed you," Justin Xavier's big hand slid down to rest on her flat abdomen.

Leah Thorne didn't notice his gesture. He often touched her stomach casually, worrying about her tummy ache occasionally. She thought for a moment, "With Chef Xavier online, do I even have a choice? I'll eat whatever you can cook."

Despite being a busy President, he had the heart of a chef, though not yet the skills and hadn't activated an online menu service yet.

"Okay." Justin Xavier responded, not letting her go but instead burying his handsome face in her delicate neck and kissing it, "Mrs. Xavier, who did you meet today, hmm?"

Chapter 1026: Unable to Bear Even One Ten-Thousandth of Losing Her

Justin Xavier suddenly asked this question, and Leah Thorne immediately froze, becoming alert, "You... why are you asking like this, who could I possibly meet?"

"Oh, so why did you suddenly get discharged from the hospital?" Justin Xavier smirked, "Mrs. Xavier, you wouldn't be hiding anything from me, would you?"

Leah's heart trembled; she was indeed hiding things about her brother and hadn't told him.

The fewer people who know her brother's identity, the better. Besides, she had already made things clear with her brother. He should be leaving here soon, and before that, she didn't want to stir up trouble.

Leah thought for a moment and decided not to confess about her brother. She masked her words, "President Xavier, why are you being so suspicious again? Trust is the most important thing between a husband and wife!"

Trust...

Justin Xavier slowly savored these two words, a hint of sarcasm flickering in his eyes. He had already given her a chance to confess. If she confessed now, he would believe whatever she said. Yet, she still lied; she still deceived him.

Justin Xavier slowly released his grip.

Leah turned around, looking at him in surprise, "What's wrong with you?"

She had already sensed his unusual behavior.

Justin Xavier stood against the light, casting a faint shadow over his handsome features, "Has Mort Thorne returned?"

What did he say?

Leah gasped, looking at him in shock; how did he know?

"No, my brother hasn't returned..." Leah denied.

"Ha." A low chuckle rolled from Justin Xavier's throat, directly interrupting her, "I saw him in the hospital today, ran into him."

"..." In Leah's memory, her brother and Justin Xavier had no previous encounters because her brother was away early on. One joined the military, the other went into business, they were from two different worlds.

Now her brother had become Cain Shaw, even his face was different. She, as his sister, could recognize her brother at a glance, but how did Justin Xavier recognize him?

No.

Leah didn't believe it.

She thought Justin Xavier was trying to trap her.

"How could it be possible? Fine, you say you saw my brother, then where is he now?"

Seeing her denial, Justin Xavier's dark eyes had become chilly, as he lifted his thin lips and uttered two words, "Cain Shaw... isn't that your brother, Mort Thorne?"

"..." Leah's face turned pale; he wasn't trying to trap her, he really knew.

Justin Xavier's gaze rested on her frightened little face, his voice flat and indifferent, "To be honest, I never thought Shaw's adopted son, Cain Shaw, would be your brother, Mort Thorne. After all, Mort Thorne was once such a dazzling figure; how could he suddenly turn into the now renowned Mr. Shaw who rules both the underworld and the business world. Until... I saw him downstairs, just one look and I knew it was your brother, your brother has returned."

He knew...

He knew everything...

"I..." Leah didn't know what to say.

Justin Xavier looked down at her and suddenly asked, "Will you leave with your brother?"

"What?"

Seeing her bewildered look, Justin Xavier smirked, but the smile didn't reach his eyes, making it look particularly sharp and indifferent. He took out a plane ticket and held it in front of Leah, "Isn't this plane ticket given to you by your brother? Didn't he come back to take you away?"

Leah's heart sank to the bottom; she understood, Justin Xavier was misunderstanding.

"You're mistaken, listen to me. I admit my brother came back, and this ticket was given by him, but today I went to see him. I told my brother I wanted to stay and be with you, I'm not leaving. I've made it clear to him." Leah explained.

Justin Xavier looked at her, a mocking smile appearing at the corner of his lips, "Really?"

Leah's hands and feet went cold; clearly... Justin Xavier didn't believe her.

"Mrs. Xavier," Justin Xavier stepped forward two steps, reaching out to grip her smooth shoulder, "Whether you want to leave with your brother doesn't matter; what matters is, you can't leave, isn't that Carney Shaw your brother's archenemy? What if your brother's identity is exposed..."

"Justin Xavier!" Leah quickly interrupted him, calling his full name. Her eyes widened and contracted rapidly before she slowly spat out the difficult words, "How could you... how could you say such a thing? How could you... use my brother to threaten me?"

She stared at him in shock, forgetting to breathe for a moment.

Justin Xavier gripped her shoulder tightly, the mocking curve at his lips deepening, "You hid it from me because you were wary of me, weren't you? Because you were afraid I would harm your brother. Leah, you've never trusted me!"

The sensitive nerve in Leah's head was immediately struck, she looked up, her eyes red as she stared at him, "Over ten years ago, my brother already died once because of the Xavier family. You changed his life. Ten years later, I don't want my brother to die again because of you!"

She finally spoke the truth; she didn't trust him, nor did she dare to.

In her heart, the past between the Xavier and Thorne families had always been a chasm between her and him.

Justin Xavier pressed his thin lips tightly, forming a chilling pale arc, then slowly released his hold.

But Leah reached out her small hand, grabbing his sleeve, "Justin Xavier, my brother's identity cannot be exposed, don't hurt him!"

Justin Xavier looked at her, "Leah, you keep saying not to hurt your brother; in your heart, is he so weak that he needs his sister's plea, or is there no place for me in your heart? Even if there is, isn't your brother more important? Aren't you afraid I might get hurt by him?"

Leah shook her head, large tears falling from her eyes. She choked, "That's different, the Thorne family has never harmed you. My brother loves me, because you're the one I love, so he'd never harm you. But you're different... you have never shown compassion for my sake, you would harm my brother..."

Her words, "you're the one I love," eventually softened Justin Xavier's tense brows. He reached out to embrace Leah, kissing the tears on her cheeks, "As long as you stay by my side, I won't do anything."

He couldn't be compassionate for her, not even for her brother Mort. He admitted he had contemplated making Mort disappear when he saw the plane ticket.

This notion hasn't been dismissed until now.

He admitted he was truly cruel.

There are countless possibilities in this world; he couldn't risk the slightest possibility of losing her.

But as long as she stayed by his side, he could treat the whole world with kindness.

Chapter 1027: She and the Child Are His Everything

Leah Thorne knew Justin Xavier too well, his ruthlessness was ingrained in his bones, and he believed in eliminating his enemies completely. His dislike for her brother was plainly written on his face, which filled her with deep fear and anxiety.

With her two small hands hanging by her sides, allowing him to hold her, Leah's eyes looked a bit scattered. "Justin Xavier, I have no more family in this world. My brother is someone I found after losing, and I absolutely cannot lose him again. The last time he survived took all his luck, and this time it would be a life and death parting. If something happens to my brother, I will... I will go crazy, Justin. I will definitely go crazy."

Justin tightened his arms, not hesitating to hurt her. He really wanted to ask, she loved her brother so much, then what about him?

He really hated Mort Thorne, and now he couldn't suppress his demonic thoughts. If only Mort Thorne didn't exist in this world.

All these years, his world was just her, and her world was just him. But now her world suddenly had a third person.

This third person was the one she loved the most, someone he couldn't hit or scold, deeply dreading.

This feeling was unpleasant, making him restless, yet he dared not lose his temper.

After holding her quietly for a while, Justin gently picked her up and laid her on the big bed. His large hand moved down to cover her flat abdomen. "Mrs. Xavier, let me ask you again, is there anything else you want to confess to me?"

Seeing his handsome eyebrows and eyes softening, and his black eyes bright and expectant as he gazed at her, Leah's heart skipped a beat, knowing what he was referring to.

He already knew about her pregnancy.

"Justin Xavier," Leah gently covered his large hand, "I'm pregnant. There's your baby here. You're going to be a dad."

Actually, Justin himself wasn't sure if she was pregnant.

When she was 18, she lost a child and the doctor said she could never conceive again.

He had already made up his mind, not having a child was great. It would be just the two of them forever. After all, in this life, the sister was her, the lover was her, Mrs. Xavier was her, and the daughter could be her. All his affection was for her.

However, Hayden Crawford said her sudden change in appetite could very likely mean she was pregnant. This possibility stirred him deeply with uncertainty.

Now, she was looking at him, telling him herself, Justin Xavier, I'm pregnant, you're going to be a dad.

He was going to be a dad!

Justin Xavier always prided himself on not liking children, but his eyes fell on Leah's belly and couldn't move away. He couldn't bear to look away.

Was there really... his child here?

Their child.

Justin suddenly felt that life was such a wonderful thing. So this was the continuation of bloodline. He felt something surging in his chest, waves crashing, violent yet finally settling into peace. He slowly knelt beside Leah, almost reverently, resting his handsome face on Leah's still flat abdomen.

The child was still small, and it was too early for fetal movement. He didn't even know what he was listening for.

But here gave him all the security he needed.

Though he didn't speak, Leah already felt his immense joy. Leah had an intuition that he would be a good dad in the future.

Leah lifted her small hand, threading her soft fingertips through his neat short hair. She curved her red lips and softly said, "Justin, let's be like this, okay? The baby and I will always stay by your side. We can have a very happy family. I'll be a good mom, you're a good dad. This life, with all its trials and hardships, lacks regrets when I grow old with you, having many descendants."

Justin's heart was full, almost overflowing. Growing up in the Xavier family, he always felt adrift. But now, by her side, by the side of her and the child, he felt he had everything.

She and the child were his everything.

Now, the idea that she might want to leave with his child and her brother didn't even cross his mind. It didn't matter. Just like she said, this way was fine. She made him happy, and he would let her brother go.

Justin softly closed his eyes, his kiss landed on Leah's belly, "Alright."

...

Leah fell asleep, and Justin went to the study for a while before returning to the bedroom.

He held his phone, talking to his private secretary over the call. The private secretary quietly reported, "Sorry, President, we've yet to find Cain Shaw's contact information."

Justin pushed open the bedroom door, but suddenly paused, sensing something, his cold black eyes scanning inside sharply like an eagle's. He saw someone by the bed.

Cain Shaw had arrived.

Cain, dressed in black, sat by the bed, looking down at the sleeping Leah. He reached out and lovingly tucked a strand of her long hair back.

Justin's gaze fell on Cain, speaking to his private secretary, "No need to investigate further."

He hung up the phone and walked in.

The room was silent. Justin looked at Cain, speaking indifferently, "Young Master Thorne, is this how you behave, entering someone else's room without knocking?"

Cain looked up, meeting his gaze, "I've never needed to knock to enter my sister's room."

Justin quickly frowned, displeased and stern, "Young Master Thorne, do you have a twisted mind? Do you only understand sibling affection, not the difference between men and women?"

Clicking his tongue, Cain thought this man was quite jealous. Surely, everyone knows who truly has a twisted mind, right?

"All I know is, the first man to hold Leah was me, and the first man to kiss Leah was me."

As these words fell, Justin's cold eyes narrowed dangerously, his whole demeanor icy and threatening.

Cain looked provocatively, slightly raising an eyebrow, "Back then, we haven't included you in our lives, so where did you crawl out from?"

Justin said nothing, his gaze falling on Cain's hand, his voice emerging from his throat, "You can move your filthy hand off my Mrs. Xavier's face now. I don't like other men touching my woman. It doesn't matter where

I crawled out from, the important thing is you're an eyesore now. Generally, those who are an eyesore to me disappear from my sight."

"..." Cain couldn't help but look at Justin differently. He must be the most audacious brother-in-law in history to speak to a brother like that.

Nevertheless, Cain retracted his hand, because he felt Justin had reached his limit of tolerance, his gaze seemed ready to pierce bloody holes into his hand, "What's your name again, Justin Xavier?"

Chapter 1028: Yes, I Love Her!

Justin Xavier looked at Cain Shaw, saying nothing.

Cain Shaw stood up, hands in his pockets, and cast a condescending glance at Justin Xavier, "I remember you. Many years ago, I once saw you outside the Thorne family's gate."

"At that time, you were still a teenager, and though the outside was sunny and gorgeous, you stood alone in a dark corner. I took an extra look at you and knew that you were no ordinary young man."

"Very soon, Leah and the children from the mansion returned from school, and I saw your gaze lingering on Leah Bathing in sunlight, gazing with a near-greedy admiration. From that moment, I disliked you."

"I've seen people like you. Born into the Xavier family, a dirty swamp, you're too lonely and too eager for the beautiful things. You're irresistibly drawn to beauty, yet the darkness in your blood urges a desire to ravage and destroy. You want to drag beauty down to hell."

"Leah is the jewel of the Thorne family. My father mentioned you when he was alive, and like me, he didn't want you to be with Leah. It's not about your background; someone like you wouldn't have a low background. Those children will be left behind by you in ten or twenty years. We simply believe you and Leah belong to different worlds; Leah needs a clean, pure boy."

Justin Xavier listened quietly; he didn't know that his gaze upon Leah outside the Thorne family's gate was captured by Quinn and Mort Thorne back then. Of course, he wasn't surprised; the Thorne father and son didn't like him, believing he wasn't suitable for Leah.

If the Thorne family hadn't fallen and the Thorne father and son were still present, he couldn't have obtained Leah.

He had always known that Leah was someone he had stolen.

Mort Thorne had walked this road, seen many people, and had keen insight. His words sharply dissected Justin Xavier's humanity.

Justin Xavier's expression was indifferent as he slightly curled his thin lips, "I'm very sorry to disappoint you. For so many years, I haven't seen those clean, pure boys. I've been here, and they can't get in. Now she is mine, belongs only to me; what you say doesn't count."

Cain Shaw raised his eyebrows, with a hint of helplessness and admiration in his eyes, "Now Leah is already Mrs. Xavier, pregnant with your child, of course, it's up to you."

Justin Xavier stared at Cain Shaw, "I won't reveal your identity to anyone, but you must disappear from my sight, as far as possible."

Cain Shaw felt Justin Xavier indeed was a cold-hearted man, "Alright then, let me walk through the formalities, lastly, do you love Leah?"

Justin Xavier's handsome eyes showed no ripples as he indifferently moved his thin lips, "I don't know what a clean, pure boy means. To me, a man's purity only results from lack of experience. Many will change. If Leah were with such a boy, for a year, two years...ten years, spending her youth accompanying a boy's growth. It's unknown whether at the crossroads of temptation, that purity would remain. Whether Leah would still be the cherished little princess, or be replaced by another younger, more charming girl, living as another version of her."

Cain Shaw's brow twitched, gaze falling on Justin Xavier's handsome face.

"Someone like me, you all say is not good, but really, there's nothing bad. All these years, I've been with her, filling the fatherly and brotherly position in your absence, raising her day by day. Through all these years, the single glance I took hasn't faded; my fidelity has become my sole belonging. Perhaps in hell, I don't wish to drag her down; all my goodness, my remaining tenderness, belongs to her, allowing her to live purely in sunlight. She's been my only redemption, and I'm accustomed to reverent gazing."

"If you ask whether I love her, how can I not? In my eyes and heart, she's always been the only one."

He loves her.

Never did the younger Justin Xavier expect to love someone so deeply. The Xavier family lacked passionate genes; his grandfather and father all had countless mistresses, but with him, it's as if a genetic mutation occurred.

From a businessman's perspective, perhaps he had invested too much in Leah, over ten years he transitioned from boy to man, then husband, father; he completed all these phases because of her. It's a terrifying habit, deeply embedded like vines frantically growing in his veins.

At times, he even considered Leah his love tribulation.

Cain Shaw had nothing else to say. His gaze slowly shifted from Justin Xavier's handsome face to Leah's sleeping face. If their father were still here, he'd feel pleased and comforted, knowing a man finally came to take her hand through life.

Cain Shaw reached out to tuck Leah's blanket and strode away, as he passed Justin Xavier, he whispered, "Treat Leah well; she still has family."

Cain Shaw's figure quickly vanished into the night.

Justin Xavier stepped forward and sat by the bedside, reaching out to stroke Leah's petite face.

In her sleep, Leah seemed to sense his presence, she shifted, nuzzling her cheek against his fingers like a kitten acting spoiled.

Justin Xavier's heart finally relaxed, he gently opened his palm to find it drenched in sweat.

He had been nervous.

A life of calm collectedness, yet facing her brother, he found himself breaking out in a cold sweat.

He feared.

Feared he couldn't pass her brother's trial.

Feared her brother wanted to take her away.

Feared he couldn't resist clashing with her brother.

Justin Xavier pressed his thin lips to Leah's forehead, kissing her repeatedly, murmuring softly, "Leah, everything now is too beautiful, making me...feel timid. I can't accept changes, dislike instability. I feel like I've lost myself."

Asleep, Leah couldn't respond to him.

Then, a sudden knock sounded, a maid's voice came from outside, "Sir, there's a guest."

So late, and after Cain Shaw, another visitor arrived.

Justin Xavier lifted his head, the cold black eyes looking over, "Who?"

"Carney Shaw."

Carney Shaw's here!

...

Cain Shaw exited the villa quickly boarding a black luxury van, which sped away.

By the roadside sat someone in a wheelchair...Laura Xavier!

Chapter 1029: President Xavier, You're Sexist Toward Women

Laura Xavier was utterly shocked, staring in the direction where the car had disappeared, unable to collect herself for a long time.

"Madam, what's wrong?" a subordinate asked from behind her.

Laura's hands were trembling, her whole body was trembling. After a long time, she finally managed to say a complete sentence, "He's back... the Thorne family is back... Mort Thorne is back..."

Laura had recognized it; the man just now was Mort Thorne.

Throughout her life, Laura had been haunted by the Thorne family. The Thorne family was her nightmare that lingered in the midnight hours, a demon within her heart. So when Mort Thorne appeared with a stranger's face, she, like Leah Thorne, recognized him at first glance.

Oh my God.

Mort Thorne had actually returned.

Wasn't he dead?

Why did he come back?

Did he return for revenge?

Laura's pupils kept constricting and dilating, shocked, frightened, uneasy...

No, she couldn't let Mort Thorne come back. The Xavier family was already ruined; she couldn't let Mort Thorne return alive!

...

In the villa, in the living room.

Carney Shaw sat on the sofa, sipping tea.

At this moment, the maid said respectfully, "Sir."

Justin Xavier had come downstairs.

Carney Shaw quickly looked up. Justin Xavier came down the stairs in a white shirt and black trousers, an air of cold indifference around his handsome brow.

"President Xavier, I've heard a lot about you. It's a pleasure to meet you." Carney Shaw stood up, eagerly extending his hand for a handshake.

Justin Xavier walked over but didn't shake hands with Carney Shaw; instead, he sat in the main seat on the sofa, giving Carney a faint glance, "Sit down."

Carney Shaw's hand froze awkwardly in the air.

Carney's subordinate immediately stepped forward arrogantly and criticized, "How dare you be so impolite? Do you know who our Brother Carney is? Shaking hands with Brother Carney is an honor for you!"

Justin Xavier reclined his handsome back lazily against the sofa, elegantly crossing his long legs. He lit a cigarette, took a puff, and then slowly raised his eyes, his cold black eyes faintly falling on the subordinate's face through the swirling smoke.

The subordinate looked at Justin Xavier, unable to clearly discern the man's eyes amidst the dancing scarlet flames, but feeling inexplicably terrified.

The subordinate felt a shiver down his spine.

At this moment, Carney Shaw slapped his subordinate, scolding, "Stupid thing, who told you to bite around recklessly? This is Bayside; it's President Xavier's turf. You've got some nerve!"

Saying this, Carney Shaw chuckled, "President Xavier, don't be angry with this fool, I'll discipline him properly."

Justin Xavier showed little expression, flicking the ash in the ashtray, "Go on, what do you want?"

Carney Shaw sat down, "President Xavier, have you heard of... the Thorne family?"

Justin Xavier raised his eyebrows, "Which Thorne family?"

"The once-prominent political family, the Thorne family. They produced a prodigy, Mort Thorne, but unfortunately, Mort is already dead," Carney Shaw said while observing Justin Xavier's expression, hoping to discern something.

But unfortunately, Justin Xavier remained calm and indifferent. He leisurely took another puff of his cigarette, "Did you come here just to tell me stories?"

Carney Shaw suddenly burst into laughter, "President Xavier, I mean no harm. I heard that back in the day, the Xavier and Thorne families were very close, so I presume President Xavier is familiar with Mort Thorne. If President Xavier knows Mort's whereabouts, please let me know, and maybe we can become friends."

Justin Xavier looked at Carney Shaw, the corners of his thin lips curving into a faint arc, "I do know Mort's whereabouts."

What?

Carney Shaw's heart skipped, his eyes lighting up, "President Xavier, where is he?"

"As you just said, Mort is already dead, so now Mort must be in... the Netherworld, oh no, or maybe he's reincarnated." Justin Xavier said with an eerie smile.

The light in Carney Shaw's eyes instantly extinguished; even a fool could tell Justin Xavier was toying with him!

But now, on Justin's turf, as the richest man in Bayside, Justin Xavier wielded immense power. Carney Shaw didn't want to cause any trouble for himself.

"In that case, I'll take my leave. However, President Xavier, think it over, and if you remember, feel free to call me anytime." Carney Shaw placed a business card on the coffee table and left with his subordinates.

The whole villa returned to silence. Justin Xavier sat on the sofa and finished smoking a cigarette. Then he threw the business card on the coffee table into the trash can.

...

Leah Thorne woke up the next morning. Perhaps due to her pregnancy and Serena Sterling's care, she had become lethargic, and her sleep quality was excellent, with no dreams throughout the night.

However, Leah was still a bit concerned. If her guess was correct, her brother would leave here with Tanya Sullivan today.

Her right eyelid kept twitching, just like the time her parents had the car accident.

She had a very bad feeling.

Leah really wanted to call her brother, but she didn't dare, fearing to spark more trouble.

At this moment, her phone rang. It was a call from Justin Xavier.

Justin Xavier had gone to the company early in the morning.

Leah pressed the button to answer, and Justin's deep, magnetic voice quickly came through, "Mrs. Xavier, are you awake?"

Hearing his voice, Leah inexplicably felt a little more at ease. She nodded, "Mm-hmm."

"Before I went to the company, I made some porridge for you and fried an egg. Go downstairs and eat quickly; don't let my son get hungry."

It seemed that the busy President had truly taken to cooking. Leah's heart felt sweet, but she pouted her red lips discontentedly, "How do you know it's a son, President Xavier? Are you partial to boys over girls?"

"You're overthinking. I'm lowering my expectations. I prefer daughters, but I'm afraid you might not bear a daughter, so I don't want to pressure you."

"...That's not acceptable. President Xavier, you're favoring girls over boys."

President Xavier, "... Whatever he said seemed wrong.

"Mrs. Xavier, be good. If it's a son, the two of us men will protect you. If it's a daughter, I'll protect the two of you."

Leah finally relented, "Alright then, I forgive you. President Xavier, work hard, and I'm going downstairs to eat."

The two ended the call sweetly, and Leah opened her room door and went downstairs.

But soon, her footsteps halted because there was someone else in the living room — Laura Xavier.

Laura had come.

Laura was still sitting in a wheelchair. Her spirit was in a very erratic state. One hand was tightly clutching something unknown, while the other held a phone, sending a text message.

After the message was sent successfully, Laura slumped in her wheelchair, quickly bursting into laughter, "Ha, haha, hahaha."

Leah frowned slightly, walking over, "Mrs. Xavier, why are you here?"

Laura quickly raised her head, looking at Leah, still laughing, laughing with delight and madness.

Chapter 1030: Leah Thorne Says—My Stomach Really Hurts

Leah Thorne's recently calmed anxiety surged back as she looked at Laura Xavier, "Why are you laughing?"

Laura barely managed to suppress her laughter, "Leah, is it true that your brother Mort Thorne has returned? He didn't actually die, did he?"

Leah's pupils constricted. She never expected Laura to know her brother had returned. She immediately denied it warily, "You're talking nonsense!"

"Leah, you still won't admit it at this point? Haha, I saw it last night, that man is indeed your brother!"

What?

Her brother was here last night?

Leah really didn't know, she truly didn't. If her brother came here, it must have been to find Justin Xavier. Her brother was concerned about her future happiness, so he came to confirm things with Justin; it must be like that.

Leah's mind was in complete turmoil.

"Leah, what does your brother intend to do now that he's back? Our Xavier family has already been messed up by you. Is your brother targeting my son, wishing to harm him, aiming to completely ruin the Xavier family?"

"I know, back then the Xavier family's underhanded dealings were discovered by your father. A confidential document was in your father's possession, and it's now in your brother's hands. If your brother exposes it, the entire Xavier Corp will be finished, several generations of Xavier family's efforts all gone to waste!"

Leah had no idea what Laura was talking about, what confidential document. Her brother never mentioned anything like that to her.

"Mrs. Xavier, you seem very unstable. Don't cause a scene here, otherwise even jumping into the Yellow River won't clear my name. I'll call a doctor to take you away." Leah didn't want to stay with Laura for another second; even an extra second felt suffocating. She immediately took out her phone, ready to call.

Laura was now very agitated, "Leah, stop denying it. I know all about your schemes and plots. Your brother sent you a package today, and it definitely contains that confidential document."

"I can't let that confidential document be exposed. I can't let you destroy us, so I must strike first."

Leah's heart skipped a beat as if her sense of unease had finally been confirmed. She looked at Laura, "What did you do? Did you do something?"

Ha.

Hahaha.

Seeing Leah's nervous expression, Laura retrieved something tightly gripped in her hand. It was a business card left by Carney Shaw last night, though discarded in the trash by Justin Xavier, Laura had picked it up.

"Just now, I sent Carney Shaw a message. The message was simple, just five words—'Cain Shaw is Mort Thorne!'"

Cain Shaw is Mort Thorne.

These five words exploded in Leah's ears. She gasped sharply; her brother's identity was exposed by Laura!

Brother!

Leah staggered two steps back, suddenly clutching her stomach in pain.

"Madam, what's wrong?" The maid quickly rushed over, asking anxiously as she noticed Leah's condition.

Laura relished with clenched teeth, "Haha, Leah, this is your retribution. You've hurt my son, made sure I could never have grandchildren this lifetime, doomed our Xavier family. Now, I want you to taste the agony of losing someone close!"

Leah's face turned deathly pale. A feeling of swelling pain emanating from her stomach made cold sweat bead across her forehead. She pushed the maid away forcefully and ran out.

She must find her brother!

She can't let anything happen to him!

"Madam! Madam!" The maid, sensing the impending crisis, shouted, "Quick, call and notify the Master!"

...

In Xavier Corp's president's office.

Justin Xavier was reviewing documents. Holding a pen in his hand, he scribbled his signature deftly at the bottom of the papers.

Soon he tossed aside the pen, pushed the documents aside, and with narrowed eyes, rubbed his temples.

"President, what's wrong? You seem restless today," the personal secretary whispered.

Justin remained silent, unsure of himself what was happening; he felt an impending sense of something about to unfold.

"Cancel all today's appointments. I'm going home," Justin stood up, grabbed his coat, and headed out.

He only wanted to see Leah right now.

He deeply, deeply wanted to see her.

Just then, the melodious ringtone of his phone sounded; it was a call from the villa's landline.

Justin paused, quickly answered the phone. The next second, the frantic voice of the maid came through, "Hello, sir, there's trouble, Madam is in distress, you need to come back quickly!"

...

Leah ran out, dialing her brother's number on her phone.

The ring echoed from the other end, but no one answered.

Why isn't brother picking up?

Could something have happened to him already?

Leah looked around the street in bewilderment, feeling like the entire world was spinning around her. Her fair eyes turned red, and in the next moment, she was about to burst into tears.

Brother.

Please, answer the phone.

At that moment, the call connected, and Cain Shaw's familiar deep voice came through, "Hello, sister."

It's brother!

Tears streamed out of Leah's eyes immediately. Her legs trembled and felt weak. Her delicate body slid down slowly onto the street; only she knew that those two minutes of waiting felt like wandering through hell, so terrifying.

"Sister, what's wrong? Why aren't you speaking?"

Leah raised a hand to cover her trembling red lips, her voice tinged with sobs, "Bro...brother, where are you now?"

"I'm at the airport, ready to head back. What's wrong? Are you crying? Where's Justin Xavier?"

Leah inhaled sharply through her reddened nose, "Brother, could you come back? I really want to see you; I want to see you right now."

"Okay, where are you right now? Tell me, and I'll come to find you. Stay wherever you are and don't move around, alright? You're carrying a baby, after all." Cain advised with concern.

Leah quickly gave him her location, and Cain hung up the call.

Leah obediently stayed put, waiting for her brother.

But her stomach hurt terribly.

It hurt so bad.

Leah took out her phone, looking up Justin Xavier's number, thinking of calling him first.

But her fair fingers paused, trembling slightly, and in the end, she couldn't make the call.

Instead, she found Serena Sterling's number and dialed it.

Soon the call connected, and Serena's calm, gentle voice came through, "Hello, Leah, what made you think of calling me?"

Hearing her best friend's voice, Leah's tears fell even more fiercely. Sometimes she wished she could be a little stronger, but now she was terribly scared, and she sobbed, "Serena, I... my stomach hurts..."

"What? Leah, what's happening to you?"

Leah's suppressed emotions burst out all at once, and she broke down crying, "I don't know either, it just hurts so terribly..."