

Substitute B 138

Chapter 138: Picking Up Mrs. Crawford

Iris Crawford forced a stiff smile, "No need to greet me at the airport, I'm afraid you're busy with work."

Hayden Crawford lifted his slender fingers to unbutton his suit. His handsome face revealed nothing, as Butler Felix respectfully handed him a warm, damp cloth. He wiped his hands, exuding the aura of a business mogul and the status of the master of Orchid Court.

Iris Crawford was an ordinary person, unable to forget her own misfortunes, so she never liked Hayden, her nephew. However, she couldn't deny that Hayden perfectly inherited the Crawford family's business talent.

As the legitimate eldest son of the Crawford family, Hayden started trading in niche futures and crude oil with a small amount of pocket money given by his grandmother in his teenage years. Unexpectedly, that small investment turned into his first pot of gold, with the profits skyrocketing after just half a month when futures and crude oil both boomed.

Later, Hayden ventured into the business world. His father entrusted him with several underperforming projects under The Crawford Group, which he revitalized within just a month, thanks to his sharp insight and decisive actions. Hayden was indeed a business prodigy, playing the corporate game even in his teens.

Iris remembered when Hayden came to Bayside without a penny from the Crawford family, building his empire from scratch. In six or seven years, he had become a dominant figure in this city, one of its most prominent elite.

Hayden was like his father, the business emperor, not only in his business acumen but also in his exquisite and handsome appearance, which resembled his father's. Even his calm and reserved nature was inherited from his father.

Hayden wiped his hands and looked at Iris with his deep, narrow eyes, "The company isn't too busy. Since you'll be in Bayside for a few days, I'll have my secretary clear my schedule to show you around, as a host should."

Iris quickly shook her head, "No need to trouble yourself, Hayden. I'm here in Bayside to take care of some things, and your brother Zane is also here."

Hayden raised an eyebrow, "Zane is in Bayside too?"

"Yes, I've already called him over. It's late, but he hasn't shown up yet. I'll call him again to hurry him up." When mentioning Zane, Iris's expression was filled with affection, unlike her distant politeness towards Hayden.

Iris took out her phone, about to make a call, but at that moment, the villa's door opened, and a tall, handsome figure appeared.

Zane Crawford had arrived.

Iris's eyes brightened as she quickly went to greet him, "Zane, why are you so late? Go see your grandmother quickly."

The two Crawford grandsons, Hayden and Zane, were both outstanding, yet they both had cold personalities.

Zane walked into the living room, his cold black eyes glanced at the old lady and then fell on Hayden's handsome face. He greeted, "Grandmother, brother."

Hayden looked at Zane, his tone gentle, "When did you come to Bayside? Why didn't you say anything?"

Iris said, "Zane hasn't been here long, and he'll be returning to City of Aethelgard soon."

Mrs. Crawford smiled kindly, "Alright, everyone sit down, it's been a long time since we all gathered together. We can have a good chat now."

Iris and Zane sat on the sofa, and Iris said with a smile, "Mom, Hayden, I actually flew to Bayside this time for Zane. He's of marriageable age now, and since he's quite proud, he hasn't found anyone he fancies. My sister-in-law is quite anxious. I know a genius young doctor, and coincidentally there's a dinner party in two days where I'll introduce this genius girl to Zane. I think they are a perfect match!"

The old lady had taken the engagement token meant for Zane and Serena, orchestrating a last-minute switch which led Serena to marry her favored grandson, Hayden. This matter was becoming difficult to conceal.

Now, upon suddenly hearing about Zane's matchmaking, her eyes lit up, and she said happily, "That's great! Iris, you have such high standards, choosing a girl for Zane. That genius young doctor must be perfect for him!"

"Mom, this genius girl is exceptionally outstanding. At thirteen, she was admitted to the top medical school in Aethelgard, and at fifteen, she obtained double master's degrees, setting records in the medical field. The year she graduated, I personally invited her to study abroad at The St. Lyra Academy, but she refused as she said it was too far from home. This genius girl's temperament is lively and intelligent. If mom met her, you'd find her remarkable and endearing."

Upon hearing this, Mrs. Crawford couldn't help but click her tongue in admiration, "She does sound amazing. She's well-matched with Zane. I won't be attending the matchmaking dinner, Hayden, represent your grandmother and see what kind of exceptional person she is."

Mrs. Crawford really didn't care about any outstanding figures, as long as nobody came to compete with her for her dear granddaughter-in-law Serena.

Mrs. Crawford never considered herself a thief; the engagement token originally belonged to Serena's mother, Seraphina Linden, and Hayden's mother, Isabelle Willow. Serena was meant to be Hayden's bride.

However, Mrs. Crawford was still a bit fearful. If people knew that Serena was Seraphina's daughter, many might come from Aethelgard to Bayside, making the world a less peaceful place.

The secret of Serena's lineage had to be kept.

As for Zane, he was also her grandson. The matriarch knew her daughter had excellent taste, so the genius girl who impressed Iris must be remarkable, making a good match for Zane.

This way, everyone could live their own lives without any intersections.

Hayden, sitting beside the old lady, nodded, "Alright, grandmother, I'll make time to attend Auntie's dinner in two days and report back to you."

"That's very good!"

At this point, Hayden glanced down at the expensive steel watch on his wrist, "Aunt, Zane, have dinner here, I'll take my leave now."

Iris asked, "Hayden, where are you going so late?"

Hayden curved his thin lips, his handsome brows and eyes softening, "I have to pick up my wife, she's waiting for me."

Zane remained silent throughout, as if the matchmaking dinner had nothing to do with him. But when Hayden mentioned "my wife," he glanced up at Hayden and saw how the mention of his wife softened Hayden's brows and eyes.

"Hayden, I've heard rumors about your marriage. People say your wife only graduated high school?" Iris frowned, dissatisfied with her niece-in-law.

Hayden lifted his lips slightly, "Yes, she just returned from the countryside, doesn't have much of an academic degree, and hasn't seen much of the world."

Mrs. Crawford waved her hand, "Shy and introverted, Iris, Zane, don't think too much of it, no need to meet her!"