

Substitute B 238

Chapter 238: Hayden Crawford Took an Entire Bottle of Sleeping Pills

Zane Crawford's gaze fell on Serena Sterling once more. Did she know those people, or rather, was there anyone among them that belonged to her?

Zane Crawford felt that he had never fully understood this girl.

At that moment, the sweet voice of the flight attendant came over the speaker: "Attention all passengers, your flight C81 to Aethelgard is now boarding..."

Boarding had begun.

"Master Zane, should we go through VIP security?"

Originally, Zane Crawford was going to leave on a private jet, but fearing that something unexpected might happen with Serena Sterling, he booked the same flight as her.

Zane Crawford didn't respond. Just then, his cell phone vibrated in his pocket — it was a call from 'Mom'.

It was Zelda Willow calling.

Zane Crawford glanced at Serena Sterling, then turned and walked to a quiet corner to take the call, "Hello, Mom."

"Zane, are you about to board? Your Aunt Iris told me over the phone that you have found that girl you like and will be bringing her back to Aethelgard. I'll meet you at the airport, and you bring her for me to meet. Any girl who can win both you and your aunt's favor must be quite something."

Zane Crawford pursed his thin lips, his entire demeanor turning even more aloof and indifferent. "She's not the kind of girl you're imagining."

"Oh?" Zelda Willow's tone was indifferent, seemingly uninterested. "Zane, I know you have high standards, and very few girls catch your eye. None of the heiresses in Aethelgard interest me either. I still prefer the childhood betrothal your father arranged. I'm interested in the daughter of that old friend."

Zane Crawford curled his lips into a mocking smile. "I'd love to meet someone who could catch your eye. You have everything you want right now, yet you still hold onto memories of an old friend. I wonder what secrets they have that make you insist on their daughter as your daughter-in-law."

The phone call between the mother and son quickly became tense. Zelda Willow's voice turned displeased, "Zane, do you really need to speak to your mother this way? You're my only son, everything I do is for your own good."

"Mom, I have to board now, goodbye." Zane Crawford hung up the phone.

"Zane!" Zelda Willow called out quickly, "I just found out your father has gone to Bayside!"

Zane Crawford paused; he didn't know about this.

On the other side, Serena Sterling released Leah Thorne, "Leah, I need to board now, I'm leaving."

Leah Thorne waved her little hand with reddened eyes, "Serena, bye-bye."

Serena Sterling turned around with her suitcase, preparing to go through security, but quickly heard a "whimpering" sound behind her. She turned back rapidly, only to see two men in black moving like phantoms through the airport, taking Leah Thorne away.

Leah!

Serena Sterling dropped her suitcase and ran out.

Outside the airport hall, Serena Sterling halted because there was a black luxury vehicle parked, and a man was standing by it waiting for her.

The man wore a crisp suit, his skin was fair, and he had a pair of glasses perched on his face, giving him a refined look that reminded her of Hayden Crawford's personal secretary, Ivan Yarrow.

Serena Sterling's bright eyes flashed with a cold light. "Who are you, and where's my friend?"

The man nodded slightly, with a hint of a smile, "Hello, Miss Sterling. I'm Riley Sutton, the private butler of the Crawford Empire. Your friend has been safely returned to Zuiyu Residence. Miss Sterling, my master wishes to see you."

Upon hearing that Leah Thorne had been sent back safely, a weight lifted from Serena Sterling's heart. However, she remained vigilant, "You're so familiar with my affairs, you must have investigated me. Your master is... Jude Crawford?"

Riley Sutton was impressed with Serena Sterling; he enjoyed dealing with smart people who needed no superfluous words. "Yes, Miss Sterling, please get in the car. My master is waiting for you."

Serena Sterling stood on the steps, looking down slightly at Riley Sutton. Her gaze was bright and composed. "Sorry, it's time for me to board. Tell your master I've already divorced Hayden Crawford, so there's no need for us to meet. Also, don't touch my friends again; this is the first and last time!"

With that, Serena Sterling turned around.

Riley Sutton saw Serena Sterling in a new light. Having deduced that his master was Jude Crawford, she still refused to go, and even dared to issue a warning. No wonder both the young master and the old madam were taken with her—truly exceptional.

Riley Sutton watched Serena Sterling's lithe figure, his smile unhurried, "Miss Sterling, the young master is currently in the hospital. Are you sure you don't want to see him?"

What?

Serena Sterling's steps faltered, and she quickly turned to Riley Sutton, "What happened to Hayden Crawford?"

"The young master swallowed a bottle of sleeping pills. Fortunately, he was discovered in time and sent to the hospital for gastric lavage, but he hasn't woken yet."

He took a bottle of sleeping pills?

Serena Sterling's pupils contracted. Was he... insane?

...

Zane Crawford hung up the phone and turned around, but Serena Sterling was nowhere to be seen.

"Where is Serena Sterling?"

Wade scratched his head, "Just a moment ago, Miss Sterling was right there..."

Zane Crawford's dark eyes sank. Just during the time it took to answer a phone call, she had disappeared.

The ominous feeling in his heart had come true; she still hadn't been able to leave Bayside.

Zane Crawford knew better than anyone that perhaps Serena Sterling had no lingering attachments here, but the strongest tie, Hayden Crawford, was still here.

As long as Hayden Crawford was here, where could she possibly go?

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In the hospital.

Serena Sterling rushed over and pushed open the door to the ward. It was quiet inside; no one was there. Hayden Crawford lay on the hospital bed in a blue-and-white striped hospital gown, still unconscious.

Serena Sterling approached the bed and lowered her gaze to look at him. His handsome face was as pale as paper, his unconscious state hard and stern. He had lost so much weight during this period, becoming more deeply reserved and silent. Now, he lay there lifelessly, the oppressive silence of the room filled only with the beeping of the heart monitor, so piercing to the ears.

Serena Sterling slowly reached out her small hand, her trembling fingertips falling on his face. The man who made her so exasperated in the hotel that morning now lay here.

Turns out, he could also be so pale and weak.

Turns out, someone as tall and strong as him could also fall one day.

The red of Serena Sterling's pale eyelines deepened slowly, then suddenly, tears started to fall from her eyes like a string of pearls, one after the other.

The tears were so scalding, they burned her eyes, causing her heart to clench in pain.

Just then, the door of the ward opened, and someone came in. It was the old madam of the Crawfords.

The old madam's eyes were red, clearly from crying. She looked affectionately at Serena Sterling, "Serena, you're back?"