

## Substitute B 265

### Chapter 265: Reunion at Emperor's Bar

Anabelle Rathborne sat in the passenger seat, and she too saw the luxury car drive away as Hayden Crawford continued to watch Serena Sterling, who was receding in the rearview. She bit her lip in frustration, "Hayden, today I'll visit Grandma Crawford. I've been studying nutrition, and I can tailor a meal plan for her based on her health condition."

Anabelle knew Hayden loved his grandmother the most, and she planned to start by winning Grandma Crawford's affection.

Anabelle had confidence in her nutritionist skills and was sure she could improve Grandma Crawford's appetite and health, so she could get closer to Hayden.

Hayden couldn't see Serena anymore and retracted his gaze, nodding slightly, "Grandma's appetite is getting worse. I was planning to hire a professional nutritionist to take care of her. I'll call her first, and if she's okay with it, I'll take you there."

"Okay." Anabelle smiled sweetly.

Hayden dialed the phone, and the mellow ringtone sounded once before being answered. Grandma Crawford's aged voice came through, "Hello, Hayden."

"Grandma, how's your appetite today? Anabelle wants to visit you and customize a meal plan for you. We're coming over now."

Over the phone, Grandma Crawford paused briefly and suddenly asked, "Hayden, are you with Anabelle now?"

Anabelle quickly spoke up, "Yes, Grandma Crawford, Hayden came to pick me up after school. We're coming to see you now."

Grandma Crawford hesitated for a moment and then declined, "There's no need for either of you to come over. My appetite's good today; I'm just feeling sleepy, so I'm going to rest. If there's nothing else, I'll hang up."

Grandma Crawford hung up the phone directly.

Anabelle's enthusiasm was instantly extinguished. Anyone could tell that the old lady wasn't very warm to her. She pouted with grievance, "Hayden, did I do something wrong? I've always felt that after Grandma returned from Bayside seven years ago, she hasn't liked me as much."

Something flashed quickly in Hayden's deep, narrow eyes. Grandma had been acting very unusually. She hung up the call when she knew he was with Anabelle.

If he remembered correctly, Grandma's biggest wish was for him to marry and have children, to give her a great-grandson. Logically, she'd be thrilled to see Anabelle by his side, not indifferent and dismissive.

Hayden looked straight ahead at the road, his voice low and magnetic, "Don't overthink it. We'll visit Grandma another day. I'll take you home."

Take her home?

Could it be... there's no arrangement for tonight?

"Hayden, why don't we go for dinner together?" Anabelle looked at him expectantly, hoping for a romantic candlelit dinner.

"I don't have time tonight; I've already made plans." Hayden refused.

Anabelle felt very disappointed, "Alright then, we'll arrange it another day."

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Hayden took Anabelle home, and then he drove with Ronda to Emperor's Bar. He really did have plans; Justin Xavier had come from Bayside to Aethelgard.

In the luxurious private room, Hayden sat on the dark red sofa. He looked at Justin Xavier beside him, "Why did you come to Aethelgard?"

The handsome and still-jade-like Justin Xavier, whom he hadn't seen in days, had a pair of cold, indifferent black eyes reflected through his golden glasses, "Here for a meeting. I'll go back in a few days. How are you doing?"

Hayden picked up a wine glass and elegantly sipped the red wine inside, "I'm doing well."

"There's a lot of talk about the Rathborne-Crawford marriage alliance. You've been quite close to Anabelle from the Rathborne family lately; do you really plan to marry her?"

Hayden swirled the aromatic wine in his glass and then looked at Justin, "I took a blow below. Do you know about this?"

He couldn't recall that memory, possibly from when it happened in Bayside. Justin Xavier, his brother who grew up with him, might know about it.

Of course, Justin knew about it, but he couldn't say. It was related to "Serena Sterling." His gaze swept down briefly at Hayden's black suit pants, "So, can't get hard for Anabelle?"

Hayden kicked him directly.

Justin ignored the new footprint on his dress pants, smirked, "Seems it's true. Don't doubt your body; there's nothing wrong with you. Try another woman."

Hayden gave him a look, half smiling, "You seem so experienced; it looks like you flew to Aethelgard not for work but to fulfill your physiological needs."

Justin kicked him again, "At least I'm better off than you. Do you have needs right now?"

Hayden, "With that temper, Leah hasn't partnered with Fly Jewelry in a while. Seems like she hasn't been focusing on you. Look at your face of grievance."

The exchange between the two men inexplicably had an "alright, let's fight" vibe.

This left Corvus stunned, but what shocked him more was the realization—Hayden took a blow below and now... is impotent...

emmm...

Corvus quickly went out to find Silas for some gossip, "Silas, I've got a secret to tell you. The young master is injured, and now he's impotent."

Silas looked at Corvus with a poker face, "You've learned the young master's secret; only dead men don't leak secrets. I'm considering whether to silence you."

Corvus, "..."

At this moment, the door to the luxurious private room opened, and Hayden walked out, "Where's Ronda?"

Corvus looked around, troubled. Ronda had wandered off without him noticing!

Hayden's handsome face darkened, "Go find her!"

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Serena Sterling had also come to Emperor's Bar for a meeting.

As she approached a luxurious private room, she suddenly heard a familiar soft cat meow sound by her ear, "Meow~ Meow meow!"

The sound was so familiar. Serena quickly turned around, and Ronda dashed excitedly to her feet, extending her two claws to cling to her shoe and looked up at her with bright, wide eyes, calling, "Meow meow!"

Ronda had recognized her earlier and followed her all the way.

Joy filled Serena's bright eyes. She crouched down and scooped Ronda into her arms, "Ronda, it's really you. I missed you so much."

Serena blissfully stroked Ronda's snow-white, soft fur.

Meow meow~

Ronda expressed, "My owner, I missed you too. You're finally here. I can't hold on much longer. Please reign in your man; this big pig's foot is about to be hooked by someone else!"

Serena was so happy she felt like crying. She hadn't expected Ronda to be in the City of Aethelgard too. Did Mr. Crawford bring Ronda here?

At that moment, she heard a low, magnetic voice by her ear, "Ronda."

Both Serena and Ronda looked up to see a tall, handsome figure approaching along the corridor— Hayden Crawford was here.