

## Substitute B 310

Chapter 310: Next Time, Watch Yourself!

As Serena Sterling's bright watery eyes fell upon Zelda Willow, she clasped her small hands behind her back, scrutinizing Zelda from head to toe, and then tutted twice, "So the former top beauty of Aethelgard is here, but why does it seem Mrs. Crawford has lost all her charm? You and this Aethelgard beauty seem worlds apart, could it be that you are two different people?"

"..." Zelda Willow gasped, looking incredulously at Serena. How much did she know? How could she know these things?

"Mrs. Crawford, your name is Zelda Willow, but the former top beauty of Aethelgard is named Isabelle Willow, right?" Serena went on.

Zelda's pupils shrank, and she looked at Serena in terror.

In truth, Serena knew quite a lot, some of it from Hayden, and some from her own deductions. Watching Zelda's face turn deathly pale, Serena smiled gently, "Back then, Uncle Crawford surely married Isabelle Willow, so their marriage certificate should have their names. I just wonder if after you married in, Mrs. Crawford, did the name on the certificate change to Zelda Willow!"

Zelda felt as if a knife had plunged deeply into her heart, causing her immense pain. Despite her noble status as Mrs. Crawford, she and Jude Crawford never obtained a marriage certificate!

The marriage certificate still bears the names Jude Crawford and Isabelle Willow!

Serena had guessed this and was merely seeking confirmation, but now, seeing Zelda's furious expression, she knew her guess was correct.

Serena stepped closer to Zelda, "The two daughters from the Willow family swapped lives. You think Isabelle is your shadow, but truly, you are the shadow. Over the years, you've been nothing but her substitute, without even a title. If Isabelle returns one day, everything you have will revert to its rightful owner!"

"Mrs. Crawford, I'll say this once more: don't cross me again. I'm not one to be trifled with, so be careful in the future!"

With that, Serena turned and left, leaving the Crawford family.

Zelda felt as if she had been pushed into an abyss, every word Serena said had hit her where it hurt the most, filling her with dread, fear, and unease.

At first, she thought Serena was just a cunning little girl, confidently declaring war on her, not even regarding her as a threat.

But she didn't expect Serena to be so fierce, not someone to be trifled with.

She knew much, she saw through Zelda, she knew what Zelda feared, and with just a few words could make Zelda feel as if she were on the brink of a chasm.

She was terrifying!

Zelda glanced at Jude Crawford, moving her lips dryly, "Jude, let me explain about this, I..."

Jude Crawford didn't look at her but gazed instead at the painting in his hands, at Isabelle Willow's face in the artwork, "Is it for Zane?"

"Yes, Jude, I discovered that Zane is with Serena. They were embracing right on the streets, and Zane even drove to A University to find her. Zane is our pride; he has high standards yet is easily deceived. As his mother, I must protect him. I don't like Serena. She cannot become my daughter-in-law; I only want Seraphina Linden's daughter!"

Zelda didn't even favor Aurora, who always tried to please her, only dreaming of having Seraphina's daughter as her daughter-in-law.

Over twenty years ago, Aethelgard was in full bloom. Isabelle Willow captivated the capital, while Seraphina came from a mysterious background, leveling up in her adventures throughout Aethelgard. Both were extraordinary women.

Jude Crawford reached out, gently tracing a finger over Isabelle Willow's cool, exquisite face in the painting, "Seraphina's daughter has never been found."

"That's because the old lady took away the engagement token Seraphina left, leaving us with no clues! Jude, you are biased. You only love the son Isabelle gave you, but you don't care at all about Zane's marriage!" Zelda voiced her discontent.

Jude Crawford lifted his gaze, his deep eyes landing on Zelda's face, "If I didn't care about Zane, my first act would be to remove you from the position of Mrs. Crawford, to prevent you from ruining him. Before acting, use some sense. If you resort to such underhanded tactics against Serena, it's not just about you not being her match. Even if you win, what happens to Zane?"

"I... I..." Zelda stammered, knowing Jude Crawford was displeased. After years in business leadership, his anger was formidable, leaving her speechless with fear.

Jude Crawford rose to his feet, casting one last look at Zelda, "If you don't want to be Mrs. Crawford anymore, just let me know. I'm not short of a Mrs. Crawford, so behave from now on."

With those words, he left the study, taking the painting with him.

Zelda gripped her fists tightly, eyes reddening, today Serena's nighttime intrusion into the Crawford family had Jude box her back into her original form.

This move was truly ruthless!

No doubt, these years, she had been Isabelle Willow's shadow!

A singer's daughter, if it hadn't been for her childhood illness, Isabelle Willow could never have entered the Willow family. Originally, Isabelle was her substitute, her shadow.

But who knew Isabelle would grow increasingly brilliant, founding Fly. Each season's jewelry pieces sold out immediately, amazing the entire jewelry world, captivating the capital.

She was no longer her shadow; instead, she became hers.

This was the greatest insult and joke.

However, these years, Zelda still relished it, because she loved Jude Crawford.

She couldn't forget the first time she saw Jude, that day as he stepped out of his luxury car, dressed in a custom black suit, followed by a legion of blue-badge executives, walking with purpose, shining brilliantly amidst all, capturing everyone's gaze.

Thirty years ago, Jude Crawford, the son of Aethelgard, stirred many hearts, didn't he?

Who could escape his aura and charm, not even her.

She too fell in love with Jude at first sight.

The secluded beauty of the Willow family, once lost her heart to this man.

All these years later, just looking at Jude still made Zelda's heart race.

But he remained cold and heartless to her.

Zelda suddenly felt pain in her chest, shouting out loud, "Someone come quickly!"

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At Emperor's Bar.

Justin Xavier arrived at the luxurious suite, glancing at Hayden Crawford, who was lounging lazily against the sofa back, and casually poured himself a drink, "I heard Serena Sterling stormed into the Crawford family last night, causing Zelda to have chest pain, with private doctors rushing in one after another."

"That private vineyard was just bulldozed by an excavator; the earthly paradise of debauchery became a pile of dirt in an instant. Hayden, your dad certainly has the touch; one move and you know it's him."