

Substitute B 376

Chapter 376: A Beauty Fades in the Blink of an Eye

In fact, Old Man Knight was extremely nervous and anxious when he devised the plan for Yvonne to use a surrogate to gain position and marry into the Rathborne family.

Because he had two opponents, one was Julian Rathborne, and the other was Seraphina Linden.

These two, one was the son of Aethelgard, the other a mysterious and stunning young woman, together they could be said to have jointly ushered in a new era for medicine in Aethelgard.

When Old Man Knight saw Seraphina Linden pregnant, watching her belly grow bigger by the day, he was afraid, afraid she would go looking for Julian Rathborne. If she did, everything would be ruined.

However, Seraphina Linden had no intention of looking for Julian Rathborne.

Seraphina loved the daughter in her belly and enjoyed this new journey of life as a mother. This stunning girl was becoming gentle day by day; her hand always rested on the bump of her belly, caressing it. She loved her daughter but didn't like the father. After that night, she had completely banished Julian Rathborne from her mind.

Of course, there was a time Old Man Knight stood by the door and saw Isabelle Willow, Seraphina's best friend. He heard Seraphina complain to Isabelle that her partner that night was not a man but a beast, and she was tossed about to the brink of death.

That was how Seraphina accurately labeled Julian Rathborne—as just a partner!

Old Man Knight was also very concerned about Julian Rathborne because, back then, everyone in the City of Aethelgard knew this son of Aethelgard was not interested in women. He had noble, ascetic blood running

through his veins and had no interest in women. Even if Yvonne bore his child, he might not necessarily marry her.

Yet, Julian Rathborne did marry her.

Old Man Knight still remembers that day when Julian Rathborne stood in front of the floor-to-ceiling window, allowing the radiant neon lights outside to cast a mysterious and noble golden glow over his body. He looked at Yvonne for a long time, very long, then nodded and agreed to take responsibility.

Old Man Knight didn't know what Julian Rathborne was thinking, but one thing was certain—that night was unforgettable for Julian Rathborne.

Over the years, Old Man Knight had strategized and become the dean of the Academy of Sciences. His daughter Yvonne had risen to become Mrs. Rathborne. Although Julian Rathborne had neglected Yvonne all these years, he supported the Knight family, making them one of the four great families of Aethelgard, a never-ending gold mine.

Now, the entire balance is upset. Serena Sterling is the biological daughter of Seraphina Linden and Julian Rathborne!

Old Man Knight suddenly narrowed his cloudy eyes, remembering how familiar Serena Sterling felt when he first saw her. Serena was born ethereal and breathtaking, exuding a wise and composed demeanor, possessing a grandeur and air that reminded him of Seraphina Linden.

Over these years, Old Man Knight had been searching for the biological daughter of Seraphina Linden and Julian Rathborne, wanting to eradicate her because he knew this daughter was a ticking time bomb that would destroy everything the Knight family now owned.

Serena Sterling!

Old Man Knight mulled over the name repeatedly in his mind. She truly lived up to being the daughter of Seraphina Linden and Julian Rathborne—already a presence of elegance.

In a few more years, who knows how magnificent and dazzling she would become.

He must eliminate her now!

"Yvonne, leave the matter of Serena Sterling to me. I'll have Felix handle it, but remember, Anabelle's background must not be revealed!" Old Man Knight reminded her.

Yvonne was not foolish. Anabelle's background must be guarded as a secret to the death, so she nodded, "Dad, not a word will slip from my lips, rest assured. But the matter with Serena Sterling is urgent; Hayden Crawford, Zane Crawford, and Shaun Spencer, those gifted sons of heaven, are all captivated by her, becoming more difficult to deal with as time goes by."

Old Man Knight didn't say much, just responded, "I understand."

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Old Man Knight hung up the call and went to Felix Knight's room. Felix wasn't resting; his table was cluttered with small bottles and jars, and he was busy with research.

"Felix, why aren't you resting?" Old Man Knight stepped forward, looking at Felix with concern.

Felix looked up; he was exceptionally handsome, but his face was pale, a kind of sickly pallor. He had blue eyes, cold enough to hold no warmth as he looked at Old Man Knight, "Grandfather, I'm not sleepy."

Old Man Knight nodded, "Felix, Seraphina Linden's daughter has appeared. Her name is Serena Sterling."

Felix's hand, holding a small bottle, suddenly paused, a fervent gleam flickering in his blue eyes, "Grandfather, are you saying the daughter of Seraphina Linden, the woman with the immortal bloodline?"

"That's right, Serena Sterling is Seraphina Linden's daughter. She must also have the immortal bloodline."

Felix took out a red bottle and handed it to Old Man Knight, "That's wonderful. I've always been researching a poison to counter the immortal blood. This poison was just concocted, perfect to test on Serena Sterling."

Old Man Knight had a lifelong passion for medicine, but Felix was even more obsessed, obsessed with poisons.

Old Man Knight looked at the red bottle, "Felix, what's inside?"

Felix curled his lips, slowly speaking five words, "A Flick of Beauty's Wrath."

A Flick of Beauty's Wrath!

Hearing the name, Old Man Knight revealed a satisfied and pleased smile. Over twenty years ago, along with the medical texts, Seraphina Linden brought with her a book of poisons.

But Seraphina believed medicine and poison could not coexist and wanted to destroy the poison book.

Old Man Knight seized the opportunity to secretly hide the poison book, and this act further deepened the rift between him and Seraphina, leading to the rupture of their mentor-apprentice relationship.

Later, Old Man Knight handed the poison book to his grandson Felix. Even though Seraphina was long dead, he wanted to prove to her that he was right back then—that poison could surpass medicine, granting people everything they ever dreamed of!

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In the hospital.

Serena Sterling fluttered her long lashes and then opened her eyes. She was in a hospital room, hooked up to an IV drip when Zane Crawford approached, holding her small hand, "Serena, you're awake?"

Serena still felt weak all over; she had nearly drowned in the swimming pool. Just barely surviving the ordeal, she was still quite frail.

Zane helped her sit up, placing a soft cushion behind her back, "Serena, you're okay, rest for a couple of days and you'll recover."

Serena looked gratefully at Zane, "Thank you, Zane. If you hadn't arrived in time to save me, I might have really died."

Zane's clear black eyes lingered on Serena's face, "Serena, it wasn't me who saved you, but Hayden Crawford."

What?

Serena froze.

Zane didn't want to hide the truth, as he was naturally forthright and open, "Serena, I was chatting with Old Mrs. Rathborne at the time. I wasn't by your side when the incident occurred. It was Hayden who returned,

jumped into the swimming pool, and saved you. I heard your breathing had stopped; everyone thought you were dead, but Hayden didn't give up on you. He continued performing CPR and artificial respiration, forced to pull you back from the brink of death."