

Substitute B 397

Chapter 397: As Cunning as a Little Fox

Serena Sterling checked Zane Crawford's pulse, and a sharp, cold light quickly stirred in her clear eyes.

Just then, Zane Crawford shook her off, "Don't touch me!"

Zane Crawford directly pushed Serena Sterling away.

Now, Zane Crawford had lost any affection for Serena Sterling, feeling only indifference and regarding her as a stranger. So, he shook her off with disdain, very forcefully, and Serena couldn't stand firmly, taking several steps back and almost falling.

But at that moment, a strong arm reached over in time, catching Serena's slender waist, pulling her into a solid and warm chest.

It was Hayden Crawford.

Hayden Crawford protected Serena Sterling, his deep, cold eyes falling on Zane Crawford and Aurora, speaking in a distant voice, "Congratulations, if we have time, we will attend your wedding."

Pearl Nightingale was a spoiled heiress, rarely afraid of anyone, but she had a deep-seated fear of Hayden Crawford. Now, with Serena in his arms, his cold, sharp gaze on her, Pearl Nightingale shivered with dread.

"Zane, let's go." Pearl Nightingale tugged on Zane Crawford.

Zane Crawford left with Pearl Nightingale.

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Serena Sterling stood in place watching Zane Crawford and Pearl Nightingale's figures disappear from sight, a bit pale.

Hayden Crawford sensed something off about her expression and looked down to ask, "What, seeing Zane Crawford about to marry another woman makes you that upset?"

Serena lowered her long lashes, saying nothing.

At that moment, she sensitively noticed a gaze as venomous as a snake upon her, and she looked up to quickly spot Felix Knight in a dark corner ahead.

Felix Knight stood there, dressed in a black coat, his calm demeanor taking in everything that had happened.

All of it was within his control.

Serena Sterling locked eyes with Felix Knight, who was watching her with a sickly amusement, like a cat toying with a mouse.

Serena turned her eyes back to Hayden Crawford and gestured with a glance, "Who is that?"

Hayden Crawford looked up, only catching a glimpse of Felix Knight's back as he turned to leave, yet he recognized him, "That's Felix Knight, the Crown Prince of the Knight family. He seldom appears in the City of Aethelgard, and is said to be obsessed with medicine, always conducting his research."

This was Serena's first time seeing Felix Knight. Her intuition told her he was extremely dangerous and was targeting her.

Serena quickly thought over the recent events, which had been continuous and tumultuous, leaving her in the eye of the public storm, completely passive.

Most notably, the Knight family's power seemed to be surging.

Reflecting on previous encounters, Yvonne Knight and Anabelle Rathborne's certainty and confidence suggested they were preparing for something big. Was that 'something big' ... Felix Knight?

Serena looked at Hayden Crawford, continuing her inquiry, "Is Felix Knight's medical skill really impressive?"

Hayden Crawford shook his head, "Felix Knight is the most low-key among the four major families, and many haven't seen him. I've never seen Felix Knight in action, but Old Man Knight values this grandson highly, placing all of the Knight family's hopes on him."

Serena realized Felix Knight was indeed the 'big move'!

Apparently, everything that's happened recently was Felix Knight's doing, and the Knight family had focused all its attacks on her.

Now Felix Knight was hidden in the shadows, while she was in the open; the situation was quite against her.

"I understand, Mr. Crawford, thank you." After speaking, Serena was ready to leave.

But Hayden Crawford grabbed her, "Are you just going to leave like that?"

Serena halted, "Mr. Crawford, have you really called off your engagement with Anabelle Rathborne?"

"Yes." Hayden Crawford nodded, though his demeanor was quite arrogant, the implication being 'It's not because of you, don't get too full of yourself!'

This time, Serena's lips curled into a shallow smile.

Hayden Crawford found her slightly strange, as her clear eyes sparkled with a captivating light, suggesting she was plotting something.

"Serena, what little scheme are you concocting?" Hayden frowned inquiringly.

Serena fluttered her long lashes, looking innocently at him, "Mr. Crawford, what little scheme could I possibly hatch? I'm just waiting for a beating."

"Who's going to beat you?"

"Of course... the Knight family. Do you think your engagement with Anabelle Rathborne was called off that smoothly? Just wait; they are brewing something big, aiming to drown me in slander." Having said that, Serena forcefully withdrew her delicate wrist and left.

Did she really leave just like that?

The entire Knight family was planning against her, yet she strode off so confidently and defiantly. Hayden Crawford genuinely wished to pry her little head open to see what on earth she was thinking.

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Serena returned to the Sterling family, doing nothing but opening the first volume of the medical manuscript her mother left her.

The manuscript recorded the profound connections between medicine and poison, and Serena paused on a particular page, reading it for a long while.

Just then, Iris Blue entered, placing a plate of fruit beside Serena, "Serena, you've been poring over the medical books since you returned, are you facing some challenging issues?"

Serena closed the book, saying nothing yet, only smiling at Iris Blue, "Mom, you and Dad haven't gone on a trip yet, why don't you both go traveling tomorrow?"

Iris Blue looked at Serena suspiciously, "Serena, are you trying to send us away on purpose?"

Serena cuddled Iris Blue, acting coquettishly, "Mom, could you not be so clever? I just want you both to travel a while. Once things settle down, I'll call you back."

"Serena, if we leave, what about you? Your dad and I worry about you. Now with the chaos outside, how do you plan to handle it?"

Serena slyly curled her lips, smiling like a little fox, "Mom, to be honest, I don't know how to fix it either. I feel surrounded by a fog of mysteries, and many know secrets unbeknownst to me, leaving me extremely passive and with many questions."

"But I also feel I'm on the verge of a breakthrough. Once I surpass it, I can capture all those people in one fell swoop. So, Mom, you and Dad should go travel; I have my plans here, don't worry, I'm the Sterling family's daughter, meant for big things!"

Serena proudly patted her chest.

Iris Blue lovingly stroked her little head, embracing her, "Alright, we won't question anything more and will do as you say."