

## Substitute B 459

### Chapter 459: Serena Sterling Attends the Wedding

Serena Sterling was utterly stunned.

Actually, she had considered countless possibilities, but she never imagined this one — Hayden Crawford and Anabelle Rathborne's grand wedding tonight.

"Serena, now the internet is flooded with news about the Crawford-Rathborne engagement. Tonight's grand wedding has gathered all the high society, shocking the entire City of Aethelgard. Hayden's father, Jude Crawford, and Anabelle's father, Julian Rathborne, both major magnates, are appearing at the wedding, making it a meeting place for the elite."

"Hello, Serena, are you listening? What exactly is going on between you and Mr. Crawford? Why did he suddenly get engaged to Anabelle Rathborne? Hello, Serena, hello..."

Serena Sterling had already hung up the phone.

...

Serena Sterling sat on the sofa, her eyes vacant for a moment, now feeling a bit dazed and confused.

After a few minutes, she stood up. Her grandmother and Beryl were sleeping soundly upstairs, needing a rest because she had given them a peaceful sleep injection.

Serena Sterling put on Beryl's clothes and disguised herself as Beryl when she left the house. The bodyguards outside saw Beryl going out and didn't question her, simply letting her pass.

Serena Sterling took a bus, and once she left the Westerley Estate, her phone got a signal.

She had guessed correctly; all signals at Westerley Estate were blocked, and her phone had been tampered with. She couldn't reach Leah Thorne, and Leah couldn't contact her either.

Now Serena Sterling opened the browser. Today's entertainment headlines were dominated by the Crawford-Rathborne wedding, which was making waves throughout the city.

Serena tapped the headline with her slender, white finger. It was a top story on both the finance and entertainment sections, complete with live video. The host spoke excitedly,

"Reportedly, the first business noble of Aethelgard, Hayden Crawford, is to host a grand wedding with Anabelle Rathborne, the Rathborne's daughter, at Dragon Manor tonight. This luxurious wedding once again puts the Crawford-Rathborne union in the spotlight. Hayden Crawford is not only of noble status but also the youngest, most handsome, and richest business magnate in City of Aethelgard, captivating the hearts of many noblewomen. Anabelle Rathborne, the soon-to-be Mrs. Crawford, has become the envy of all women—

The camera turned, showing the shiny white porcelain floor. Hayden Crawford, wearing a tailor-made black suit, walked over. The suit was perfectly pressed without a single crease, and his hair was slicked back, revealing his full forehead and devastatingly handsome features. He exuded an air of supreme elegance and a subtle, aloof coldness.

Behind him followed a group of staff, and he was treated like an emperor at the forefront, with the vibrant sun streaming through the floor-to-ceiling windows, casting a dazzling golden outline around him.

Reporters swarmed in, eagerly thrusting microphones forward,

Mr. Crawford, can you reveal more details about this Crawford-Rathborne engagement?

After the wedding, will you and Miss Anabelle be going on a honeymoon?

Mr. Crawford, is starting a family part of your post-marriage plans? After all, your first child would be the firstborn heir of the Crawford family.

The black-suited bodyguards kept the reporters outside the security line. Ivan Yarrow said "No comment," and then Hayden Crawford, expressionless, got into the extended luxury business car.

He never looked at the camera the entire time.

Serena's petite face turned pale, white as paper without a trace of color, and her beautiful amber eyes became vacant. Only now did a voice sound in her ear, repeatedly telling her that Hayden Crawford and Anabelle Rathborne were getting married.

At first, it was one voice telling her, then thousands of voices telling her. The whole world knew about the Crawford-Rathborne union, except her.

She was the last to know.

Only now could Serena be sure that Hayden Crawford was really marrying Anabelle Rathborne!

But...

But it shouldn't be.

Serena reached out to touch the only-love necklace and the only ring hanging around her neck, which he had given her. Just a few days ago, he had been talking about remarrying and calling her Mrs. Crawford...

Heh.

Heh heh.

Serena let out a couple of self-deprecating laughs, her pale eyes quickly turning red, with a layer of crystal-clear tears covering them.

She picked up her phone again, her fingers trembling as she dialed that aching familiar number.

The lilting ringtone sounded once, and then the call was unhurriedly picked up.

"Hello."

Hayden Crawford's charming, magnetic voice came through.

At this moment, sitting on the bus, Serena turned her head and watched the scenery rapidly pass by outside the window. Then she slowly curled her red lips, "Hello, Mr. Crawford, where are you right now?"

Hayden's voice was low and mellow, lowered even more, also softer, "I have some work today, so eat and sleep well, okay?"

"Oh, so will you be back tonight?"

"Why, do you miss me?"

Serena nodded, "Mm, I miss you. Mr. Crawford, could you come back now? I haven't seen you for three nights."

On the other end, Hayden paused for two seconds, "I have to work late tonight. I'll come back later to be with you, okay?"

Serena's long eyelashes trembled. She couldn't hold back anymore, and big tear drops fell unstoppably from her eyes.

She looked at her reflection in the bus window. Her face was already covered in tears. She bit her red lips hard so as not to let the choked sobs escape, then raised a small hand to wipe her face haphazardly, insistently saying, "No, Mr. Crawford, come back now. I want to see you. I miss you so much."

"Serena, be good. I'm in a meeting right now, can't get away. I'll be back later tonight," Hayden's soft voice soothed her.

Serena's small hand had been tightly grasping the only-love ring around her neck. Now her hand suddenly let go, and she smiled amid her tears, "Alright, you're busy then. I'm tired, I'll sleep first."

With that, she directly hung up the phone.

Sitting alone, Serena knew that from this moment on, she had lost her Mr. Crawford.

Earlier, she had given him his only chance. If he came back now, she would act as if nothing had happened.

But he didn't come back.

Serena lifted her little hand, burying her small face entirely into her palms. Soon her glistening shoulders began to tremble, and in the silent cabin, a suppressed and desperate sobbing sound filled the air.

It was unknown how long it took for Serena to hold back her tears, she didn't want to cry anymore.

At this moment, the driver in front asked, "Young lady, where do you want to go?"

Serena lifted her head, "To Dragon Manor."

Tonight, Hayden Crawford and Anabelle Rathborne's grand wedding was being held at Dragon Manor. She must go see it in person!

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At Dragon Manor.

Today, the grand wedding party gathered the elites of the upper society, with Julian Rathborne and Jude Crawford both attending.

The bride, Anabelle Rathborne, wore a V-neck white gauze dress, designed by a famous designer from Gallia, adorned with dazzling diamonds, making her look exceptionally beautiful and captivating.