

## Substitute B 535

Chapter 535: Did You Get Married, or Did It All Fall Apart?

It was already evening, and the young man and woman were entangled in such an intimate, ambiguous position. He even asked her if she had taken a bath. Serena's exquisite little face quickly flushed with a suspicious red, "Hayden, don't be like this, Caden is still inside."

"Caden? Ha." A low, husky laugh rolled from Hayden's throat, "Serena Sterling, what right do you have to mention Caden in front of me, huh?"

Serena's clear, bright eyes landed on Hayden's handsome face, and she slowly stopped struggling.

Hayden squinted his scarlet, narrow eyes and wantonly examined Serena, who had just finished bathing. She was wearing a white silk shirt as pajamas. The shirt was very loose, making her exquisite figure faintly visible. The hem fell at her thighs, and her pair of beautiful legs were white and slender, quite eye-catching.

Three years gone, as she's aged, Serena's aesthetics in all aspects have begun to lean towards a more feminine style, effortlessly lazy with a touch of allure, very enticing.

"Hayden, let's have a good talk." Serena said softly.

"Talk about what? Business, or romance?" Hayden's large hand fell on her slender waist and pinched hard.

Serena was a bit pained. Three years ago, when she gave birth to triplets, she suffered a lot, and she spent the subsequent two years in a coma, so her post-partum body hadn't recovered well.

Ever since she met Hayden, every time they got physically close, he was always heavy-handed, liked to hurt her, and Serena was somewhat resistant to this.

"Hayden, let's talk about Caden. I know it's been tough for you, a single man, to raise Caden for the past three years, but there are some things you need to pay attention to, like when you're with other women, could you avoid being seen with Caden?"

Hayden raised his sharp, distinctive brows, and instantly thought of a video call from two weeks ago when she inexplicably gave him the cold shoulder and hung up the call. It turned out it was because of that mixed-race woman he was with.

"Jealous?" Hayden's large hand slipped inside her silk shirt.

The next second, his throat tightened, and his thin lips covered her white ear as he asked hoarsely, "Weren't you wearing anything?"

Serena thought he had left and wouldn't come back. She usually didn't wear anything to bed for comfort, who knew he'd return.

Serena quickly grabbed his strong wrist, adorned with a precious watch, trying to push him away, "Hayden, don't be like this, let's talk properly..."

"Whether it's business, romance, or even about having children, there are many who want to talk with me, so why should I talk with you? Serena Sterling, what do you have to negotiate with me, huh?" Hayden asked hoarsely.

Serena's face turned pale with pain, her delicate brows knitted together. Men are visual creatures, women are emotional ones. In moments of intimacy, she didn't feel even a hint of his tenderness and affection, only his burning possession and venting, making her want to escape.

"Hayden, what do you want?" Serena asked tremulously.

"Serena Sterling, stop pretending to be ignorant. You tell me, what do I want? Right now, besides this pretty face and alluring body of yours that I still find interesting, what else do you have to negotiate with me?" Hayden buried his handsome face in her long hair, inhaling her scent greedily.

"But don't you already have other women?"

"And aren't you just one of those other women?" Hayden retorted.

Serena felt a dull pain in her heart. Yes, in his eyes now, she's no different from other women.

"Oh no, wait, Serena, I misspoke. You're not even the same as those women. They are the girlfriends I date, my new favorites. I'll spend time going shopping with them, having candlelight dinners, giving them some formal statuses, but you're different. You're just a kept tool for me to vent. When one day I want you, you just need to serve me well, understand?"

Listening to these heartless and humiliating words, Serena's face turned as white as a sheet of paper. So, this is how he defined her.

"I refuse," Serena rejected.

Hayden's scarlet eyes quickly revealed a ferocious cruelty, "Why? For whom are you remaining chaste, Seth Sullivan? How come he didn't return with you this time? Did you two get married over these three years, or did things fall apart?"

Serena saw the intent in his eyes to eliminate Seth. She lowered her long lashes, "My business with Seth is none of your concern, Hayden. You know what you look like now? It's like you're hoping things fall apart between me and Seth so you can take the opportunity."

What?

Hayden's narrow eyes suddenly spread like spilled ink, thick and bottomless. Instinctively, he tightened his grip and pinched her hard.

Serena felt immense pain and began to struggle forcefully.

Just then, Hayden grabbed her small hand and pressed it to the leather belt around his strong waist.

Serena refused, clenching her fist to pull back.

Then, with a "thud," there was a sudden noise from the bedroom as if Caden had awakened.

After all, it's his own son, and despite his current full eyes of desire, Hayden was still apprehensive. Hearing the noise, he released his hand.

Serena took the opportunity to leave him and ran away.

Hayden fell back into the sofa, raising his wrist adorned with a luxurious watch to cover his scarlet-rimmed eyes again, his prominent Adam's apple moving up and down like burning embers rolling through.

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Serena didn't see Hayden in the morning, so he must have left early.

Serena didn't show anything outwardly. Little Caden Crawford was sensitive, and she feared Caden might notice something. Now, Caden's condition was improving, and with each muscle exercise coupled with her acupuncture, it seemed that Caden would be able to speak in a week without any surprises.

However, a sudden surprise occurred, little Caden Crawford didn't come to school.

Serena quickly found Mr. Collins, "Mr. Collins, why didn't Caden come to school today?"

"Ms. Sterling, this is what happened. Caden's daddy, Mr. Crawford, called this morning saying Caden wouldn't be attending school today."

What?

Serena's expression changed, "Did Mr. Crawford say what's wrong with Caden, or when he will come to school?"

Mr. Collins nodded in bewilderment, "Mr. Crawford didn't say anything, Ms. Sterling. Do you think Mr. Crawford is planning to transfer Caden?"

Serena had a bad premonition in her heart. She quickly took out her phone and dialed Hayden's number, but a mechanical voice soon came from the other end, "Sorry, the number you have dialed is temporarily unavailable."