

Substitute B 601

Chapter 601: The Mysterious Big Boss Is Hayden Crawford

Those two fierce slaps caused both sides of the fat woman's cheeks to swell high up quickly, and blood seeped from the corners of her mouth, leaving her quite the mess.

The fat woman was truly stunned by the blows, wondering what went wrong. This was supposed to be her turf; she was the owner here. Yet these security guards dared to hit her.

The fat woman looked at Hayden Crawford, noticing his luxurious attire and the calm and confident aura in his every gesture. One glance was enough to indicate his high status—either rich or noble.

Who is he?

Could it be that these security guards are listening to him?

Why?

No matter how hard she tried to figure it out, she couldn't come up with a reason.

"Sir, you've been deceived by this Princess of Alani. She may appear innocent, but deep down she's extremely seducing. She loves to lure men; my husband fell for her tricks. You better see her true colors!"

The fat woman's words were venomous, filthy as she spoke, and Serena's delicate brows furrowed at the harshness. Even though she was straightforward, hearing such things in Hayden Crawford's presence was inevitably embarrassing.

She lifted her eyes to the man before her, who used his tall and lean shoulders to block her sight, protecting her in a dominant and robust manner from the attacks of gossip.

For some reason, Serena's heart suddenly softened.

At this moment, a low and magnetic voice sounded by her ear, "I'm asking you one last time, who is the little bitch cursing, hmm?"

Hayden Crawford repeated the question.

The fat woman was stunned, and then "smack" "smack," the security guards delivered two fierce slaps on her again.

The fat woman almost spat out blood; her plump face had gone numb from the hits.

It hurts.

The fat woman looked at the man, seeing his deep and narrow eyes falling on her face, carrying a sinister intent.

The fat woman was terrified and turned pale as she trembled, "I'm cursing myself; I'm the little bitch!"

Upon hearing this, Hayden Crawford finally withdrew his gaze. He turned his head towards the little woman behind him and moved his thin lips, "Go back to the room!"

Go back to the room.

Simple words, full of authority.

Serena's heart was suddenly hit hard.

At this time, the little bun rushed over to hug her leg, "Fairy teacher, what are you and daddy doing?"

Serena didn't want the little bun to see the fat woman. She picked him up, "Nothing, Caden, how about teacher tells you a story?"

"Okay, okay."

Serena took little Caden Crawford into the room.

Watching Serena enter the room, the fat woman angrily stared at Hayden Crawford, "You... How dare you treat me like this? Do you know who I am? This is my territory; I'll have my husband make sure you can't walk out of this!"

Hearing this, Hayden Crawford raised his attractive brow, his cold lips curled into a shallow, mocking arc, "Then turn around and see who has come now."

Who?

The fat woman turned and saw her husband, President Alden, rushing over.

President Alden ran so quickly that he almost tripped halfway.

"Husband, why are you here?" The fat woman grabbed President Alden, "But it's just perfect that you're here; I was looking for you!"

"Shut up!" President Alden quickly shook off the fat woman. He was covered in cold sweat, nervously whispering, "I just received a call from the big boss; he asked me to come over!"

"Big boss?" The fat woman froze too, not expecting this mysterious and low-key big boss to show up tonight. Anyone who could afford a piece of the sea must be enormously wealthy.

"Yes, it's the big boss. The big boss has never shown his face before, suddenly appears now—I have a bad feeling! Where is the big boss? He asked me to come over, but why can't I see the big boss?" President Alden looked around, his gaze quickly fell on Hayden Crawford.

President Alden seemed to suddenly understand something, his pupils rapidly contracted and expanded—could it be...?

"Mr. Crawford, are you...?" President Alden tentatively asked.

Hayden Crawford slid one hand into his trouser pocket and lifted his thin lips with a detached voice, "You don't have to come here anymore."

Sss.

The suspicion in his heart was confirmed; President Alden's legs went weak. The mysterious big boss had long since arrived by his side. He was... the world's leading wealth figure, Hayden Crawford.

Three years ago, Hayden Crawford spent lavishly in the State of Westria, buying a piece of the sea.

The fat woman quickly spoke up, "Who are you? How dare you tell my husband not to come; my husband is the owner here. The only person who can order him is the mysterious big boss, unless you are that mysterious big boss!"

The fat woman spoke arrogantly.

President Alden looked at his wife beside him and felt like crying because his wife's intelligence was just too... touching, "Hush, don't say anything else, it's embarrassing; Mr. Crawford is the mysterious big boss!"

What? No...

The fat woman's pupils dilated instantly, shocked at the handsome man in front of her; he was indeed the mysterious big boss!

"This man is not only the mysterious big boss but also the world's top wealth figure, CEO of The Crawford Group, Hayden Crawford!" President Alden added, dishing out another blow.

The fat woman gasped, then shook her head nonstop—no, she couldn't believe it, she absolutely wouldn't believe it!

The fat woman glanced at the closed door again; since when did the Princess of Alani hook up with such a big figure like Hayden Crawford?

She recalled what she had done just now, feeling as though she'd been pushed into the abyss. It was all over; everything was over.

Hayden Crawford slid both hands into his trouser pockets, a thin layer of frosty gloom covering his handsome eyelids, "You don't have to come anymore, and I hope you won't appear in front of me ever again."

The fat woman shivered, just as arrogant as she had been, now just as miserable, "Mr. Crawford... I'm sorry, it's my fault, I couldn't see the mountain, but... but you've been deceived by the Princess of Alani; she loves to lure men, my husband fell for her tricks!"

"So you're saying... I'm not charming enough to retain my woman and that my woman has cuckolded me?" Hayden Crawford retorted.

The fat woman's face turned ashen gray, slumping onto the carpet.

Lowering his eyelids, Hayden Crawford took one last look at the fat woman, "Be careful in the future. I'm very protective; if anyone dares to touch my woman, not only will I chop him up to feed the dogs, but I'll also implicate and annihilate his family. Better not run into my gun, hmm?"

After speaking, Hayden Crawford pushed open the room door and walked in.

Outside, the fat woman, "..."

Was she being slapped with a taste of dog food after a thousand-point critical hit?

"Husband..." The fat woman turned to President Alden for help.

President Alden wasn't much better off, thinking about how he once glanced at the Princess of Alani a few more times. Probably even back then, this big boss had already taken note of him.

Chapter 602: The Little Bun Takes Action

But isn't the Princess of Alani the future wife of the King of Nine Peaks? When did she become Hayden Crawford's woman?

President Alden quickly dismissed his wild thoughts. He should worry more about himself; the Princess of Alani is definitely not a woman he can covet.

"This time, you've screwed me over. Get up quickly, disappear, and stop making a fool of yourself here. Also, I want a divorce!" President Alden flicked his sleeve and left.

The fat woman quickly got up and chased after him, "Honey, I don't want a divorce, wait for me!"

...

In the presidential suite.

Serena Sterling stood on the balcony, holding her little bundle of joy in her arms, as mother and child looked at the stars.

Just then, steady footsteps sounded, and Hayden Crawford came over.

Hayden Crawford walked over, extending his strong arms to directly take the little boy into his embrace.

The little boy left Serena Sterling's fragrant and soft embrace and quickly protested in a baby voice, "Daddy, I want Miss Fairy to hold me."

Serena Sterling reached out to hold the little boy, "Let me hold him again."

Hayden Crawford lifted his handsome eyelids to glance at Serena Sterling and asked in a low magnetic voice, "Isn't it heavy to hold him?"

The little boy was already three years old, about thirty pounds; it was a bit heavy to hold him.

Serena Sterling's heart skipped a beat, He...

Her bright eyes looked toward the man, who was holding the little boy as he walked into the room towards the big bed.

The tall and handsome man cradled the little boy easily with one arm; he was very strong.

People say being a good dad scores points, and it's true.

A ripple of emotions stirred in Serena Sterling's clear eyes.

Hayden Crawford placed the little boy on the soft big bed, "Caden Crawford, it's late, you should sleep."

Little Caden Crawford nodded, then looked at Serena Sterling, "Miss Fairy, I want to drink a glass of milk before bed, can you warm up some milk for me?"

"Of course." Serena Sterling quickly went into the kitchen to warm the milk for the little boy.

Watching Serena Sterling's charming figure disappear from sight, Hayden Crawford stood aloofly by the bed looking at the little boy, "Tell me, you sent your Miss Fairy away because you wanted to tell me something in secret?"

Little Caden Crawford quickly put away his innocent and naive look, sat cross-legged on the big bed, and said coolly, "What happened outside just now, Daddy, was it caused by your troublesome admirers blaming Mommy?"

Hayden Crawford raised an authoritative brow. The fat woman had clearly been provoked and used by someone else and staged that scene of a madwoman scolding on the streets.

Who was the manipulator behind this?

"Hmph." Little Caden Crawford crossed his arms and snorted, "Daddy, I've told you, if you don't handle those women outside well, I'll handle them for you. Now there's even someone who dares to target Mommy under my watch. If someone bullies Mommy, don't blame me for being rude."

"Caden Crawford, what are you planning to do?"

"Daddy, what I do is my business, you don't need to worry. Tonight, I've already created an opportunity for you. You just need to be charming and take Mommy down!"

Hayden Crawford, "... Well then, I'll leave the person behind the scenes to my son!

"Caden, here comes your warm milk." At that moment, Serena Sterling came over with a cup of warm milk.

Little Caden Crawford quickly switched to an innocent and adorable demeanor, took the milk, and said in a baby voice, "Miss Fairy, thank you, the milk is delicious."

Serena Sterling lovingly patted Little Caden Crawford's small head, "Isn't it? Caden should drink more milk; it will enhance your intelligence."

"..." Hayden Crawford thought this son's intelligence didn't need any more enhancement; he was already quite extraordinary.

Hayden Crawford stretched his long legs and walked toward the bathroom, "You guys go to sleep first, I'll take a shower."

Is he really going to sleep here?

This is her room; shouldn't he ask her opinion before deciding to stay here?

Serena Sterling felt it was necessary to have a talk with Hayden Crawford. She got up and went into the bathroom, "Caden, after you finish, go to sleep like a good boy. Miss Fairy is going to talk to your daddy."

"Alright, got it."

Serena Sterling and Hayden Crawford both disappeared into the bathroom. Little Caden Crawford quickly drank all the warm milk from the cup, set down the cup, and took out his phone.

Little Caden Crawford's fingers tapped quickly on the keyboard, and soon he locked onto the fat woman's phone, hacked through her phone's firewall, and found the anonymous tip-off message sent by Melody Ashworth.

Melody Ashworth had sent it using an anonymous number, but this couldn't escape Little Caden Crawford's keen eyes. Soon the phone screen displayed Melody Ashworth's photo and her personal information.

So it was this woman!

Little Caden Crawford's bright eyes flashed with a hint of ruthless determination. Daring to bully his mommy? That's akin to seeking death!

Well, he'll just have to spend some time playing with Melody Ashworth!

...

Melody Ashworth hadn't shown her face. As Westria's most prestigious princess, she cherished her reputation and was afraid that showing up might expose her and bring unnecessary trouble.

But she had been waiting, watching as the fat woman went upstairs to find Serena Sterling with the insults. She was waiting to watch the show unfold.

Yet she kept waiting without seeing anyone. Melody Ashworth had a bad premonition that something likely wasn't going well.

At that moment, with a "ding," the elevator doors opened, and the fat woman stepped out.

Sitting on the lobby sofa, Melody Ashworth's eyes lit up and then quickly dimmed. Her ideal scene was the fat woman dragging a disheveled Serena Sterling out, but why was the fat woman alone?

The fat woman's face was swollen, and she wore a mask to cover it, which seemed suspicious.

Just then, two onlookers rushed over to ask the fat woman,

Mrs. Alden, did you catch the Princess of Alani cheating just now? Did you catch anyone?

Mrs. Alden, is it true that the Princess of Alani is having an affair with your husband?

The fat woman now just wanted to leave quickly. She shouted, "It was just a misunderstanding. The Princess of Alani is completely innocent and wouldn't fancy my husband!"

How could this happen?

Melody Ashworth's face turned pale instantly. She imagined the fat woman, who was especially jealous and in her own domain, should be grabbing Serena Sterling and not letting go. Why would she say that Serena Sterling was completely innocent?

Where did it go wrong?

At that moment, the LCD screen in the lobby suddenly lit up, and a coquettish woman's voice was heard, "Oh, President Alden, you're being so naughty... You have a wife and yet treat others like this..."

Melody Ashworth was stunned. Why did she think... this voice sounded familiar?

Familiar like her own?

Melody Ashworth quickly raised her head to look at the LCD screen in the lobby, her expression changing to one of astonishment and shock.

Chapter 603: Scandal Video

Melody Ashworth was already stunned. Oh my God, what's this?

On the lobby's LCD screen, a passionate scene was playing, with a man and a woman entangled together, their clothes half-off, and passion in the air.

The man was... President Alden, and the woman was none other than... Melody Ashworth herself!

Melody stared at the woman several times to make sure she wasn't seeing things wrong. It was really her!

But when did she get involved with President Alden? Even she didn't know.

Melody had always had high standards and kept her eyes on Hayden Crawford. Men like President Alden weren't even on her radar. Watching herself tangled up with him now made her want to throw up.

What's going on?

Who is she? Where is she? What happened?

Melody felt the world had turned surreal.

The fat lady and the onlookers looked up and saw the video of Melody and President Alden rolling around in the hotel room.

President Alden pressed down on Melody, "Melody baby, let's not talk about that fat woman. Every time I'm with her, I feel like throwing up. She can't compare to your soft, smooth skin."

Melody smiled charmingly, "That fat woman must be very lonely. Why don't you divorce her and marry me? I'll make you the prince consort of The State of Westria."

Melody could no longer sit still. She stood up abruptly, and sternly ordered the front desk, "Turn it off, turn it off quickly!"

There were many guests in the lobby, and they all turned their eyes towards her, some even taking out their phones to film.

Oh my, this series of living so long and still seeing such things. I've bumped into Melody Princess's scandalous video!

That's Melody Princess up there, right? I'm not mistaken, am I?

Absolutely not mistaken, it's unquestionably her. Quickly film it and upload it online; our Westria's Melody Princess is caught in a scandalous video, and the online hits will break millions in no time.

Melody Princess doesn't look like such a wild person; she appears so pure on the surface.

In reality, not only is Melody Princess wild, but she also likes other women's husbands, seducing married men!

"Ah," Melody screamed, rushing quickly to the hotel front desk, "Turn it off quickly, turn it off!"

Melody's face was ashen. She was the most honored princess of Westria, always cherishing her reputation, but now she felt as if her feathers had been plucked away.

Never mind where this video came from or how it came to be, now that this scandalous video is public, it's bound to spread throughout the entire nation.

No, it can't!

Absolutely not!

"Melody Ashworth, so it was you!" At this moment, the fat woman rushed over, grabbing Melody's long hair and slapped her twice with a "smack, smack."

Caught off guard, Melody was slapped dizzy and fell to the ground.

The fat woman's fury was understandable; she had endured so much humiliation at the hands of Hayden Crawford and Serena Sterling just now, and her heart was already filled with resentment. Now, seeing the video of Melody and her husband, she found a vent for all her anger, unleashing it on Melody.

Anyway, things were already bad for her, and she wasn't going to let Melody have it easy either. At worst, she'd drag everyone down together.

Even if it meant dying, she'd pull the Melody Princess down with her as a scapegoat!

"Melody Ashworth, you little bitch, so you're the one who seduced my husband! Watch me beat you to death!" The fat woman gnashed her teeth, raining blows and kicks on Melody.

Wow.

The onlookers didn't expect the fat woman to be so fierce, "Quickly, film everything. After the scandalous video, the Melody Princess was beaten up by the original wife. This news is surely going to explode."

The onlookers took numerous photos of Melody.

Melody protected her head and covered her face, screaming sharply and miserably, "Stop hitting, stop filming! You are all too bold; I am the most noble princess! If you treat me like this, I won't let you go!"

The fat woman ripped open Melody's clothes with a "rip," "You shameless mistress, I'm going to strip you naked now. This is Westria's most noble Princess, everyone come and see, everyone come and film!"

This was likely the intense situation Melody expected, but now all the attention was focused on her.

Melody felt today was truly surreal, not understanding what exactly happened. Born noble, beautiful, and sweet-tongued, everyone around her liked her.

She was of royal blood, never insulted or beaten, no one dared to treat her like this.

Wherever she went, she was surrounded, basked in glory.

But now, everything had been shattered, this scandalous video from nowhere, entangled with a lowly President Alden, and then beaten by this shrewish fat woman, her clothes torn, even the onlookers took out phones, eager to get close-ups of her.

It shouldn't be like this.

Today, she had trapped Serena Sterling, and all this should have been her responsibility to endure.

Yet, everything had transferred onto her.

"Someone! Help, come quick!" Melody desperately protected her torn clothes across her chest, screaming miserably.

At this moment, a group of black-dressed bodyguards rushed in, quickly pulling the fat woman away and blocking the cameras of the onlookers.

"Melody Princess, are you alright?" a bodyguard asked.

Melody climbed up embarrassingly, feeling utterly humiliated. She couldn't care less about the mask she wore for so long, ripping it off completely, and snarled with malice, "Confiscate their phones, delete everything they filmed!"

"Yes, Melody Princess."

The bodyguards stepped forward, beginning to seize the onlookers' phones.

"Melody Princess, even though you're the princess, our phones are our privacy, how can you seize them?"

The onlookers refused to give them, creating a scene with the bodyguards.

Melody couldn't bother with these people; she angrily pointed at the fat woman, "Erase everything from her phone, and arrest her for me!"

The fat woman quickly wailed, "Help, everyone come and see; the Melody Princess is being tyrannical! Is there no law in the State of Westria anymore? The royal family is beating and killing people publicly, how are we common people supposed to live?"

The scene turned into chaos, while Melody's hands at her sides clenched tightly, driving her nails into her palms without feeling pain.

This was definitely the most humiliating day of her life!

...

Outside was uproarious, but inside the room was calm and warm.

Chapter 604: Next Time, Don't Go Flirting With Other Men

Serena remained oblivious to the commotion outside as she approached the bathroom door, knocking gently.

Inside, a deep, resonant voice responded swiftly, "Come in."

Serena's slender, fair hand touched the doorknob and pushed the door open.

Mr. Crawford stood tall and handsome in front of the vanity, lifting his long fingers to unbutton his shirt.

With two buttons undone, revealing his sexy collarbone, Serena glanced quickly and averted her eyes, clearing her throat before she spoke, "Mr. Crawford, isn't it inappropriate for you to sleep here tonight?"

Through the mirror, Hayden glanced at her—respecting boundaries—her delicate figure standing by the door, her face turned away as if avoiding seeing him. But from his angle, he could see half of her stunning, radiant face tinged with a blush.

She had come to chase him away.

"What's wrong with me sleeping here?" he asked back.

He knew exactly what he was asking!

"Mr. Crawford, just the two of us alone in one room, do you think that's appropriate?"

"Oh, are you afraid... I'll seduce you?"

Are you afraid I'll seduce you?

As soon as he said that, Serena quickly turned her head to look at him, her small face flushed as she raised her brows, "Do you mean Mr. Crawford doesn't want to seduce me?"

Hayden didn't stop what he was doing; he continued to leisurely unbutton his shirt. "I do, but I don't like forcing others. Even if I do, I want you to be willing."

"Ha," Serena curled her red lips into a smile, "Having a dream is good; Mr. Crawford, just keep dreaming."

Oh, getting all haughty now.

His little kitten.

"Serena, I took care of that woman outside for you, considered your benefactor, and this is how you treat your benefactor?"

"Mr. Crawford, even without you, I could have handled it myself."

The softness in her voice carried a sharp clarity, and her intelligent eyes looked even more captivating because of her wit. Hayden glanced at her, "Is what that woman said true?"

"What?"

"You enticed her husband?"

"I did not..."

"Oh," Hayden said with a faint smile as he took off his white shirt. "Do you like enticing men?"

"..." Serena's delicate brows furrowed as she realized his deep voice held a teasing edge.

"Or is it... you look pure on the outside, but at heart... very... wild?"

Serena's small hands clasped into fists at her sides. Although these words came from that fat woman, having him repeat them in such a manner left her feeling both ashamed and uncomfortable.

"Hayden, you..."

Before she could finish her sentence, her vision suddenly went dark as the man tossed his removed white shirt onto her head.

The shirt was freshly taken off, the thin fabric still carrying the warmth of his body, along with his clean, masculine scent, causing Serena's entire face to flush red.

He... he actually threw his shirt onto her head.

The pleasant scent filled her nostrils as Serena frantically reached out her small hands to pull the white shirt off her head, her bright eyes glaring fiercely at the man, "Hayden, what are you doing?"

Hayden watched her flustered state, her eyes glistening, still as captivating as ever.

Like a kitten's paw scratching at his heart.

Hayden slowly curved his thin lips, "Next time you go flirting and attracting men, the punishment won't be so light."

"..."

This lunatic!

Serena felt the need to reason with him, "Hayden, you met President Alden this afternoon too. I didn't even talk to him; how could I be enticing him?"

Of course, Hayden knew about President Alden. She hadn't enticed him, but President Alden was simply entranced by her presence.

When she was taking photos, President Alden's eyes were fixed on her, not moving an inch.

Hayden felt she was flaunting her charm to him, that three years later, she no longer needed to lift a finger, and men would fall at her feet.

At this moment, Hayden pressed his thumb and forefinger against the buckle of his belt, gazing at the woman with his deep-set eyes. His thin lips parted to utter two words, "Get out!"

What?

This was her room!

How could he assume the tone of a master and command her?

"Hayden!"

"Not going to leave?" Hayden raised his chiseled brows, his eyes smoldering with the allure of a mature man, "I know you want to see me, so take a good look now!"

As he spoke, he swiftly removed his belt with a "swish."

"Ah," Serena exclaimed softly, quickly jumping out.

The bathroom door closed behind her, and inside, Hayden's low laughter soon echoed. He was laughing at her!

Serena reached out a small hand to cover her flushed face. She had intended to chase him out, but she never expected to walk into a situation where he would tease her!

Too outrageous!

...

After a cold shower, Hayden stepped out, wearing a white hotel bathrobe. His damp short hair clung to his forehead, and his appearance, shrouded in a mist of moisture, appeared extraordinarily youthful and handsome.

Serena was not in the room; she had gone to the dining room for a drink.

Just then, with a "ding," Hayden's phone chimed.

He clicked to view it and quickly saw tonight's explosive news—every significant entertainment weekly and magazine in The State of Westria had worked overtime to announce it—Melody Ashworth, Princess of Westria, had been caught in a scandalous video, willingly becoming someone's mistress!

Hayden clicked on a related link, finding that Melody Ashworth's scandal had crashed major browsers like Weibo, accompanied by videos showing Melody Ashworth's sinister command for her black-clad bodyguards to seize people's phones and apprehend that fat woman. It truly was a pebble causing a thousand ripples—the whole of Westria wouldn't sleep tonight.

The vast online audience left comments,

Is it really her, our most esteemed Princess Melody?

Indeed, it's her. Our most esteemed Princess Melody was actually in bed with a married man; it turns out this President Zhao is our Prince Consort!

Yes, it's her, our charmingly naive and adorable Princess Melody. She's shown us a face-changing performance; beware of her sinister expression. Click with caution, it's enough to scare children.

Online, the sinister expression Melody Ashworth used to shatter her facade was made into gifs and memes, completely overturning her image and revealing her most menacing side.

Of course, spreading at lightning speed in public was the clip of Melody Ashworth and President Alden's scandalous video,

Wow, Princess Melody has an amazing figure.

Looks like Princess Melody's skills in bed are top-notch too.

Princess Melody, look here, how about I become your Prince Consort? Hehe!

Chapter 605: Two Sons with Freakish Genes!

How can you people sully our innocent and lovely Princess Melody? Princess Melody, don't listen to them, look at me! I'm not married yet, no wife to hit you, and no spouse to rip your clothes off!

All those sinister and sleazy people on the internet came out of the woodwork, leaving messages for Melody Ashworth, using extremely vulgar language to recommend themselves for the role of her husband.

Tonight should be the liveliest night in the State of Westria for years, the entire royal family must be wide awake, with some stomping in rage and others staying up all night handling public relations.

Melody Ashworth's mask of twenty years, all her carefully accumulated feathers, were ripped right off by... young Caden Crawford.

Hayden Crawford put down his phone and looked rather helplessly at the little baby lying in bed. He did let him do it on his own, but the commotion he caused was just too big.

Hayden Crawford sat on the bed and called out, "Caden Crawford, wake up, stop sleeping!"

At this time, the little baby was still managing to sleep.

Young Caden Crawford had already entered dreamland. Hearing his dad's voice, he lazily turned over without opening his eyes, "Daddy, what's up?"

"You've caused an earthquake in the State of Westria, and you still have the mood to sleep? If I'm not mistaken, the royal family's top PR team and elite computer hackers are desperately looking for you right now," Hayden Crawford said.

Young Caden Crawford was really sleepy, his little face as delicate as carved jade was flushed red from sleep, making you want to kiss it hard. He sleepily muttered, "Let them fuss all they want, they're never going to find me even if they search the whole world."

"..." Hayden Crawford was speechless. "Caden Crawford, that Melody Ashworth framed your mommy, and so you edited a video of her. I've only heard of editing pictures. Why did you jump straight to video editing? Isn't that overkill?"

Young Caden Crawford pouted his little pink lips, "I've said it before, anyone who bullies my mommy will never have a good end. This is just a little lesson!"

..." Hayden Crawford felt like his son was a total mommy's boy. What could he do? His woman, his son, all he could do was keep doting on them.

He'd let the little one play freely, and all the consequences, as a dad, he could only help handle them.

"Go to sleep." Hayden Crawford tucked the blanket around his son.

Young Caden Crawford quickly drifted back into the dreamland.

Hayden Crawford stood up and walked to the balcony; he took out his phone and dialed Corvus's number.

Soon the call was connected, and Corvus immediately knew about the little Crown Prince's big stir in the Westrian royal house. "Young Master, I heard Titus Ashworth is furious. He's already shelled out a fortune, rallying the world's top ten computer hackers to search for the young master. This widespread net will catch any trace the young master might reveal."

Hayden Crawford pressed his thin lips together; he had confidence in his son's skills. "Caden Crawford won't leave any traces, but to be safe, keep an eye on the royal side."

"Yes."

...

The Royal Family.

Melody Ashworth was already crying in Consort Willow's arms, "Father, Mother, you have to help me this time, that explicit video is fake, it's not even me."

Consort Willow's face was dark with anger. She had raised Melody Ashworth herself, and she'd never made a mistake in all these years. Who would have thought she'd fall so hard this time?

Titus Ashworth was the most furious. He'd already smashed everything in the room. Kyle Ashworth didn't dare come over because he knew that if he did, he'd be the scapegoat, and Titus Ashworth would beat and curse him, calling him useless.

"Master, this issue is very tricky. It has severely damaged Princess Melody's reputation..." the PR Minister said cautiously.

Titus Ashworth's face turned beet red with rage, and he immediately shouted, "That explicit video is edited, that woman isn't even Melody—issue a statement, quickly issue a statement!"

The PR Minister was too scared to speak. The explicit video was edited too realistically; even if Princess Melody told everyone she's still a virgin, most wouldn't believe it anymore.

In short, Melody Ashworth was left deeply wounded by this blow.

"Yes, Master, we will definitely handle the PR, but the urgent task now is to find the mastermind behind this," talking about the mastermind, the PR Minister felt terrified, "Master, the mastermind is definitely a genius. Now that we've assembled the world's top ten elite computer hackers, this person is not within the top ten, yet their skills are definitely above the top ten. I've never heard of such a powerful and twisted figure emerging!"

Titus Ashworth suddenly stood up, "No matter who the mastermind is, I must spare no expense tonight to bring them out. They dared to target Melody and turned both the entire royal family and the State of Westria upside down, I will not let them get away with this!"

"Yes, Master."

Titus Ashworth, Consort Willow, and Melody Ashworth entered the study. Now the world's top ten computer hackers were all gathered, each with a computer, and their screens buzzed with fast-jumping numbers as they searched for young Caden Crawford's ID.

But there was no result.

"How's it going, have you found anything?" Consort Willow urged.

Melody Ashworth wore a dark expression, "Are you guys capable or not? It's already been an hour, and you haven't found a single trace!"

One of the computer hackers looked grave, "Princess Melody, this mastermind is really too formidable. They can switch multiple IDs in a second, automatically counter-tracking, ever-changing; we simply cannot pin them down."

Melody Ashworth was so furious she bit her gums until they bled, wondering when she ever provoked such a twisted individual!

Suddenly, a hacker exclaimed, "Oh no, there's an intrusion!"

With a "thud," that hacker's computer screen quickly went black, slowly revealing a large X.

Followed by the other nine hackers' computers, also quickly showing the large X after going black.

What's going on?

Everyone present was dumbfounded, unable to believe the sight of these ten blacked-out computer screens.

They were the world's top ten computer hackers, yet someone hacked their computers right under their noses—this person was truly arrogant beyond belief!

X.

This X, exuding a dark aura, was a warning.

"What's going on, who hacked your computers, is it the mastermind, have they shown themselves?" Titus Ashworth asked in shock.

"No, it's not the mastermind; this is someone else, another twisted person has popped up. In our circle, X is the ultimate warning from a king—this twisted figure warns us to stop meddling. Let's quickly retreat."

...

Chapter 606: Mommy's Ultimate Protector

The ten computer hackers packed up their things and immediately fled.

Titus Ashworth, Consort Willow, and Melody were all dumbfounded. They didn't understand the hacker world, they only knew that another weirdo had shown up and scared these computer hackers so much that they were about to run away.

"Stop right there, don't leave. If you go, who will investigate this... oh no, these two weirdos?" Titus wanted to stop them.

But the computer hackers had already sneaked off. "Lord Ashworth, we're really sorry, but we can't help you this time. We can't track down the instigator, and we've been targeted by an X-weirdo. We're no match for these two at all. Together, they're unbeatable."

One of the hackers kindly advised, "Lord Ashworth, I suggest you let this go to avoid getting into even bigger trouble!"

Those hackers disappeared without a trace.

The place fell silent, and Titus felt empty. He took a step back and fell onto the sofa.

Consort Willow quickly said, "My lord, we can't just let this go. This person dared to frame Melody, causing her so much grievance and harm. We have to find them!"

"If you're so capable, then go find them yourself. I have no ability to find them!" Titus snapped at Consort Willow.

Consort Willow froze. It's been years, and Titus had never spoken to her so harshly. Recently, the children she bore, Kyle Ashworth and Melody, had been getting into trouble one after another, and Titus no longer valued her as he used to.

"Father~" At this moment, Melody stepped forward, hoping to act cute and make Titus continue the investigation.

But Consort Willow was a smart woman; she could already see that Titus was losing patience, so she quickly gave Melody a look.

Melody immediately shut her mouth.

Seeing that the mother and daughter had quieted down, Titus's expression softened a bit. "This ends here. I'll have the PR team issue a statement to clarify and whitewash Melody. In the meantime, Melody, stay in and be quiet. Axel and the Princess of Alani's engagement party is in two days. I don't want anyone causing any more trouble during this time, understood?"

Melody quickly nodded, "I understand, Father, sorry~"

"Alright, in the future, use your brains when handling matters. Don't expect me to clean up after you every time." Titus flicked his sleeves and left.

After Titus left, Consort Willow and Melody's expressions quickly darkened. Melody said, "Mother, I think this has to do with Serena Sterling. I wanted to set her up, but I only ended up in trouble myself."

Consort Willow pondered for a moment, "I've already had people investigate Serena. Tonight, Serena is very quiet; it wasn't her. She shouldn't have such a weirdo hacker around her."

"Then where did these two weirdos come from? Clearly, they must be protecting Serena Sterling and targeting me!"

Consort Willow and Melody racked their brains, but they couldn't imagine that the two weirdo hackers were two three-year-old children, and they were Serena Sterling and Hayden Crawford's sons.

Consort Willow said, "This ends here. Our focus should remain on the engagement party in two days. Seraphina Linden will show up then."

"Speaking of Seraphina Linden, Father has been pining for her for so many years. Mother, did you hear the way he spoke just now? He's so eager to see Seraphina Linden at the engagement party that he doesn't care about us anymore."

Consort Willow snorted coldly, "Forget about that for now. I also want to meet Seraphina Linden. The blood feud between our Merfolk Clan and the Kingdom of Alani needs to be settled properly!"

"Understood, Mother."

...

In the presidential suite.

Hayden Crawford received a call from Corvus; he knew there must be some movement from the royal side.

Hayden pressed the button to connect, and Corvus's excited voice immediately came through, "Young Master, there's a major piece of news."

"Tell me."

"We've heard that there was a weirdo hacker who attacked those ten top computer hackers. They even sent each of them a warning letter from X. Those ten hackers have been scared off, and Titus Ashworth has given up pursuing Little Master, opting instead for overnight PR to downplay Melody's scandal."

Hayden pressed his thin lips together, "A weirdo hacker?"

"Yeah, Young Master, wasn't it Little Master who made a move? Only Caden has that capability."

Hayden glanced at the little toddler inside the room, who was still in a sweet dream, not even awake. "It's not Caden."

"What?" Corvus exclaimed, "Then who is this weirdo hacker?"

A different little toddler suddenly flashed in Hayden's mind—little Pip!

Little Pip had also hacked his computer once, sending him a blind date invitation. This little kid was just as weird as Little Caden.

At that moment, a "ding" sounded as Hayden's phone received a text message.

He opened it to see, and sure enough, it was from little Pip: "Hello, handsome uncle, I've taken care of everything. Take good care of my mommy."

He guessed right; the one who defeated the ten computer hackers was indeed little Pip!

Hayden replied with a text, "Why did you do it?"

Little Pip replied, "Anyone who bullies my mommy must be punished."

Hayden, "... "

Well, at this moment, despite having a thousand words to say, he could only sum it up with one sentence: Serena Sterling really has two good sons, Caden and Pip, both mommy's protectors!

Just then, a faint sound came from nearby. Hayden looked up to see Serena Sterling back in the room.

Perhaps she saw him standing on the balcony dealing with work, so she quietly climbed into bed, taking care not to make any noise. She reached out and embraced the sleeping little toddler.

The little toddler sensed the sweet, soft scent from mommy, so his little hands wrapped around Serena Sterling's slender waist, his small body snuggled into his mommy's arms.

Hayden saw that the little toddler's face was nestled on Serena Sterling's supple bosom and pressed his thin lips, showing a hint of displeasure.

Putting away his phone, he strode into the room.

...

In the room, as soon as Serena Sterling embraced the little toddler, she felt the bed dip. She looked up with clear eyes to find Hayden had also climbed into bed.

Now the little toddler lay between them, she on the inside, and Hayden on the outside.

So, they'll sleep like this for the night.

Serena Sterling wanted to close her eyes, but just then, Hayden suddenly extended his strong arm. As it reached across, he looked at her with those deep, narrow eyes, pointed to his arm, and softly said two words, "Come over."

He was asking her to come over!

Serena Sterling's eyelashes trembled, and she quickly closed her eyes, pretending she didn't see.

She realized that every time they slept as a family of three, Hayden would always pull this move!

Chapter 607: She Takes Birth Control Pills

Seeing Serena pretend to sleep, Hayden Crawford's handsome brow furrowed quickly, displeased as he looked at her.

Serena had absolutely no intention of paying him any attention. Every time Caden was around, he would always compete with Caden for her attention. Once involved with this man, there was no end to it.

She had no desire to cater to him.

The last time they were intimate was in the City of Aethelgard. She was afraid of pain and had taken an aphrodisiac to be with him then.

The little bundle was soft and incredibly comfortable to hold, much better than Hayden Crawford's firm chest. Serena quickly drifted into sleep.

She fell asleep so quickly, and right under his eyes, Hayden suddenly felt a sense of crisis, as if his status was in jeopardy!

Hayden leaned over, pressing his soft lips gently against the woman's forehead.

He didn't want to move at all, keeping this position. The little bundle now slept between them, just like a real family of three.

At this moment, the little bundle in his arms moved slightly, seemingly unwilling to have him so close, pushing his little bottom to nudge him away.

Hayden Crawford, "..."

He moved away from Serena's forehead and lay down on one side.

Turning his head slightly, he saw the little bundle still holding tightly onto Serena, the mother and son sleeping sweetly.

Hayden's handsome brow furrowed, then he extended his distinctively jointed hand to clasp the little bundle's small hand, gently moving it away from Serena's waist, picking her up to rest between him and their son.

Hayden then pushed the little bundle further inside, creating more space.

Perfect!

Hayden stretched out a strong arm for the woman to rest her head on, lying face to face with her, her slender body nestled in his broad embrace.

The lashes, like a dense comb, quietly drooped; she slept soundly. On her soft, pink cheeks were two blushing streaks, and Hayden gently pecked her rosy lips before closing his eyes.

...

The next morning.

Serena was the first to wake up. She slowly opened her eyes, immediately meeting an enlarged, handsome, and proud face in her line of sight.

Hayden Crawford.

Her body went stiff, suddenly realizing she was tucked in his arms, his robust arm under her head, another wrapped tightly around her slender waist, holding her close.

What on earth?

How did she end up in the middle?

Wasn't she sleeping on the inside?

Serena's long lashes trembled like dense combs as she quickly attempted to sit up.

Her movement roused Hayden from sleep.

The man opened his sleepy, narrow eyes, his initial hoarse voice carrying a slight rasp, "Awake? Sleep a little longer."

He naturally tightened his hold around her slim waist, hugging her closer.

This had been his best sleep in the past three years.

He didn't want to get up, just wanted to hold her and sleep a bit longer.

His natural and intimate action made Serena blush, "Mr. Crawford, let go of me."

Mr. Crawford...

This title made Hayden reopen his eyes, looking at the stunning, beautiful face in his arms, those deep narrow eyes having regained clarity.

"Mr. Crawford? Discovering you've been held in the arms of a company CEO first thing in the morning, Miss Sterling, do you feel a misconception of being subjected to unspoken rules?" he chuckled.

Serena glanced at him, "So this is Mr. Crawford's unspoken rule, just sleeping without acting, no wonder other executives suspect there's something wrong with your body."

With that, she pushed him hard, lowering her voice, "Let go of me!"

The little bundle still slept on the side, cuddling a bundle of quilt.

The little bundle slept soundly, thinking the quilt was the soft, fragrant fairy teacher.

At being mocked by Serena, Hayden raised an attractive brow, "Miss Sterling, are you trying... reverse psychology? Well, congratulations, you've succeeded, I shall now prove to you whether there's something wrong with my body."

With those words, he lowered his head to kiss Serena's red lips.

He had endured an entire night.

Mmm.

Soon as he kissed her, Serena's clear black pupils dilated suddenly. He actually forcefully kissed her.

His soft lips pressed hard on her red lips, then began a fierce siege.

Unwillingly, Serena placed her two delicate white hands on his broad chest, trying to push him away.

But she couldn't push him away. The man's heavy body was like a wall, remaining completely unmoved.

Serena angrily opened her mouth to bite his lip corner.

Hiss.

Hayden let out a painful hum, but he didn't let her go. His strong hand held the back of her head, deepening the kiss.

The metallic taste of blood quickly spread in their mouths.

Soon Serena felt her tongue start to go numb.

"Mmm... let go!" Serena kicked and pushed him using both her hands and feet.

Hayden didn't evade, letting her hit him. She had such little strength; her two little pink fists hit his hard chest and lean shoulders, even smacking him with her snow-white little feet against his firm thighs, but it was useless. He had her ensnared tightly.

He hadn't kissed her for a long time; she was still so sweet and tasty, like a little dessert.

"Mmm... Hayden, the son... the son is here, don't do this... if seen, it would be bad..." Serena tried to evade him.

At this moment, the little bundle next to them stirred, causing Serena to hold her breath, not daring to move.

Hayden lifted his head to see little Caden Crawford, who was awake, now staring at them with his big, bright eyes.

Perhaps realizing what daddy and mommy were doing, he quickly reached out his little hand to cover his eyes.

"Hayden, is the... son awake?" Serena asked softly.

Hayden quickly glanced at the little bundle, who instantly closed his eyes.

When Serena turned to look, the little bundle was never awake, sleeping soundly.

"The son isn't awake, lower your voice, let's go to the bathroom." Hayden quickly got out of bed and carried Serena away.

...

In the bathroom.

Hayden placed Serena on the washbasin counter, his lips traveling from her cheeks to her pink neck, his hand starting to tug at her sleepwear.

The man's morning desire was strong, and it had been so long since they had been intimate. He couldn't hold back any longer.

Serena couldn't push him away, plus with the son outside, she didn't dare anger him. Feeling there was no escape, she quickly said, "Hayden, wait a moment, let me take some medicine first."

Hayden let her go, his voice hoarse, "What medicine?"

"Just like last time, contraceptive pills."

Contraceptive pills.

On hearing these words, Hayden's eyes darkened, staring sharply at her. After a moment, he resumed tearing at her sleepwear, "Not this time, I'll use protection, won't get you pregnant."

Chapter 608: Hayden Crawford Grabbed Her by the Throat

What did he say?

Serena now dared not skip the medication because if she didn't take it, she would be in agony, she had to take it.

"Hayden, let me go, that... safety measures aren't a hundred percent, for safety's sake, I still need to take the contraceptive pills."

She insisted strongly, Hayden glanced at her but didn't plan to agree, he leaned in to kiss her cheek.

But soon, Hayden sensitively noticed the change in her body, because she was slowly turning cold, stiff, like a block of stone.

Hayden opened his eyes, a sharp glint quickly flashed through his deep, narrow eyes, it seemed that after she returned from Alani, whenever he touched her, she became stiff.

A while back in the City of Aethelgard, he even told her harsh words, saying he didn't want a log, and didn't like necrophilia.

He had noticed it back then, but on the last night in Aethelgard, she was passionate and fiery, completely different from the stiffness, which dispelled his doubts.

Now, once more, she was as stiff as a stone.

Hayden slowly let her go.

Serena quickly pushed him away, jumping down from the sink, "The contraceptive pills are in the drawer in the room, I'll go get them now."

Hayden's deep, narrow eyes, as dark as ink, fixed on her, he didn't speak.

Serena felt that he was very dangerous now, Hayden's silent demeanor made him seem particularly profound and unfathomable.

Could it be that he suspected the medication?

No, he wouldn't.

Serena walked into the room, opened the drawer, and took out a pill, preparing to swallow it directly.

But at that moment, a distinct, bony hand reached over, gripping her slender wrist firmly, Serena turned her head, directly meeting Hayden's dangerous narrow eyes.

He followed her, stopping her from taking the medicine.

"Hayden, what are you doing, let me take the medicine first." Serena tried to pull back her slender wrist.

Hayden looked at Serena, then at the pill, his thin lips pressed into a line, his voice coldly asking, "What is this pill?"

Serena felt her heart sink, that ominous premonition just now seemed to be confirmed, he actually suspected the medication.

In three years, Hayden had become like an elegant leopard walking through the jungle, as long as he sensed the slightest scent, he'd become alert, she had deceived him once, deceiving him a second time was impossible.

She was about to be exposed.

If he found out she had to rely on such pills to be intimate with him, he'd definitely fly into a rage, the consequences were unimaginable.

Serena tried to keep calm, "It's contraceptive pills, what's wrong with you, let go, you're hurting me."

Hayden's eagle-like sharp eyes fixed on her, appearing to pierce through her like an X-ray, "Serena, I'm giving you one more chance, tell me, what is this pill?"

"Hayden, even if you give me a hundred or a thousand chances, I only have one answer, it's a contraceptive pill!"

Hayden gave her a deep look, then let out a low, hoarse, dark laugh from his throat, "Heh."

He laughed, revealing a sinister set of white teeth.

What did he mean?

What was he thinking?

"Hayden, I..."

Serena didn't get to finish because Hayden extended his long fingers and took the pill from her fingertips, "Since you refuse to tell the truth, I'll have someone test the components of this pill now, Serena, if I find out you lied to me, you're dead!"

Hayden took the pill, striding out.

He was actually going to have the pill's components tested, contraceptive and aphrodisiac pills had entirely different components, just a test and it would be exposed.

"Hayden, don't do this!" Serena followed him, stretching out her delicate arms to block his path.

Hayden stopped, his handsome brows covered with a layer of frosty chill, "Serena, at this point, you still won't tell the truth?"

Serena's long lashes fluttered chaotically, she knew she couldn't keep this a secret, confessing now was better than him finding out.

"Hayden, I'm... I'm sorry, I deceived you, this pill isn't a contraceptive, it's... it's..." Serena couldn't say it.

"What is it then?" Hayden's patience had reached its limit, he shouted at her.

Serena turned pale with fear, stammering, "This pill is... an aphrodisiac..."

As those three words fell, Hayden's pupils constricted slightly, a shock filled with sheer disbelief, "What did you say?"

"Hayden, let me explain, my body hasn't recovered well after giving birth, and every time I'm with you, it hurts terribly, so... so I took this pill... ah!"

Hayden strode over, grasping her creamy, fragrant shoulders with his big hands and pushing her against the wall, a layer of scarlet already spreading in his long narrow eyes, his handsome face twisted with rage, he questioned her word by word, "Serena, you now rely on this... aphrodisiac to be with me, what do you take me for?"

Serena felt pain, his big hands were so forceful, nearly crushing her shoulder bones, and he was terrifying now, the dark and violent aura fully unleashed, like a beast ready to devour her in one bite.

Serena could understand him, he was inherently macho, taking this pill was undoubtedly insulting him, his pride, his entire arrogance was shattered by her.

But she couldn't comfort him.

There was never any outcome for her and him, his persistent entanglement with her only made both of them suffer.

Better a short pain than a long one, she might as well seize the chance to cut it clean.

Serena took a deep breath, then boldly looked at him with her clear eyes, not retreating, "That's right, Hayden, now I rely on such pills to be with you, it hurts every time I'm with you, last time you hurt me, I went to the hospital and got so many stitches, it took days to recover, did you know? You didn't know, you're only concerned with your own comfort!"

"Hayden, three years without seeing, your skills in bed have gotten lousy, I've always wanted to tell you, haven't you been with countless women in the past three years, why haven't your bedroom skills improved at all!"

"And Hayden, you've been with so many women, your body is filthy, your heart dirty, I despise you, I don't want to be with you at all, just thinking about you being with so many women makes me feel disgusted!"

As soon as Serena's voice dropped, Hayden suddenly grabbed her by the neck.

Chapter 609: Caden Crawford, Do You Choose Mommy or Daddy?

Serena Sterling suddenly felt breathless as she was strangled, her exquisite little face slowly beginning to turn red.

A layer of bloodthirsty ferocity covered Hayden Crawford's narrow eyes, a furious storm swirling in their depths, wishing nothing more than to swallow Serena whole.

This woman!

She actually needed to sneak an aphrodisiac to be with him.

She said he was bad in bed, that she found him dirty, and that every moment with him made her feel disgusted.

Those words, each and every one, pierced his heart like daggers, reopening scars that had never healed, now bleeding anew.

Hayden's gaze fixed on her neck, nestled in his palm, where a mere squeeze would snap her delicate throat.

In that moment, he truly wished her dead.

He wanted nothing more than to strangle her!

"Serena Sterling, you're courting death!" The chilling syllables rolled out from his throat, making one's hair stand on end.

Serena's slender back pressed tightly against the cold wall, feeling his long fingers tightening by the moment, while her air supply grew thinner.

Was she going to die?

Was this what death felt like?

No.

She didn't want to die.

She still had so much to do.

Serena reached out her small hands to push him, "Hay...Hayden, let...let go!"

Hayden looked menacing and terrifying, as if on the brink of losing control, when suddenly a devil's voice whispered in his ear: Hayden Crawford, do it, just a little more force, and the woman in front would no longer cause him pain, he would finally be free!

Hayden squeezed his sharp eyes closed, his head pounding, feeling as if another self were about to emerge.

"Serena, I shouldn't have spoiled you like this, you repeatedly used my love to humiliate me; now I'll make you disappear!" Hayden abruptly tightened his grip.

Serena's clear pupils shrunk and expanded, clutching his strong arm, her nails quickly etching bloody scratches into his skin.

She could hardly breathe.

She was really going to die.

Just then, a childish but stern voice echoed beside her, "Daddy, let go, let go of my mommy!"

Caden Crawford was here!

Hearing his son's voice, Hayden's tall, upright frame trembled, and the redness clouding his narrowed eyes receded, clarity and reason slowly returning.

"Daddy, Mommy can't breathe, let go of her!" Caden stood protectively in front of Serena, raising his bright eyes to look at Hayden, his cool yet handsome little face filled with urgency.

Hayden looked at Serena, whose face was already flushed with as if ready to bleed, her pupils losing focus.

What was he doing?

Hayden quickly released his grip.

Serena's delicate figure collapsed like a fallen kite onto the carpet, greedily gulping the fresh air upon contact.

Perhaps she inhaled too quickly, as tears welled up in her eyes.

"Mommy! Mommy, are you okay!" Caden quickly reached out his little hand to pat Serena's back.

Serena felt as if she had escaped from death's door, having one foot across it only moments ago, nearly dying at Hayden's hands.

But she survived.

At this moment, Caden's childish voice reached her ears, "Mommy~ Mommy~"

Little Caden was calling her Mommy!

Serena's long eyelashes fluttered, staring at him in shock, "Caden, what did you just call me?"

Caden realized he slipped up, too anxious and worried about his mommy to keep up the act, and since she knew, there was no need to pretend.

"Mommy, I've known all along that you're not just the fairy-teacher, you're my mom!" Caden declared.

Serena let out a breath, never having thought... never thought Little Caden already knew she was his mom!

With every call of 'Mommy' from him, her heart softened entirely.

"Yes, Caden, I'm your mommy!" Serena quickly pulled Caden into her embrace.

Mother and son hugged tightly, while Hayden's handsome face darkened even more. Serena appeared somewhat haggard—her face unnaturally flushed amid pallor, with marks on her tender neck from his grasp—a distressing sight indeed.

Hayden's large hand, hanging at his side, trembled slightly. She was the love of his life, the only woman, and yet he had harmed her.

But remembering her actions, his heart quickly hardened. She had brought this on herself!

Hayden pressed his thin lips together and said sternly, "Caden Crawford, come here, she's not your mom, she doesn't love you!"

Serena quickly hugged Caden tightly, fearing Hayden might forcibly take him away again as before, "Hayden, can't we handle our issues away from Caden..."

"What, are you scared? Serena, what are you afraid of? Are you afraid I'll tell Caden about your heartless actions from three years ago?" Hayden mercilessly interrupted.

Serena shook her head, thinking of the tortures she endured these past three years, the near-death experiences while giving birth to triplets. Her eyes quickly filled with tears, "No, it's not like that, Hayden, you don't know anything, you really know nothing!"

From above, Hayden looked down at her coldly, "I know enough, don't pretend and deceive Caden any more!"

"I'm not, Hayden, you know these past three years I've..." Serena wanted to tell him everything, she was ready.

But Hayden gave her no chance, as he didn't want to listen, looking at Little Caden, "Caden Crawford, now's your chance, do you choose to stay with your mommy, or with me?"

Those words fell, and Serena's pupils constricted, staring at Hayden in shock; she never expected that he would give Caden a choice.

Seeing Serena's reaction, Hayden's thin lips curled into a cold, mocking smile, "Serena, is this not what you've wanted all along, to win custody of our son? Am I finally fulfilling your wish?"

He's seen through her intentions.

Taking a deep breath, Serena didn't want to hide it anymore, needing to have a serious talk with him about Caden, "Hayden, you're still young; you'll remarry one day. I don't want Caden living with a stepmother."

Chapter 610: I Have to Take Matters Into My Own Hands

Before Serena could finish her sentence, Hayden reached out and swept a vase off the table, smashing it onto the ground.

With a crisp sound, the vase shattered upon hitting the floor.

Serena jumped in fright and immediately fell silent.

She wasn't quite sure what she had said wrong. Was he never going to marry another woman? She didn't want her child Caden to call another woman 'Mommy'. Call her selfish.

Hayden's broad chest heaved up and down. If it weren't for little Caden Crawford, he might have choked her again. She was so eager to push him towards another woman, thirsting to see him marry someone else. Did she even have a heart?

Besides, in these three years, he'd never been with another woman!

He's only ever had her!

However, he decided not to tell her this now. Letting so many years of feelings end as a misplaced trust!

"Caden Crawford, hurry and make a choice. My time is limited!" After saying that, Hayden turned and left with long strides. Being there suffocated him; staying even a second longer felt like he would lose control.

He walked out.

Hayden's tall and imposing figure quickly vanished from sight, leaving Serena with many unsaid words lodged in her throat. She could only softly tell her child, "Caden, the matters between Daddy and Mommy are a bit complicated. I'll explain when there's time. Just remember one thing: both Daddy and Mommy love you. No matter what happens, we'll always be there for you."

"Yes, Mommy, I know." Caden obediently nodded.

Serena couldn't bear parting with her son. As the firstborn, Caden had been away from her since birth. Serena cupped his small face tenderly and kissed his forehead forcefully, "Caden, you can choose now. Do you want to stay with Daddy or Mommy? Don't feel pressured, just listen to your heart."

Little Caden thought for a moment, "Mommy, I still want to be with Daddy."

The child chose Hayden.

In truth, Serena had already prepared herself. For the past three years, Hayden personally raised the little one. They've been through the toughest times together.

So, the little one still chose his Daddy.

"Mommy, Daddy loves me very much. Even though he's older and has a bad temper, sometimes even spanking me, I still don't want to leave him. Because if I go too, then no one will be there for him and take care of him."

Tears welled in Serena's shining eyes as she nodded forcefully, "Okay, Caden chooses Daddy, which means Daddy has taken excellent care of you. That comforts Mommy."

...

Hayden had already left Cloudsea and was now sitting in his extended luxury Rolls-Royce, the car wasn't moving because he was waiting for Caden Crawford.

Soon, coming from the front was a large and small figure, Serena holding the child's small hand as they came out.

Mother and son were talking, with a faint smile on Serena's face. The little one was jumping around, seemingly happy.

Through the polished glass car window, Hayden watched this scene and furrowed his spirited brows into a tight "II" shape. He snorted coldly and turned his face away, refusing to look at them.

Quickly, the rear car door was opened, and the little one climbed into the vehicle, "Goodbye, Mommy."

Serena stood outside the car, waving her hand, "Goodbye, Caden."

Hayden swiftly commanded, "Drive."

"Yes, sir." The driver immediately started the car, and the luxury vehicle sped away.

Serena didn't leave, standing there watching as the luxury car faded from view, a sense of loss lingering in her heart.

Inside the luxury car.

Both Hayden and the little one looked back at Serena through the rearview mirror, and the little one quickly spoke, "Daddy, this is the last time."

What?

Hayden withdrew his gaze and looked at the little one beside him.

The little one was now sitting at the opposite end of the back seat from Hayden, creating an atmosphere as if two CEOs were having a business meeting. The little one crossed his small arms over his chest, giving his Daddy a cold look, "Next time I don't want to see Daddy choking Mommy again, let there be no next time."

"..." Hayden, "You little rascal, you're an ungrateful brat."

He had painstakingly been both a father and a mother, raising him so big, and now his heart leans entirely towards his mommy!

Hayden couldn't stand Serena's hypocritical demeanor. If she truly loved Caden, where was she before?

Hayden would never forget that she personally aborted their first child, and that Caden was only conceived using her egg through surrogacy!

On what grounds does she think she can fight him for Caden?

Hayden was in a foul mood now, and he didn't speak to the little one, plunging into a cold war state.

...

Serena returned home, and a sweet little voice quickly rang out, "Mommy~"

Pip ran over.

Serena crouched down and hugged Pip, "Pip, where have you been playing recently? You roam around so much, Mommy can't even find you."

Pip stuck out his little pink tongue, "Mommy, I didn't do anything bad, I promise."

"Where's Stella?"

"Stella was taken out by Grandma."

"Then Pip, play by yourself for a while. Mommy is a bit tired and needs to get some rest in the room."

"Okay."

Serena walked into the room.

Pip watched as Serena disappeared into the room, then turned to sit on the sofa in the living room, crossing his legs, and started eating a bag of chips.

Pip sighed as he munched on his chips.

Auntie Sullivan came out of the kitchen carrying a fruit platter and curiously asked, "Young Master, what are you sighing about?"

Pip pouted his little pink lips helplessly, "Looks like this trip to Cloudsea was a bust. Mommy and Daddy are so foolish, I'm worried sick about them."

Auntie Sullivan, "..."

After a moment, Auntie Sullivan clicked her tongue, sighing that she was already used to their young master saying these strange things.

"Young Master, so what do you plan to do next?"

Pip crunched a chip loudly, "What else can I do? They're my Daddy and Mommy after all. Can I just ignore their fate? I guess I'll have to handle it myself."

Auntie Sullivan again, "..."

...

Serena's mood was somewhat low, coupled with her engagement party with Axel Ashworth approaching, so she stayed home for a few days for a little rest, quickly adjusting her emotions to prepare for the engagement banquet.

She studied the map of the royal mausoleum carefully, estimating the approximate location of the Sky Sword; when it's drawn, the day of the Alani's resurgence will arrive.

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