

Substitute B 651

Chapter 651: Demon Bell Charm Skill

Consort Willow's eyes lit up immediately, "Okay, Melody, Mother Consort will take care of it now."

Having arranged everything, Melody Ashworth practically felt like a genius, able to make Hayden Crawford and Serena Sterling miss each other, meeting yet not recognizing—it should be the greatest torture and pain.

...

Melody Ashworth was getting increasingly hot, but now she had a firm belief, and that belief was Hayden Crawford.

Even though this was The Manor of the Ninth Spire, as long as Hayden Crawford wanted to come in, he undoubtedly would.

Just then with a "creak," the door was pushed open, and a beam of light pierced through.

Melody Ashworth swiftly raised her head, and that beam of light was accompanied by an imposing and tall figure that quickly invaded her sight—Hayden Crawford was here.

Melody Ashworth's eyes twinkled brightly; the current Hayden brought with him dazzling radiance, lighting up her entire world, and her heart began to palpitate intensely because of him.

He was here!

Melody Ashworth held back from speaking because Serena, that little handmaid, wouldn't say much, and right now, she was the little handmaid.

Hayden Crawford strode in swiftly; he didn't see Serena Sterling but did notice the little handmaid on the ground who had once made him lose control and act strangely.

What happened to her?

Hayden Crawford stepped forward with his long legs, then knelt on one knee; his deep and narrow eyes fell on her flushed little face as he asked softly, "Where's your mistress? Why are you alone here, and what happened to you?"

Melody Ashworth slowly reached out her hand, grasping his large palm, then pressed his large palm against her flushed cheek.

Hot.

So hot.

Hayden Crawford immediately felt her feverish temperature; he knitted his heroic sword brows, "Did you eat something you shouldn't have?"

Melody Ashworth felt that Hayden's tone now was low and tender, entirely different from his usual indifferent attitude when placating her; indeed he reserved all his affection for Serena Sterling—the favored always feel free.

Melody Ashworth feigned weakness and nodded slightly; she held onto Hayden Crawford's large palm, unwilling to let go, and even rubbed her burning cheek against his palm.

Hayden Crawford certainly wasn't stupid, not only that, he was quite astute; her rubbing against his palm already conveyed a rather ambiguous message.

Last time on the private yacht, he held the back of her head and kissed her; they almost got carried away, although he restrained himself at that moment, he had been thinking about her these past days.

He quite liked the little handmaid before him, finding her irresistible.

Melody Ashworth saw he didn't make any move to stop her, so she became bolder; she raised her hand, grabbed Hayden Crawford's shirt collar, then slowly leaned towards his thin lips for a kiss.

She wanted to kiss him!

Now, immediately, without delay!

Hayden Crawford watched as her red lips slowly approached, yet oddly, he felt tranquil inside.

Soon he caught the scent of cosmetics on Melody Ashworth, strikingly different from the fresh and sweet fragrance of the girl he adored.

Suddenly, Hayden Crawford's narrow eyes squinted slightly; he saw Melody's face magnifying endlessly in his pupils, so ugly.

He reached out, pushing Melody Ashworth away right then.

Melody Ashworth froze, blinking her eyes in confusion as she looked at Hayden Crawford, wondering why he pushed her.

Hayden Crawford also didn't know why he pushed away the little handmaid before him—it was as if this handmaid wasn't the one in his heart.

At this moment, a "thud" sounded from the room next door.

Hayden Crawford, being exceptionally alert, cast a sharp eagle-like gaze at the adjacent wall.

Melody Ashworth knew Serena Sterling and Axel Ashworth were in the next room; she was terrified Hayden might find out and go seek Serena, so she softened her posture, directly slumping into Hayden Crawford's arms.

Hayden Crawford withdrew his gaze casually, looked at Melody Ashworth, then lifted her horizontally, left with her, taking her away.

Melody Ashworth closed her eyes, feeling utterly joyous, wishing Hayden would just whisk her away now.

Serena Sterling was with Axel Ashworth now, but Hayden carried her past without noticing, just perfectly missing each other.

This moment, Hayden passed by the room next door—the door tightly shut, impossible to see inside. Hayden didn't glance sideways, nor pause, and walked right past.

Melody Ashworth sneaked a peek at the tightly shut room door, "Goodbye, Serena Sterling!"

...

In the room next door.

Serena Sterling indeed was with Axel Ashworth; Axel eyed Serena, "Princess of Alani, what's your act this evening really about?"

Axel Ashworth saw with his own eyes Serena Sterling drinking that cup of drugged tea, yet now Serena stood before him unharmed—Axel found it peculiar.

Serena couldn't explain; her clear bright fawn eyes glanced at Axel Ashworth, playfully mysterious as she blinked her long lashes, "The King of Nine Peaks, guess what? They say a woman should be a mystery—if I told you the answer, it wouldn't be any fun."

Axel Ashworth felt that this Serena Sterling was entirely different from the one earlier; this Serena regained the elegance and poise from his memory, where she mastered the chessboard and ruled the storming world.

Axel Ashworth curled his lips and chuckled lightly.

Just then, two maids walked past outside; they wore a string of bells, which instantly emitted a crisp, pleasant sound.

Serena Sterling naturally heard the Demon Bell Charm Skill from The Merfolk Clan; her delicate brows chilled rapidly, "The King of Nine Peaks, cover your ears quickly, don't listen!"

But Axel Ashworth obviously heard it; he stood still.

Oh no!

Serena Sterling swiftly stepped forward, her little hands covering Axel Ashworth's ears.

Soon enough, the demon bell sound faded away.

"The King of Nine Peaks, your manor is not clean, I suggest you seal off The Manor of the Ninth Spire now and thoroughly investigate all suspicious personnel!" Serena decisively stated, retracting her small hands.

But the next moment, Axel Ashworth's large hand firmly covered hers, directly grasping her soft, boneless hand.

Serena's heart skipped a beat; she looked up, crashing into Axel Ashworth's deep eyes.

Axel fell for it; now his dark eyes were no longer clear, flickering with fiery flames.

Axel Ashworth was staring at her.

Serena Sterling heard the ominous ringing in her mind; The Merfolk Clan's Bewitching Technique was very powerful, few men could resist—Axel Ashworth was no exception.

Now, Axel was staring at her with a bold, unconcealed gaze, as if he wanted to consume her.

Serena subtly retreated a step backward; her other hand quietly reached for the silver needle at her slender waist.

The silver needle was drawn out; she raised her hand and aimed directly at Axel Ashworth's pressure points.

Unfortunately, Axel Ashworth, as The State of Westria's top general, seasoned in warfare, how could he possibly fall for an ambush from her?

Chapter 652: He Left Holding Another Woman

Axel Ashworth suddenly grabbed Serena Sterling's delicate wrist and pushed her backward. Serena's slender back immediately hit the cold wall.

With a "clink," the silver needle in Serena's fingertips also fell to the ground.

Now, within Axel's dark eyes, a flame of desire flickered intensely. He stared at Serena with burning intensity and raised his hand to stroke the exquisite features of her face with his fingertips.

"The King of Nine Peaks!" Serena quickly avoided him, looking at him with clear, cold eyes, "The King of Nine Peaks, you've been affected by the Merfolk Clan's Bewitching Technique. You must remain clear-headed and rational, let go of me, and I can use the needle to heal you. I can save you!"

Hearing Serena's clear voice, Axel's rationality somewhat returned. He forced himself to release her and said hoarsely, "Princess of Alani, you should leave quickly!"

Serena quickly picked up the silver needle on the ground. "The King of Nine Peaks, we are allies now. I will not abandon you. Close your eyes and dismiss all distracting thoughts, and I'll use the needle on you."

Axel sat on the sofa, obediently closing his eyes.

Serena started the acupuncture treatment.

Axel gradually felt the raging fire within him begin to subside. Over the years, as he rose in power, he'd never lacked female temptation around him. He'd encountered such cheap tricks many times. Coupled with Serena's excellent medical skills, he was able to endure it.

But then, Axel caught a whiff of a sweet, youthful fragrance—the natural scent emanating from Serena.

Now, Serena was focused on treating him, her long lashes fluttering gently. Her sleek, dark hair occasionally grazed his handsome face.

Axel's throat bobbed as he felt the desire that seemed about to extinguish suddenly flare up again.

Axel reached out, pulling Serena into his arms, holding her tightly.

Serena trembled and quickly struggled. "The King of Nine Peaks, have you forgotten what I said? We're in the critical phase of using the needle. Dismiss all distracting thoughts."

Axel held Serena firmly in his embrace, burying his face in her soft hair. He said hoarsely, "I don't need the needle now. I want you!"

What?

Serena's eyes widened. The Merfolk Clan's Bewitching Technique could be resisted, requiring firm willpower, unaffected by beauty.

Axel had made a name for himself as a youth, battling far and wide, with an iron will. Earlier, she could sense his desire was fading. But how did it return so quickly...

Serena, extremely intelligent and decisive, knew that once Axel started to waver, she would be in danger. She had to leave this place immediately.

"The King of Nine Peaks, let me go!" Serena drove the silver needle fiercely into Axel's acupuncture point.

Now under the control of his desires, Axel was unguarded, so he was struck easily, feeling his entire body go weak.

Taking this opportunity, Serena forcefully pushed him away and ran off.

But after just two steps, Axel caught up with her again, holding her in his arms once more.

"Help, someone!" Serena cried out.

The window in the room wasn't fully closed, leaving a gap. Controlled by Axel, Serena looked up through it and saw a tall, noble figure in the corridor outside: Hayden Crawford.

Hayden Crawford was actually here!

What brought him here?

Serena hadn't expected to see Hayden at the Manor of the Ninth Spire. He didn't hear her cry, and in his arms was someone else—Melody Ashworth!

Hayden carried Melody past her.

"Hayden... mmh!" Serena tried to call Hayden again, but Axel already covered her mouth and lifted her effortlessly, throwing her onto the bed.

Serena watched helplessly as Hayden, holding Melody, gradually disappeared from her sight, carrying another woman away.

A sense of calm breached her heart's tumult, but Axel was already leaning over her menacingly at the bedside.

Serena's small hand frantically searched the bed, quickly finding something—a phone.

Instinctively, Serena picked it up, her first thought being to call Hayden Crawford.

In her moment of peril, he was the first one she thought of!

Yet, Serena hesitated. It would be extremely dangerous for Hayden to appear at the Manor of the Ninth Spire now. Not only might he conflict with Axel, but more importantly, his identity would be exposed.

Axel had been searching for the one true sovereign with the blood of purity. She couldn't let Hayden be exposed to Axel's eyes.

Serena's mind was full of thoughts of Hayden. She absolutely couldn't let him take this risk.

So, Serena dialed another number instead—it was for Seth Sullivan.

Before the call could connect, Axel's large hand reached over and took the phone away.

"The King of Nine Peaks, wake up! Don't fall for the Merfolk Clan's schemes. I'm the Princess of Alani. I can't be with you. I already have a man I love dearly," Serena said, trying to get off the bed to escape.

But Axel pushed her back onto the bed, and with a "thud," her head hit the wall.

Excruciating pain spread through Serena, and her vision darkened as she neared unconsciousness.

At this moment, Axel was pressing over her, his large hands moving to her collar to unbutton her clothes.

No.

Serena desperately gripped the bed sheets, driving her nails into her palms to stay conscious, but her eyelids grew heavy, and she slowly closed her eyes.

Was she unable to escape?

Was she going to lose her purity?

Hayden Crawford...

Her Hayden...

...

Outside in the corridor, Melody watched him with great satisfaction, but soon noticed Hayden's steps slowing to a stop. He wasn't moving.

Melody felt a panic. Watching Hayden, why wasn't he leaving?

Hayden turned, his deep eyes falling on the door of the sealed room. Just now... he thought he heard someone calling him.

His feet felt leaden, unable to move a single inch. He felt that something extremely important to his life was inside that closed room.

What was it?

Hayden began walking toward the closed room.

Oh no!

Did he discover something?

Did he find Serena?

This can't be true.

Melody felt a chill wash over her. She had to stop him. She couldn't let Hayden ruin whatever was happening between Serena and Axel.

Axel, you'd better put in some effort too!

Melody immediately clung to Hayden's neck, rubbing against his handsome face, and cooed softly, "I'm hot, take me away quickly!"

Chapter 653: Don't You Dare Touch My Woman!

When Melody Ashworth snuggled up in his arms, Hayden Crawford immediately dodged her, preventing any contact.

Melody was greatly disappointed. Where did it go wrong? When she was Serena Sterling, he liked the maid; now that she's the maid, he likes Serena Sterling. Why does fate enjoy playing tricks on her?

Unconvinced, Melody felt she hadn't showcased her feminine charm fully yet. She promptly pulled open her neckline, revealing a large area of snowy skin, and then rubbed against Hayden again.

Hayden found this woman in his arms extremely annoying. He pursed his thin lips, and the next second, he raised his hand and threw Melody out.

Melody fell perfectly into the pond ahead, with a "bang," splashing up a large fountain of water.

Melody's fervor was drowned by the cold water, and after a moment of great shock, she appeared flustered and began floundering embarrassingly in the pond, looking ridiculous like a clown.

Having resolved the issue of the woman in his arms, Hayden immediately strode toward the door of the room. He reached out and pushed the door open with a "boom."

The next second, he witnessed the scene inside.

Serena Sterling was already unconscious on the bed, a few buttons of her blouse undone, revealing her delicate butterfly collarbone and a large expanse of creamy skin below.

Her eyes were closed, her pure, long black hair cascading down, entwining around her neck, a truly enticing sight.

Axel Ashworth was half-kneeling on the bed, still unbuttoning Serena's blouse.

Witnessing this, Hayden's deep pupils constricted intensely, soon covered by a violent red.

Hayden swiftly advanced, his large hand reaching out to grab Axel's collar, yanking him off the bed forcefully.

Having lost his footing, Axel took a solid punch from Hayden.

Bang, a sound.

Axel was punched, blood covering his face, and he slammed heavily against the wall, producing a loud noise.

The commotion quickly attracted attention from outside, as people from The Manor of the Ninth Spire rushed in, "Who are you? Arrest him quickly!"

The crowd instantly surrounded the area.

"King of Nine Peaks, are you alright?" An aide stepped forward to assist Axel.

Axel spat out a mouthful of blood, gradually regaining his composure. He refused assistance, sitting on the ground, panting heavily.

He had been under a Bewitching Technique earlier and didn't know what he had done. However, he might have disrespected the Princess of Alani.

Axel looked up at Hayden.

Hayden had already reached the bed, quickly taking off his coat to wrap it around Serena, covering all her exposed skin.

"Serena! Serena!" Hayden called her name twice, his handsome eyes lowered.

However, Serena did not respond.

Just then, Hayden noticed the phone lying on the bed. He picked it up and checked the call log.

In her moment of crisis, Serena had made a call. However, this call wasn't to him; it was to... Seth Sullivan!

In times of danger, she thought of Seth before him!

Hayden stared at the phone call for a few seconds, and then a mocking smile curled on his thin lips. His strong chest heaved up and down, and he felt an urge to strangle Serena.

This woman truly had no heart!

He had given her all his love, his everything, yet she constantly hurt him, truly a heartless woman.

Hayden felt his emotions had been betrayed.

Hayden looked at Serena's stunningly beautiful face, and in that moment, the Demon Bell Charm Skill of The Merfolk Clan dissipated before his eyes, and he found her.

No matter what form she took, be it Serena Sterling or the maid, he hadn't lost her.

Hayden scooped Serena up in his arms, about to leave with her.

"Stop! Who exactly are you? You intruded into The Manor of the Ninth Spire, seriously injured the King of Nine Peaks, and now you want to leave unscathed? Put down the Princess of Alani, who is also the future Crown Princess Consort!" Someone blocked Hayden's path.

Future Crown Princess Consort?

Hayden had nearly forgotten Serena had another identity now. His gloomy, blood-red eyes immediately swept towards Axel.

Axel had already stood up. He looked at Hayden; even in the face of a heavy entourage, Hayden remained calm and composed, his demeanor full of reckless arrogance and majesty, making people want to submit.

Axel couldn't help glancing at Hayden a few more times, then spoke up, "Everyone, stand down. Mr. Crawford, please."

Axel made way, allowing Hayden to leave with Serena.

Hayden stepped up to Axel, moving his lips slightly, and directly declared, "Serena Sterling is my woman, the mother of my son. King of Nine Peaks, you better not touch her."

After speaking, Hayden disappeared from sight with Serena in his arms.

Axel watched Hayden's straight and tall back. It was the first time he had encountered such an arrogant man. Besides, he had long suspected there was a story between Serena and Hayden, and now, they even had... a son.

"King of Nine Peaks, this global first consortium is indeed incredibly arrogant. Are we just letting him go like this?" Kaleb Newman asked in a low voice.

Axel wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth; Hayden's punch earlier had almost taken his life. Luckily, nothing had happened between him and Serena. Otherwise, Hayden might have dismembered him and ground his bones to dust.

"Chief Newman, can't you see there's something peculiar about Hayden Crawford?"

"King of Nine Peaks, what do you mean?"

"Send someone to investigate Hayden Crawford's family background immediately, especially... his mother!"

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Serena felt like she had been asleep for a long time. When she woke up, she had transformed back into the face of Cherie, the little maid.

She was a doctor and knew after a check-up that she had not lost her chastity; nothing had happened between her and Axel.

But who had saved her?

Serena couldn't remember. She just vaguely recalled someone calling her Serena! Serena! in her ear at that time.

Was it Hayden?

Was it Hayden who saved her?

Serena had not yet found an answer when she saw the sight of Hayden and Melody Ashworth together.

She opened the browser, and the automatically pushed entertainment news was all about Hayden and Melody,

—Princess of Alani and a mysterious man had a candlelit dinner at a restaurant.

—Princess of Alani received a luxurious car pick-up from a mysterious man.

The photos in these entertainment news stories clearly showed Melody, but the man was captured very vaguely, only as a silhouette or a back view.

Chapter 654: Hayden Crawford's First Dance Tonight

However, Serena recognized that this mysterious man was actually Hayden Crawford himself.

What on earth is he up to?

Serena had a feeling that Hayden must have recognized her, but now he's tangled up with Melody Ashworth instead. What's going on?

These past few days, Melody hasn't come to trouble her, probably because she's forgotten about Serena. Melody's been busy dating Hayden every day, living a blissful life.

Just then, a melodious ringtone echoed—someone was calling.

Speak of the devil, it was a call from Melody Ashworth.

Serena answered the call, and Melody's smug voice quickly came through, "Hey, Serena, feeling better now?"

It hasn't been long, and Melody's suddenly so considerate—probably up to no good.

Serena replied, "Do you need something?"

"Of course, the Crawford Group's annual corporate event is coming up in a few days. There'll be a grand party, and Hayden has invited me to be his date. You should come too, how can I be without a little handmaid beside me?"

Serena knew Melody intended to flaunt their relationship in front of her. Actually, she didn't want to go, but she had to meet Hayden.

She felt that something about Hayden was strange and abnormal.

"Alright, I'll be there on time."

...

The Crawford Group's annual party.

Serena arrived at the Crawford Group; as the leading conglomerate, it commands the economic lifeline of several continents, towering into the clouds. Just glancing at it from the outside was awe-inspiring, and walking inside, the opulence, understated luxury took Serena's breath away.

Serena realized that Hayden had become synonymous with wealth and power. She knew he was rich, but she hadn't expected this level of wealth.

Serena arrived at the elevator entrance, waiting.

At that moment, the sound of high heels announced Melody's arrival.

Today, Melody was dressed in a sparkly evening gown, her makeup meticulously applied. With high heels, she sashayed like a peacock about to take flight.

"Little handmaid, you're here?" Melody greeted cheerfully.

Serena's clear, bright eyes fell on Melody's face. She could tell Melody was genuinely happy; it looked like Hayden really had been dating her recently.

Serena's gaze was cold, and she didn't respond.

Just then, Melody took out her phone and dialed a number.

Soon it connected, and Melody's coquettish voice chimed, "Hayden, I'm here already... no need for you to pick me up personally, my driver brought me... I'll wait for you, so hurry over."

Melody ended the call.

She had been speaking with Hayden.

"Serena, you saw, didn't you? Now Hayden dotes on me, he treats me as if I were you, but even deep emotions can't withstand the Demon Bell Charm Skill of our Merfolk Clan. The ancestors of Westria couldn't resist, and neither can Hayden. You've staked everything on Hayden in this grand wager with us, but it's a pity, you're destined to lose."

Melody walked over and whispered smugly by Serena's side.

In fact, a few days ago at The Manor of the Ninth Spire, Melody had been quite embarrassed, climbing out of the pond herself, while Serena had been carried out by Hayden.

At the time, Melody thought she had lost, planning to discuss with her mother, Consort Willow, what to do next, whether to go all-in. But suddenly Hayden's attitude made a 180-degree turn, and he started dating her on his own initiative.

Melody was utterly surprised and conceited by this unexpected favor.

Listening to these provocative words, Serena showed no emotional fluctuation, though she furrowed her brows slightly.

At this moment, steady footsteps approached, along with the exceptionally respectful voice of an attendant, "President."

Serena looked up and quickly saw Hayden Crawford ahead.

Hayden had arrived.

Hayden had just stepped out of a Rolls-Royce. Today, he wore a custom-made black suit, tall and imposing. He strolled in with steady steps over the red carpet, exuding an aloof air of unattainable nobility.

Melody's heart bloomed upon seeing Hayden, "Mr. Crawford, you're here~"

Hayden walked over, his deep-set eyes landing on Melody's face, nodding once, "Mm."

"President, the VIP elevator is ready for you." At this point, a private secretary opened the exclusive elevator.

Hayden glanced at Melody, "Let's go in."

Melody immediately took Hayden's strong arm, "Mm."

The two of them walked towards the VIP elevator.

Serena stood frozen in place, still waiting for the regular elevator while he had taken Melody to the VIP elevator.

She originally wanted to have a good talk with him, but seeing his intimate behavior with Melody now, she lost all interest in talking.

Earlier, he hadn't even looked at her, treating her like air.

Just then, Melody seemed to remember Serena and turned around, "Little handmaid, come along."

Melody then lovingly looked at Hayden, "Mr. Crawford, she is, after all, my little handmaid, let her ride the VIP elevator with us. You wouldn't mind, would you?"

Hayden looked up, casting a faint glance at Serena, "That's fine."

Serena stepped forward, and the three of them entered the elevator together.

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Inside the VIP elevator.

As the elevator ascended, Serena quietly stood in a corner. Hayden and Melody stood together, with Melody's coy voice saying, "Mr. Crawford, I heard today's party will be lively, with lots of little games planned."

Hayden nodded, his voice deep and indifferent, "Those were arranged by the staff."

"However, I heard the highlight of today's event will be your first dance. As the head of the Crawford Group, you'll draw a lucky number from the attending female guests to dance the first dance with you tonight."

Now Hayden's first dance had spread everywhere, with all the society ladies hoping to be that lucky one to dance with him.

Many were already quietly pulling strings, trying to get a matching number. But when it came to this, how could Melody settle for less?

Hayden's first dance had to be hers.

Tonight, she wanted to be the most dazzling star in the crowd, envied and admired by all.

Hayden stood with one hand in his pocket, tall and erect. His deep eyes looked through the glass at Serena behind him.

Chapter 655: The Two Little Cuties Take Turns Talking to Him

Serena Sterling hadn't spoken all along, standing quietly and demurely in the corner with her delicate little maid face, very low-key.

Now her long lashes had drooped, looking at her toes, showing a little sad expression.

Mr. Crawford's heart softened, his large hand in his trouser pocket moved, wanting to pull her over and bully her a bit.

Actually, he didn't know what charm she had put on him. Even though she had become a little maid, he could still recognize her at a glance.

Melody Ashworth beside him was very noisy, but Mr. Crawford resisted the urge to throw her out and hummed lightly, "Hmm."

The grand finale of today's party was indeed his first dance.

Melody Ashworth immediately looked at Mr. Crawford eagerly, "Mr. Crawford, will we get the same number card? Will you dance your first dance with me?"

Mr. Crawford's first dance was decided by him; he could give the matching number card to whoever he wanted to dance with, and Melody Ashworth was taking a shortcut.

Mr. Crawford did not answer directly; he simply curled his thin lips mysteriously, "You'll know then."

Creating such a mystery, is he planning to give her a big surprise?

It must be it!

Melody Ashworth was very happy, as if she had just eaten a piece of candy.

At that moment, the VIP elevator dinged open, and Mr. Crawford walked out first, needing to handle some affairs, so he entered the CEO's office.

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CEO's office.

Mr. Crawford walked in, and his personal secretary Ivan Yarrow approached, holding a package, "CEO, someone just delivered this package, saying it's for you."

Mr. Crawford glanced at the package, "Who delivered it?"

Ivan Yarrow shook his head, "I don't know."

"Open it and see."

"Yes, CEO."

Ivan Yarrow quickly opened the package, and when he saw the contents, his mouth opened wide in shock.

Mr. Crawford walked over, now a bit curious about what kind of package could elicit such a strong reaction from his secretary.

Soon, Mr. Crawford saw the contents of the package; it was... a bottle of eye drops.

"CEO, this is a bottle of eye drops, and there's a note here too." Ivan Yarrow handed the note to Mr. Crawford.

Mr. Crawford took a look, the note had a line of immature yet beautiful handwriting — ding ding ding, the handsome uncle's eyes are finally healed, congrats on curing the eye condition.

"..."

Mr. Crawford was speechless, he had already guessed who sent him the eye drops, it must be that little Pip, Serena Sterling's son.

That little rascal actually sent him a bottle of eye drops to celebrate; Mr. Crawford looked at the eye drops bottle, and it had writing on it — two drops every night makes your eyes brighter.

Mr. Crawford really wanted to throw the eye drops out, but he slowly curled his thin lips and actually smiled.

Strangely, he should really hate and detest Serena having a child with another man, but he just couldn't bring himself to dislike Pip, he even kind of liked and cherished him.

How about he takes both Serena and this little rascal in, having two sons seems not bad...

The next second, Mr. Crawford's handsome brows quickly furrowed, what was he thinking?

He truly couldn't understand what he was thinking!

Mr. Crawford stepped forward, wanting to sit quietly in his boss chair, but then the chair slowly rotated around, revealing a small figure on it, it was little Caden Crawford.

Little Caden Crawford was here.

Little Caden Crawford's finely carved face remained cold and cool, looking down at his dad from above, "Dad, did you bully mommy again? I feel like I've had enough of you!"

"..." Mr. Crawford raised a hand to his forehead, when did he bully Serena and why did these two little ones come looking for trouble one after another?

Mr. Crawford deeply felt that now Serena was someone he could neither provoke nor touch because she had two little disobedient sons, both of whom were mommy fanatics, unable to see her suffer any grievance; it seemed like he really had no family status at all.

He wanted a little sweetheart!

"Caden Crawford, I didn't bully your mommy, just look for yourself; whether three years ago or three years later, it's your mommy who bullies me."

Little Caden Crawford glanced at his dad, "Dad, if mommy hits you, it's affection, if she scolds you, it's love; if she bullies you a bit, you won't lose any flesh!"

"..." If he bullies her a bit, these two little ones come one after another for a talk?

Mr. Crawford found himself at a true double standard scene!

Father and son fell silent for a moment before returning to the main topic, Mr. Crawford spoke, "Have you found Consort Willow's hiding place?"

Back at the Manor of the Ninth Spire, Mr. Crawford had broken the Merfolk Clan's Demon Bell Charm Skill, and he had already guessed that this fake Serena beside him was Melody Ashworth in disguise. However, in order not to alert the enemy, Mr. Crawford had been steadying Melody Ashworth, deceiving the enemies all these days.

Little Caden Crawford nodded, "Already found it, but that Consort Willow has some brains, mommy's Auntie Cherie hasn't been found yet."

Without finding Cherie, they're always in a passive state; Mr. Crawford frowned, "Caden Crawford, what do you want to do?"

"Dad, I need you to lure out Consort Willow, then I can rescue Auntie Cherie." Little Caden Crawford said seriously.

Mr. Crawford nodded, "Okay, I'll notify you then."

They finished their conversation, little Caden Crawford hopped off the boss chair, "Dad, I'll head out first."

"I'll have the driver take you."

"No need, Grandpa brought me over."

So this little one has an exclusive driver, Julian Rathborne came!

"Why did your grandpa come?" Mr. Crawford hadn't seen Julian Rathborne in a long time.

Little Caden Crawford sighed, "Grandpa might have encountered some trouble."

Indeed it's strange, who could give Julian Rathborne trouble? Mr. Crawford raised his handsome brow, "What trouble?"

"Great-grandma is forcing Grandpa to go on a blind date."

Pfft~

Mr. Crawford immediately curled his thin lips, Old Mrs. Rathborne actually forcing her son to go on a blind date?

However, Julian Rathborne is not young anymore, apart from being deceived by Yvonne Knight for a period of marriage, he had no other women around; this noble son of Aethelgard was never interested in women, so no wonder Old Mrs. Rathborne felt anxious.

Old Mrs. Rathborne's greatest wish was to see a woman by Julian Rathborne's side in her lifetime, not letting him be alone.

But Julian Rathborne going on a blind date, Mr. Crawford really couldn't imagine that scene.

...

Julian Rathborne really came, now sitting in a luxury car, taking a call.

On the other end of the phone was... Old Mrs. Rathborne.

Chapter 656: She Sweetly Called Him "Hubby

Old Mrs. Rathborne smiled and said, "Son, please don't refuse this blind date. You have to trust your mother's judgment. I think you should like someone gentle, elegant, and well-educated. So this time, your blind date is Kate Lee, the daughter of the Lee family."

In the extended version of the luxury business car, Julian Rathborne leaned his robust back against the seat. He wore a black woolen coat, with a matching black suit underneath. A handkerchief was folded in his suit pocket. The once charming son of Aethelgard had, with the passage of time, acquired significant life

experience. He was like a vintage Gallian wine, cold and noble, exuding the clean and outstanding aura of a noble young master.

Julian Rathborne's slender fingers were holding a phone, and he already showed a hint of impatience, but Old Mrs. Rathborne continued to chatter, "Son, this Kate is a typical lady of a noble family. She is highly educated and has been so obsessed with her studies over the years that she delayed her personal life. I'll let you in on a secret; she's still a pure girl."

"Mom," Julian Rathborne spoke in a low voice, "I'm not interested in blind dates. I have things to do, so I'll hang up now."

Julian Rathborne made a move to hang up the phone.

"Julian!" Old Mrs. Rathborne quickly called out, "You're always like this. Whenever I bring up blind dates and women, you get impatient. How did I end up with a son like you? Boo hoo hoo~"

Old Mrs. Rathborne's tears came just as she expected, and she started crying immediately.

Julian Rathborne was used to these tactics, but he was very filial, always taken down by the old lady's tears, and this time was no exception.

Julian Rathborne furrowed his brows, but his tone had eased, "Mom, didn't you say you wanted a grandson? Now you have a great-grandson, why are you still harping on this? I've already fulfilled my duty to provide you a lineage. Can't you give me some personal space when it comes to women?"

"I..." Old Mrs. Rathborne, feeling criticized, quickly retorted, "Caden is, of course, my precious darling, but you, as a son, are not living up to expectations. You know how those old ladies at my mahjong games mock me? They say I must have given birth to some rare species because you've never been interested in women since you were a child. They even secretly suggest I have some folksy person examine your health, claiming you have physical ailments!"

Old Mrs. Rathborne had genuinely worn herself out over Julian's apparent disinterest in women, unlike the rich young men who change girlfriends like clothes. Instead, Julian would rather not spare them a glance.

Over time, there were some unfavorable rumors, alleging he had some physical ailment.

For Julian, this was all indifferent, "Mom, Caden is about to come out. I'm going to pick him up."

At this moment, the driver obsequiously opened the rear car door, and Julian swallowed his long legs to get out. He decisively hung up the phone.

"Julian, don't hang up, I still have something to say. This Kate Lee has already gone to meet you..." Old Mrs. Rathborne's voice was drowned in the beeping tone of a busy signal.

Julian Rathborne tucked his phone back into his pocket, ready to find Caden Crawford.

But then a gentle female voice came from behind, "Mr. Rathborne, is that you?"

Julian Rathborne turned around, his lips indifferent, "You are?"

"Mr. Rathborne, hello, my last name is Lee, and my name is Kate Lee. Old Mrs. Rathborne should have mentioned me to you." Kate Lee said with a smile.

"..." Julian really didn't anticipate the old lady's efficiency; the blind date had already been arranged right in front of him, and this blind date person was here.

Old Mrs. Rathborne indeed had good taste. Kate Lee was dressed in an elegant long dress, in her thirties, looking very gentle and graceful.

Now Kate Lee looked at Julian, a slightly embarrassed smile playing on her red lips, "Mr. Rathborne, I've long admired your name. I hope I'm not being rude. Do you have time to sit in the café next door?"

At this moment, a taxi pulled up, and a graceful and charming figure stepped out. It was... Seraphina Linden.

Seraphina Linden had arrived!

She had heard that The Crawford Group was holding an annual party today, so she had come to take a look at her... son-in-law, Hayden Crawford.

Today, Seraphina wore a red dress. She always favored bold colors, with deep chestnut wavy long hair lazily draped over her shoulders and large sunglasses on her face, exuding a playful and soft charm.

Seraphina looked up at the towering Crawford Group building, nodding with satisfaction. Not bad, it seemed her son-in-law was quite wealthy.

Seraphina's taste in men had always been consistent — handsome and wealthy, whether it was her choice or her daughter's choice of men, this bottom line could never waver.

Furthermore, she now wanted to start a business by running a high-class establishment and becoming the madam herself, specializing in counting money. Having a sponsor would be ideal now.

Seraphina, filled with joy, was just about to go inside when she spotted a familiar face ahead. She saw... Julian Rathborne.

Seraphina quickly raised her hand to remove her sunglasses; she didn't mistake him, it was indeed Julian Rathborne.

This was really... enemies meet, and eyes burn with intensity. Seraphina still remembered how this man sent her to the station for a talk some time ago. He even demanded 10.1 billion from her, accusing her of assault.

What was he doing here?

Who was the woman beside him?

Seraphina looked at Kate Lee, only to see her shyly and lovingly sneaking glances at Julian, not even daring to look him in the face. It was obvious she liked him.

Could it be... this woman was Julian's girlfriend, and the two were on a date?

This was fantastic.

Seraphina hurriedly walked forward in her high heels, using her hand to hook Julian's strong arm, and sweetly called out, "Hubby~"

Hubby~

Julian quickly turned his head, his eyes colliding with the captivating watery eyes of Seraphina. She was tilting her head, looking at him with curved eyes and brows.

Julian paused for a moment, unprepared for her sudden appearance, and what she was doing now?

"Who is your hubby?" Julian asked in a deep, displeased voice. In his view, this woman really was shameless. Was "hubby" something you could call anyone casually, or did she call other men that too?

Seraphina tutted twice in her heart, this man was really good at acting~

Seraphina playfully blinked her long eyelashes, "You are my hubby~ Did you forget? Last night when you stayed at my place, you were calling me your little sweetheart~"

"..." Julian immediately pursed his thin lips tightly. He had never called any woman his little sweetheart!

At this moment, Seraphina looked at Kate in surprise, "Hubby, who is she? Is she your new secretary? I've never seen her before."

Chapter 657: You Don't Like the Daughter I Gave You?

Kate Lee, the secretary, was shocked as she looked at Seraphina Linden, then turned her gaze to Julian Rathborne. She seemed deeply humiliated, clenching her fists, "Mr. Rathborne, you already have a girlfriend and you're still out here on blind dates. I never thought you'd be this kind of person, a wolf in sheep's clothing, hmph!"

Kate huffed and quickly ran off.

Julian Rathborne, the wolf in sheep's clothing, "..."

Haha~

Seraphina couldn't hold back and burst into laughter.

Julian Rathborne watched Seraphina laugh with such elegance, and said in a deep voice, "Take your hand off!"

Her hand was still looped around his muscular arm.

Seraphina quickly withdrew her hand, looking at the man with a playful gaze, "What, Mr. Rathborne, did I ruin your good deed and now you're angry?"

"Is this fun for you?"

"Was it fun for you the last time you reported a shady deal that got me into the police station? Was it fun suing me for harassment with a lawyer's letter, demanding 10.1 billion compensation? Since Mr. Rathborne likes games so much, I might as well play a little with you today."

Julian Rathborne looked at Seraphina as the evening breeze blew by, a few strands of her hair tangled around her neck, and that petite face was truly stunning.

Their daughter Serena Sterling was already so big, and she still lived with such playfulness and brightness, like she was defying time.

Julian Rathborne spoke in a low voice, "How did I wrong you? Didn't you seek out a male masseur for fun, or didn't you... assault me?"

Since he mentioned that night of romance over twenty years ago, Seraphina Linden had to discuss it with him. After all, she didn't want to bear the 10.1 billion debt.

Seraphina stepped forward, stood in front of him, and then tiptoed, leaning her stunning face close to his, looking at him with sparkling eyes.

Suddenly, being so close, Julian caught a whiff of her faint fragrance, and the images of that night over twenty years ago flooded his mind.

Under the moonlight, she boldly straddled over him, whispering sweetly to him.

"I want to have your baby~"

"Do you like sons or daughters~"

Julian quickly shook off the indecent thoughts in his mind, and his distinguished face darkened, "Don't get so close to me, stay away!"

Click click~

Seraphina had heard of this child of Aethelgard, Julian Rathborne. He had received the most orthodox heir education from a young age, with noble elegance seeping through every bone and blood, yet now he lectured her with a stern face, making her seem like a siren.

"Mr. Rathborne, you can pretend in front of others but no need to pretend with me. People might think you're ascetic and uninterested in women, but in fact, you... also like women, you're quite passionate about such matters."

"Don't deny it, you haven't lost your memory. If you've forgotten, I can help you recall. I don't admit I assaulted you that night over twenty years ago, I only admit I was proactive, but afterward... didn't you also take charge and requested twice, leaving me exhausted?"

As these words fell, Julian Rathborne quickly furrowed his brows. He hadn't lost his memory; he remembered that night clearly. Yes, he acted proactively afterward, but if she hadn't initiated, none of that would have happened, so she was at fault.

She consumed everything and left, watched him marry someone else without appearing, really treating him as a disposable fling.

"Mr. Rathborne, it was a consensual night. No matter how you put it, we were once intimate, they say a night as a couple is worth a lifetime of gratitude, and our daughter is so big now, don't make this ugly, don't demand compensation from me, plus..."

Seraphina bit her red lips, her charming eyes were watery as she looked at him, "Don't you like the daughter I gave birth to for you?"

They were too close. Her soft breath brushed against his distinguished face, and she smilingly asked if he liked the daughter she birthed. Julian's tall body stiffened suddenly, his strong waist instinctively straightened.

He always said she was a siren, shameless, teasing him about giving him a daughter, calling him husband while holding his muscular arm.

The women Julian associated with were all like Kate Lee, gentlewomen from prominent families. When he was young, before meeting her, he'd considered choosing a suitable wife and living a respectful life. But who knew he'd run into her, not meeting any of his criteria yet seemingly enchanted by her, finding it hard to resist.

Julian reached out, directly clasping her slender arm, giving her a gentle push.

Seraphina's beautiful back immediately hit the wall, and just then, her field of vision went dark as Julian's tall body came over her, trapping her between the wall and his chest.

What was he doing?

Why was he suddenly acting like an overbearing CEO?

Under Seraphina's puzzled gaze, Julian curled his thin lips into a slight arc, "You seem to remember every detail and move of that night over twenty years ago clearly."

"This..." Seraphina was momentarily at a loss.

"They say women never forget their first man. Have you been longing for me all these years, wanting to rekindle the old flame?"

That night, she was still pure, and he was her first man.

Seraphina's eyelashes fluttered. She had been in control, teasing him was fun as he pretended to be all serious and restrained.

But he turned the tables quickly, catching her off guard. Indeed, Julian Rathborne was quite the silent charmer!

Seraphina quickly curled her red lips, even lifting her hand to encircle his neck, "Yes, all these years I've missed you."

Julian looked at her, not expecting her to admit it so openly. She hadn't forgotten him all these years...

Julian's distinguished and handsome brows softened gradually, a faint curve appeared on his thin lips.

The driver on the side was already stunned, having worked for the Rathborne family for decades, he knew exactly what the young master was like. Now, the driver was left gaping, as his young master actually pinned a woman against a wall in a public setting, and that woman even wrapped her arms around his neck, their postures intimate and ambiguous.

To think his young master would never let women get close.

Was he dreaming?

The driver quickly pulled out his phone, capturing the scene with a "click," then efficiently sent it to Old Mrs. Rathborne.

Chapter 658: The Resentful Husband Locked in the Boudoir, Julian Rathborne

This tremendous good news must be shared with the old lady. Old lady, look quickly, heaven has opened its eyes; the young master has finally come to his senses!

Julian Rathborne looked at Seraphina Linden, "So what do you want to do next?"

"Next..." Seraphina Linden tilted her head slightly, "How about this, let's make a deal, there's no way I can come up with that 10.1 billion, so why don't I spend the night with you to pay it off!"

What?

The curve of Julian Rathborne's lips quickly stiffened, his handsome eyebrows and eyes became cold, "So that's what you've been aiming for all along, to sleep with me for a night to offset the 10.1 billion?"

"Yes, Mr. Rathborne has been pestering me like this, isn't that what you mean? Besides... Mr. Rathborne's skills are still pretty good, our first time was very pleasant, we can be happy again."

As she spoke, Seraphina Linden looked puzzled at Julian Rathborne's increasingly unsightly expression, "Mr. Rathborne, what's wrong with you, are you angry?"

Julian Rathborne had long realized that this woman was heartless, but he actually had expectations for her just now, which made him feel ridiculous.

"Seraphina Linden, didn't you say we were one-time flings? You have interest in recycling and reusing, I don't. Want to climb into my bed again, sleep with me once more, I think you're simply dreaming, stop wishing for it!" Saying this, Julian Rathborne withdrew his hand and stood upright.

Seraphina Linden, "..."

Julian Rathborne didn't want to look at this woman for another second, because she only made him angry, so he strode into The Crawford Group lobby.

Seraphina Linden quickly snapped back to reality and chased after him, "Mr. Rathborne, wait for me!"

Soon, the security guards inside stopped Seraphina Linden, "Ma'am, do you have an invitation?"

Invitation?

Seraphina Linden shook her head, "No."

"I'm sorry, but without an invitation, you cannot go in."

"But, but he doesn't have an invitation either, why did you let him in?" Seraphina Linden pointed at Julian Rathborne with her gaze in front.

"Ma'am, that gentleman is Mr. Rathborne; no event Mr. Rathborne wants to attend is off-limits to him, including The Crawford Group events."

Alright, Julian Rathborne is quite impressive.

Seraphina Linden playfully winked, "Well, it just so happens that Mr. Rathborne and I have known each other for many years as old friends, let me in too."

The security looked a little awkwardly towards Julian Rathborne ahead.

At this moment, Julian Rathborne stopped his steps, turned around, and his fierce eyes glanced at Seraphina Linden.

The security approached to ask, "Mr. Rathborne, this lady says she's an old friend of yours and wants to come in together."

Julian Rathborne stood tall and graceful like jade, elegant and noble, he looked down at Seraphina Linden, "I don't know her, throw her out."

What is he saying?

He not only said he didn't know her, but he also wants her thrown out?

Seraphina Linden felt that her grudge with Julian Rathborne was officially sealed; originally, it was just a fleeting memory more than twenty years ago, and everyone parted ways amicably, why does he always target her and cause trouble?

"Ma'am, Mr. Rathborne says he doesn't know you, please leave immediately, otherwise I will have you thrown out," warned the security guard.

Seraphina Linden got angry, very angry, "I'm not leaving, go in and ask your president, I'm your president's mother-in-law, once he knows, he'll definitely come personally to greet me."

The security looked at Seraphina Linden, thinking this woman must be crazy, "Ma'am, please stop pretending to be relatives, if you are our president's mother-in-law, I might as well be our president's long-lost brother. Stop deliberately causing trouble, just go."

The security walked up wanting to chase Seraphina Linden away.

Seraphina Linden felt pretty embarrassed, she looked up at Julian Rathborne, who was standing there, calmly watching her current embarrassed state, seemingly a bit gloating, this woman finally suffered.

Seraphina Linden, "..."

At this moment, a deep magnetic voice sounded, "What are you guys causing here?"

Seraphina Linden looked up and her son-in-law arrived, Hayden Crawford appeared.

The big boss showed up, the security immediately ran to Hayden Crawford and respectfully reported, "President, this lady is causing trouble here without an invitation, and she falsely claims to be your... mother-in-law."

Hayden Crawford arrived.

Seraphina Linden's eyes fell onto Hayden Crawford, taking a good look at him, she quickly concluded that her daughter's taste was like hers, not bad at all.

"You are Hayden Crawford?" Seraphina Linden asked with a hooked lip.

The security felt this woman was pretty crazy, the president's name isn't something just anyone can call recklessly.

At this moment, an unexpected situation happened, a gust of wind swept past, and Hayden Crawford had already strode over to Seraphina Linden's side. The security saw their usually icy, high-profile president put on a smile, with a hint of humility and flattery as he spoke, "Aunt, how come you're here! You should've called me in advance, I could've come down to greet you."

The security was stunned on the spot, jaw dropping in shock, is this still their president, how did this suddenly have the vibes of... a shoe polisher?

Could it be, this woman is truly the president's mother-in-law?

Even the president can't escape the fate of flattering his mother-in-law?

At this moment, Seraphina Linden looked up and cast a glance at the security.

The security broke out in a cold sweat, he recalled his audacious words earlier, claiming to be the president's long-lost brother, how did he not bite his tongue?

The security was very afraid Seraphina Linden would complain.

Seraphina Linden quickly retracted her gaze, she certainly wouldn't bother with a small security, she was in a good mood looking at Hayden Crawford, "I meant to surprise you, how's this surprise?"

"Very good, very good, aunt, please, let's head upstairs."

"Mm, okay."

Under Hayden Crawford's personal escort, Seraphina Linden went ahead unimpeded all the way and came to the side of Julian Rathborne at this moment, Seraphina Linden suddenly stopped her steps, "Hayden Crawford, who is this sir boasting such grand gestures, I wonder who he is?"

Seraphina Linden fluttered her watery eyes and feigned confusion as she looked at Hayden Crawford.

Hayden Crawford had already sensed something must have happened between the old dad-in-law and mother-in-law, standing up straight to show his position and loyalty, "Aunt, I also don't know who this is, I'm not familiar with him!"

Julian Rathborne looked at Hayden Crawford and directly gave him a roll of the eyes, the little brat has forgotten his dad with the mom!

"Mm." Seraphina Linden was very satisfied with her son-in-law's level of awareness, she nodded, "I also don't know this gentleman, but this gentleman's resentment is really huge, like a... neglected husband from a deep boudoir, one might mistakenly think I abandoned him years ago, let's go."

Hayden Crawford quickly pressed the VIP elevator button, Seraphina Linden and he disappeared from sight together.

Deep boudoir's neglected husband, Julian Rathborne, "..."

Chapter 659: He Is Claiming His Territory

Hayden Crawford brought Seraphina Linden to the annual party. Seraphina curiously looked around and then said, "You go ahead and get busy. I'll play around for a bit and leave soon."

"No, Auntie, I'd better stay with you," Hayden smiled.

"No need, with you here, you've already attracted everyone's attention. Serena's issue hasn't been resolved yet, it's best to stay low-key. You should go," Seraphina waved her hand.

Indeed, Hayden bringing Seraphina into the party immediately attracted many gazes. Since Melody Ashworth and Consort Willow hadn't been settled yet, it was important to stay low-key. Hayden felt he should leave but stood still without moving.

"Huh?" Seraphina looked at Hayden in confusion, "Why aren't you leaving?"

"Heh," Hayden chuckled, "Auntie, if I leave, you won't cause any... earth-shattering incidents, right?"

Hayden knew his mother-in-law a little too well; she wanted to be low-key, but her charisma wouldn't permit it. She's someone who naturally stands out.

Along the way, every action she took was monumental and dazzling. Hayden was somewhat afraid of his mother-in-law.

Seraphina was indifferent; she had been quite low-key since arriving at The State of Westria. "Don't worry, I'll just take a look around and leave soon, trust me!"

Seraphina patted her chest, promising repeatedly.

Finally, Hayden turned around and left.

Seraphina wandered to the food area with various delicious desserts and red wine. She took a glass of wine, sipping quietly.

Julian Rathborne also came to the annual party, instantly drawing everyone's attention. Financial magnates and company executives gathered around him, watching him zealously.

"Oh my God, Mr. Rathborne, long time no see. I didn't expect you to attend The Crawford Group's annual party. Pleasure, pleasure."

"What have you been up to lately, Mr. Rathborne? We haven't seen you in ages."

"Do you have time tomorrow, Mr. Rathborne? I'd like to take you out for a meal."

Those executives were eagerly trying to arrange a meal with Julian. He took off his black overcoat, standing in a black suit amidst the dazzling lights, being held in high regard like an emperor.

Julian Rathborne, known as the son of Aethelgard and the world's wealthiest man, a creator of business legends. Over the years, he quietly faded from sight, yet The Rathborne Group's influence remained global and omnipresent, a legendary figure.

Confronted by them, Julian's handsome face showed no emotion. His single hand was in his pocket, his Phoenix eyes locked on Seraphina Linden not far away.

She was sneakily sipping wine; the wine was a bit pungent, causing her to stick out her tongue—a somewhat adorable sight.

Julian found it amusing—a silly woman!

By then, Seraphina had already caught the attention of several around, including those executives.

"Look, there's a stunning beauty over there!"

"She looks unfamiliar; I've never seen her before. If I had, I would surely remember."

"How old is she, 28?"

"I don't think she's older than 28."

"She looks naive and lively; she should be easy to approach. Why don't I try chatting her up?"

"That's unfair; I noticed her first, I should go!"

Julian saw these executives nearly arguing over Seraphina and snorted displeasingly, what 28 years old? Their daughter Serena is already 23!

Yet Julian had to admit Seraphina's youthful appearance, going out with Serena would likely seem more as Serena's sister.

Despite this, she couldn't change her age—an older woman, attracting numerous men with such flamboyance, put Julian in a bad mood.

At that moment, one executive couldn't hold back and wanted to approach Seraphina.

However, the next second, he felt a chilling aura—as if an unfriendly look fell upon him.

The executive looked up to find Julian Rathborne silently staring at him, a glance so light yet intimidating.

This son of Aethelgard had an innate elegance and nobility, yet his formidable power was undeniable—a man of lethal danger.

The executive stiffened, glancing at Seraphina, then at Julian Rathborne, seemingly comprehending something at last, tentatively asking, "Mr. Rathborne, do you—do you know that stunning lady?"

Julian gracefully sipped the wine in his hand and then casually replied, "I do."

I do.

As those two words settled, the executives inhaled sharply. Julian Rathborne's simple words declared his ownership, that woman was his, off-limits to anyone.

My God!

Who exactly was that woman?

...

Seraphina Linden thought the wine wasn't tasty and decided to try something else when two women approached her.

One woman was Kate Lee, who had recently had a matchmaking event with Julian Rathborne, and her friend Meggie Sawyer, whose face was full of anger and hostility as she looked at Seraphina, "Kiki, is she the one you mentioned, the mistress who ruined your matchmaking with Mr. Rathborne?"

Kate Lee, although a lady of noble background, wasn't as brash as Meggie. Not wanting to cause a scene at the annual party, she tugged Meggie's sleeve slightly, whispering, "Rory, let it go, let's not cause a fuss here."

Meggie looked at Kate in exasperation, "Kiki, what are you saying? You've liked Julian Rathborne for over a decade; since you became an adult, no other man caught your eye. Now, after patiently waiting all these

years and finally, when Old Mrs. Rathborne chose you for a match with Mr. Rathborne, this vixen suddenly came and ruined it. Don't you want to confront her?"

"I..." Kate was touched on a sore subject, her eyes quickly reddening. She had waited for Julian Rathborne for so long, on the brink of success, yet Seraphina's appearance made it all for naught.

Earlier, at the party, Kate saw Seraphina and immediately recognized her, sharing it with Meggie.

Meggie wanted to confront Seraphina angrily.

Seraphina understood that these two women were hostile. She curved her lips, her spirited eyes meeting theirs, "Excuse me, ladies, I'm afraid I'll have to interrupt your heartfelt sisterly drama."

Chapter 660: Truth or Dare

Kate and Meggie looked up to see Seraphina Linden's bright, lively eyes sparkling with a playful smile directed at them.

Even though they didn't like Seraphina, they were still stunned by her striking beauty and those bright eyes. As fellow women, they couldn't deny that her allure was captivating, which only proved in their minds that Seraphina was nothing more than a home-wrecking vixen.

Meggie was trembling with rage and sarcastically sneered, "I've seen many mistresses, but this is the first time I've seen one so brazen."

"Mistress" Seraphina Linden, emmm... if you were to do the math, in no way could she be the homewrecker here.

Seraphina didn't intend to waste time with those insignificant people. She scanned the room and quickly found Julian Rathborne in the center of the hall. She gestured towards him with her gaze, "What do you see over there?"

Kate and Meggie followed Seraphina's gaze and immediately spotted Julian Rathborne, "Mr. Rathborne, huh? What now, what's your next trick?"

Seraphina blinked innocently, "Don't overthink, imagining too much is a kind of sickness, you know. Look, there's Mr. Rathborne, I'll leave him to you, enjoy your time, I have to go now."

With that, Seraphina turned and left.

Kate and Meggie, "..."

They were dumbfounded. How could they have possibly expected that after storming over in such anger, Seraphina would simply dismiss them with a "Look, Mr. Rathborne is over there, he's all yours"?

This woman truly knows how to make an unforgettable impression with her words.

"Stop right there!" Meggie blocked Seraphina's path.

Seraphina looked up at Meggie, "Do you need something?"

"Of course, I've got a proposition. Do you dare play a game with us?"

"A game?" Seraphina's eyes lit up. She loved games, "Is it fun?"

"Oh, it's fun, very entertaining. How about a game of Truth or Dare?" Meggie's eyes gleamed with scheming intent.

Of course, Seraphina knew Meggie wasn't up to any good, but she nodded, "Alright, you're so keen on inviting, I'll indulge you. Consider it some amusement for myself. But mind you, I'm quite the player, so if you lose badly, don't start crying."

...

Meggie gathered a few more people, and they all sat down at a long table. Meggie placed a beer bottle in the center, "The rules for this game of Truth or Dare are simple. I'll spin the bottle, and whoever it points to will play Truth or Dare."

"Okay." Everyone nodded unanimously.

Meggie stood up and began spinning the bottle.

Soon, the bottle stopped, pointing directly at... Seraphina.

Seraphina showed no surprise at the outcome. She calmly curled her red lips, "Alright, I'll play."

Meggie felt that the big fish, Seraphina, had taken the bait, and the fun was about to begin, "So, will it be Truth or Dare?"

Seraphina tilted her head slightly, "I'll choose... Dare, that's more exciting."

"Alright, for this Dare, you have to take out your phone and call someone. And that someone must be... your first lover!" Meggie said with a smile.

At this moment, Kate discreetly pulled Meggie aside, "Rory, why this Dare?"

"Kiki, don't you get it? I want to expose this vixen in front of Mr. Rathborne. Who knows how many men she's been with? Once she makes that call, Mr. Rathborne will definitely be disgusted with her, and then he'll see your pure-heartedness and how good you are."

"But how will Mr. Rathborne hear it?"

"Don't you worry about that."

Meggie nodded at one of the waiters in the hall, who quickly understood and connected Seraphina's phone to the hall's audio system via Bluetooth, ensuring that once Seraphina made the call, the entire party would hear the conversation.

Kate's heart was pounding. As a well-bred young lady, she had never done such a thing, "Rory, isn't this going too far, perhaps we're being too mean..."

"Kiki, mercy to the enemy is cruelty to oneself. We can't pity such a vixen. That's enough talking, I'll settle this for you, just watch." Meggie stated decisively.

Across from them, Seraphina seemed unaware of their whispered scheming. She took out her phone, "Alright, I'll make the call."

Meggie's eyes shone, finally, the main event was here.

Seraphina lowered her eyes and dialed a string of numbers on her phone, then placed the call.

Meanwhile, Julian Rathborne felt a vibration in his pocket. Someone was calling him.

Julian took out his phone and saw it was Seraphina calling.

He lifted his refined eyes, glancing towards Seraphina who was playing a game in the distance. How curious, she was calling him.

At this moment Riley Sutton came over and whispered a few words into Julian's ear. Julian listened, slightly furrowing his brow, then pressed the button to answer the call.

As soon as the call connected, the waiter bought off by Meggie promptly connected it to the broadcast system. Seraphina pretended to be oblivious and spoke, "Hello."

Hello.

The word "Hello" instantly echoed throughout the entire party, drawing everyone's eyes towards Seraphina.

Meggie was thrilled, staring intensely at Seraphina, she felt this time Seraphina was going to make a fool of herself.

Meggie wasn't the least bit curious about who Seraphina's first love was. She was sure it was someone insignificant, without money or status. As long as she could prove to Julian that Seraphina had been with another man, that was enough.

The next second, a deep, magnetic voice came through the speakers, cold and distant, "Do you need something?"

Do you need something?

Meggie was instantly startled, the voice sounded so pleasant, and somehow familiar?

Just then, Kate tugged at her with a ghostly expression, "Rory, take a look at who's on the phone..."

Meggie turned her head and saw Julian Rathborne standing under the dazzling lights, with one hand in his pocket and the other holding his phone to his ear, talking.

Julian Rathborne was the one on the call!

Meggie drew a sharp breath, feeling her mind completely explode. Could it be... could it be that Julian Rathborne was Seraphina Linden's first love?

This revelation left everyone in shock, the whole room was bewildered, not knowing what had just happened.

In that moment, Hayden Crawford's tall and suave figure appeared on the upper level, watching the scene below from the ornate railing, he understood now, getting this mother-in-law to keep a low profile was truly impossible!