

## **Substitute B 681**

Chapter 681: He Has a Daughter Now!

Stella and Tanya actually got into a fight, the other kids in the kindergarten were all scared.

Tanya was ruthless and vicious; she'd long been jealous of Stella's prettier face, so she deliberately used her long nails to scratch Stella's face.

Don't be fooled by Stella's soft and doughy appearance; her fighting capabilities were not to be underestimated. When she saw Tanya trying to scratch her face, she quickly evaded and grabbed Tanya's hair.

Tanya struggled hard, but accidentally tripped and hit her forehead on the edge of a table.

Tanya got hurt; her forehead was scraped, and blood started flowing out.

Blood!

Ah!

Tanya cried out loud in fear.

It was dismissal time, and Tanya's mommy had just come to pick her up. Hearing Tanya's cries, she rushed over anxiously.

"Tanya darling, what happened, ah, why are you bleeding?" Tanya's mommy quickly took Tanya into her arms, worriedly asking.

"Mommy, Stella hit me!" Tanya immediately accused, turning the tables.

Tanya's mommy looked at Stella; Stella's pretty little face was much more beautiful than her daughter's. She's already so beautiful now, who knows how devastatingly attractive she might grow to be, ensnaring countless men. Tanya's mommy remembered her own husband's infatuation with Stella's mommy and boiled with anger.

"Stella, why did you hit my daughter?"

Compared to the disheveled Tanya, Stella was relatively calm. She was quite agile and had avoided getting scratched by Tanya. "Tanya's mommy, it was Tanya who started it. Her forehead was not injured by me, she hit it herself."

"You're lying! You clearly pushed me, and that's why I hit my forehead!" Tanya lied through her teeth.

Of course, Tanya's mommy believed her daughter. Seeing that Stella's mommy wasn't there, she was furious and extended her hand to push Stella.

Stella was unprepared, and her small body was pushed unexpectedly, causing her to fall hard to the ground.

Her tender, white little palm was scraped, and thin red blood beads appeared on the wound.

It hurt.

But Stella bravely held back her tears and didn't cry loudly like Tanya.

Stella got up from the ground, her clean and beautiful eyes coldly looking at Tanya and her mommy.

Tanya's mommy was astonished to see such an intimidating aura in one so young. Her face turned livid with anger as she said, "At such a young age, you hit people and lie! Were you raised with no manners? Is this how your mom raised you?"

"I doubt your mom even has time to raise you, always out seducing men; how would she have time to teach you? You injured my daughter, now what are you going to do about it? Apologize to my daughter immediately!"

Tanya's mommy didn't know who Serena Sterling really was. Although the Tanya's family was wealthy, they didn't have the status to mingle in the ranks of royalty or nobility. She assumed Stella was easy to bully, without any backing, to toy with as she pleased.

Thinking this, Tanya's mommy grew even more petty and spiteful, as if venting all her frustrations received from her husband onto Stella, "Apologize quickly, or if you don't, I'll have you removed from this kindergarten!"

This was a prestigious kindergarten in the State of Westria, with limited spots for enrollment.

Listening to Tanya's mommy's threat, a cold smile appeared on Stella's cute little face, her childish voice firm and strong. "Tanya's mommy, it's your daughter who hit and lied. You'd better spend more time properly educating her. Oh, I realize this might be difficult for you, given that you yourself don't seem to have any manners either!"

Tanya's mommy stared at Stella in disbelief, unable to comprehend how a soft-looking Stella could have such a sharp tongue, "You!"

"And I'm not going to apologize to you. Not only will I not apologize, but I also demand that you immediately apologize to my mommy! If you don't, face the consequences at your own risk!"

Stella stood with an air of defiance, adorably fierce.

Tanya's mommy and Tanya were both momentarily silenced in shock.

At this moment, Auntie Sue arrived to pick up Stella, "Missy, oh what happened here?"

Auntie Sue immediately shielded Stella protectively behind her. In Alani, she was a first-class governess, having always cared for Princess Stella. Her position was extraordinary. Now, Auntie Sue frowned at Tanya's mommy, "Ma'am, may I ask what happened? Our young miss is always polite. If not provoked first, our young miss wouldn't have acted out."

Tanya's mommy, already irked by Stella, now faced reproach from a nanny, which set off her temper even more. She sneered, and a mocking expression appeared on her face, "Young miss? What kind of young miss is she? How can a young miss not have a daddy? How can a young miss have a mother who flirts so indiscriminately?"

"You're the indiscriminate flirt. It's your child who has a mom that gave birth but didn't teach!" Stella wouldn't allow anyone to insult her mommy.

Seeing Stella dare to talk back, Tanya's mommy shook with anger, "Fine, just you wait. My husband knows the director of this kindergarten. I'm calling him now to have you expelled from this kindergarten."

Saying this, Tanya's mommy took out her phone.

"Who is getting expelled from kindergarten?"

Suddenly, a deep, magnetic voice sounded.

Someone had arrived.

Stella quickly looked up, and the crowd spontaneously parted, leaving a clear path. Many burly men in black suits orderly approached, sealing the area tightly. Then a tall, striking figure entered the scene.

Hayden Crawford had arrived.

Today, Hayden was dressed in a bespoke black suit, the expensive fabric perfectly pressed without any creases, exuding the elegance and nobility of the upper class.

As he approached, his deep, narrow eyes swept over the entire area, his presence like that of a monarch, inducing awe and submission.

Stella's eyes lit up when she saw Hayden, it's that handsome uncle, "Handsome uncle."

Stella ran over to Hayden, looking up at him happily with her big, clear eyes, "Hello, handsome uncle, do you remember me?"

Of course, he remembered!

This was the second time Hayden laid eyes on Stella's face, identical to Serena's. He still felt an overwhelming shock, as he had once longed to have a daughter, who would look just like her mother.

Now, Stella fulfilled all his dreams of having a daughter.

Importantly, Stella remembered him too!

Though they'd only met once, Stella hadn't forgotten him.

It was then that Hayden noticed Stella's injured little hand. He immediately tightened his lips, "Stella, how did you get hurt, who did this?"

Chapter 682: My Daddy Is Already Dead

"This..." Stella looked at the wound on her palm and smiled sweetly, "It's okay, just a small injury. I'm very brave and won't cry."

Mr. Crawford's heart tightened with pain. He knelt on one knee and gently held Stella's soft, white little hand, "Does it hurt?"

He blew on Stella's wound gently and carefully.

Looking at Hayden Crawford, from the first moment she saw this handsome uncle at the airport, Stella wanted him to be her daddy.

Mommy Tanya just bullied her for not having a daddy. If she had a daddy, he could lift her high up, and he could protect mommy, so those bad people wouldn't speak ill of mommy.

But she was also nervous. What if the handsome uncle didn't like mommy or her?

Now that the handsome uncle was being so gentle with her, Stella's eyes shined brightly. Maybe he did like her.

Stella let out a little hiss and in a childish voice said, "Um, it hurts a bit."

Hayden Crawford looked at Stella, clearly in pain but enduring it, and his heart melted. He extended his strong arm, lifting Stella from the ground with one hand, "Stella, it's okay. You can cry in front of me."

Really?

Stella's big, clear eyes quickly welled up with tears. She sniffled with a red little nose, aggrieved and pitiful, "Handsome uncle, they scolded mommy and hit people!"

Stella was very brave when alone, but now that Hayden Crawford was here, his tall and strong figure was like a mountain, making her want to rely and seek affection. She quickly complained to Hayden Crawford.

Hayden Crawford's lips pressed into a thin line, and his cold, sharp gaze fell swiftly on Mommy Tanya, "So it was you, shrew and brat, bullying Stella?"

From the moment Hayden Crawford appeared, Mommy Tanya's gaze was glued to him like glue.

She had never seen such a tall and handsome man, except on TV.

He was so strikingly handsome, with deep and defined features, as if sculpted by nature, perfect to the point of heart-stopping.

Most importantly, his presence was powerful and intimidating, naturally domineering, making people involuntarily submit.

Hearing Hayden Crawford's words, Tanya quickly cried and tugged at her mommy's sleeve, "Mommy, this man is calling me a brat and you a shrew."

Mommy Tanya quickly snapped out of her infatuated state. Seeing Hayden Crawford's extraordinary demeanor, dressed in understated luxury, he was probably another suitor of Mommy Stella's. She felt so jealous that she could cough up blood, "Sir, who are you? You can't possibly be another uncle of Stella. Don't be fooled by her mommy. From what I know, her mommy has many men, all uncles to Stella. You're just one of them, and the child you're holding is her mommy's out-of-wedlock child. Given your status, you wouldn't just be a stepfather raising another's child, would you? Don't let them deceive you!"

"Plus, her mommy won't even spare married men. My husband is already obsessed with her!"

Stella was scared the handsome uncle would believe this woman and misunderstand her mommy, so she immediately reached out with her little hands to hug Hayden Crawford's neck, anxiously saying, "Handsome uncle, don't listen to her nonsense. My mommy isn't like that. I have a daddy. It's just... my daddy has already passed away!"

The "already passed away" Hayden Crawford, "..."

An expression of dark frost crossed Hayden Crawford's handsome brows and eyes. He raised his large palm, gently patting Stella's little head in reassurance, then lifted his head, casting a shadowy, piercing gaze towards Mommy Tanya, "Who said Stella doesn't have a daddy? I am her daddy!"

What?

This man is the out-of-wedlock child's father?

Mommy Tanya didn't believe it in the slightest, "Sir, don't be blinded into being a father by that vixen. My husband is your precedent..."

"Ha," Hayden Crawford let out a low chuckle from his throat, "How could my woman possibly fancy your husband? You aren't even worthy to be her servant!"

Mommy Tanya was humiliated and froze.

Just then, someone else arrived. It was Daddy Tanya, panting heavily as he ran over. He had a stern face and directly slapped Mommy Tanya, "What are you shouting about here? Knowing I am busy with work and getting into trouble all day long!"

"Daddy, it was Stella who hit me first!"

Mommy Tanya, after being slapped, felt a burning pain on her face, which was also swelling. She clenched her fists angrily, "Husband, this time it's really not my fault. Stella hit first. Make her apologize, or have her expelled from kindergarten. Don't you know the principal here?"

"Mommy Tanya, are you looking for me?" At this moment, Corvus brought over the kindergarten principal.

Seeing her supporter, Mommy Tanya was immediately overjoyed, but she put on a grievance-filled face, "Principal, we know each other, and our family has donated a lot to the kindergarten. You have to stand up for us this time and not let a child like Stella who hits others stay here."

The principal, already sweating profusely from her foolish insistence, looked cautiously at Hayden Crawford and said, "Mommy Tanya, I just went to the control room to see the surveillance, and it was indeed your Tanya who cursed and hit first. Even the injury on her forehead was from your own fall. I suggest you properly apologize to Mr. Crawford. Mr. Crawford has already bought this kindergarten and is now the big boss here!"

What?

This kindergarten has been bought by that handsome yet ruthless man?

Mommy Tanya was stunned.

And... Mr. Crawford?

Mommy Tanya had some knowledge, and who doesn't know about the world's number one tycoon Hayden Crawford? Could he be... the one?

Mommy Tanya's eyes fell on the silver cufflinks on Hayden Crawford's sleeve, the "Crawford" engraved on them shining brightly.

Oh my god!

Mommy Tanya looked at Hayden Crawford, shocked and afraid, never imagining she would run into this big figure.

The "little bastard" in her mouth is... is Hayden Crawford's daughter?

"Daddy Tanya, if your wife and daughter don't apologize, don't think you can stay in The State of Westria any longer." Corvus stood to the side, reminding Daddy Tanya.

Daddy Tanya immediately pinched Mommy Tanya, whispering angrily, "You've really caused me trouble today, apologize quickly. Daring to offend Mr. Crawford means you have a bear's gall. Do you want our family to be buried with you?"

Mommy Tanya's legs went weak, and she slumped directly to the ground, pulling Tanya to apologize to Stella.

Chapter 683: DNA Paternity Test

Hayden Crawford looked coldly at Tanya's family, "I don't want to see you again, you'd better not appear in front of me again."

After speaking, Hayden turned and left holding Stella.

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Hayden carried Stella into his luxurious Rolls-Royce Phantom, took out the medical kit, and treated Stella's palm wound.

Stella said in her childish voice, "Handsome Uncle, thank you for today."

"No need to thank me, Stella. Now, why don't you come home with Uncle and play at Uncle's house? I have many fun things there." Hayden wanted to take Stella home.

"Um..." Stella hesitated. Although she liked the handsome uncle, she shouldn't go to other people's houses casually.

"Stella, your brother Pip will also visit Uncle's house. Uncle and your mommy are good friends, so you don't have to worry."

Stella's eyes lit up, knowing that the handsome uncle knew her mommy was wonderful.

"Really? My brother will be there too?"

Hayden nodded, "Of course."

"Alright then, I'll go home with the handsome uncle." Stella nodded in agreement.

Hayden placed Stella in the safety seat, fastened her seatbelt, then closed the back door and was about to get into the driver's seat when Auntie Sullivan hurried over to stop him. "Sir, thank you so much for today, but the young miss cannot go home with you..."

Hayden looked up at Auntie Sullivan, his voice deep and magnetic as he directly interrupted her, "I am Stella's daddy. Why can't I take my daughter home?"

What?

Although Auntie Sullivan had heard Hayden say that he was Stella's daddy at the kindergarten earlier, she had thought he was lying to protect Stella's young heart.

Now, hearing Hayden say again with absolute certainty that Stella was his daughter, Auntie Sullivan's ears buzzed.

Could it be... could this man in front of her really be... the prince?

Hayden got into the car, stepped on the gas, and the luxury car sped away.

"Hey, young miss!" Auntie Sullivan, afraid something might happen, quickly took out her phone and dialed a number.

The call was for Pip.

On the other end, the melodious ringtone played before it was picked up, and Pip's voice came through, "Hello, Auntie Sullivan."

"Young master, where are you now?"

"I ran into a bit of trouble; someone's following me. I'm leading them in circles around The State of Westria."

"Young master, something's wrong, something happened, the young miss has been... taken away by the prince!"

Pip was silent for a few seconds. He didn't have to ask to know this "prince" was Hayden Crawford. He slapped his thigh, "Damn, I fell for it, the trick of luring the tiger away from the mountain!"

"Young master, what are you talking about? I don't understand. Please speak plainly. Will the young miss be in danger?" Auntie Sullivan was extremely anxious.

"Auntie Sullivan, don't worry about this. I'm going to find Mimi now." Pip hung up the call directly.

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In the evening, the villa's doorbell rang. The maid opened the door, and Pip stepped inside.

Pip walked into the living room, where Hayden was already sitting on the sofa waiting for him.

"Hello, Handsome Uncle. Where's Mimi?" Pip asked.

Hayden gestured with his eyes upstairs, "Stella is playing up there."

Pip nodded and didn't go upstairs. Instead, he sat down on the sofa opposite Hayden.

One adult and one child, creating a negotiation scene.

From the beginning, Hayden really liked Pip, liked him so much he wanted to make him his own son. Now Hayden curled his thin lips, "Pip, why don't you go up and see Stella?"

Pip tilted his little head, "I'll have plenty of time to spend with Mimi later. Since you've invited me over, do you still plan to let me go tonight, Handsome Uncle?"

Hayden laughed aloud twice, finding himself increasingly fond of this clever little guy.

"Handsome Uncle, this time you and Caden Crawford teamed up to lure me into a trap, so let's not beat around the bush. Just tell me what you want to do."

Hayden raised an authoritative eyebrow, "Pip, I want one of your hairs."

Pip knew he didn't have a choice, so he reached up a small hand, pulled out a hair, and handed it to Hayden.

Hayden placed Pip's hair along with Stella's, Caden Crawford's, and his own into a sealed plastic bag, then gave it to Corvus, "Take this to the lab for a DNA paternity test. I want the results as soon as possible."

"Yes." Corvus respectfully retreated.

DNA paternity test.

Actually, when Pip pulled out that hair, he knew Hayden wanted to conduct a DNA paternity test. It seemed that his and Stella's background was revealed.

"Pip, do you have anything you want to tell me now?" At this moment, Hayden looked at Pip.

Pip shook his little head, "No, this is between you and my mommy, I won't say anything."

As soon as he finished speaking, a sweet childish voice rang out, "Brother, you're here?"

Stella came downstairs, she was very happy to see Pip, and immediately ran over to hug him.

Pip doted on this little Mimi very much, "Mimi, are you having fun here?"

"Of course, I'm having fun, Handsome Uncle's house is so big, there are many toys upstairs." Stella found everything fascinating.

At this moment, Hayden stood up, "Dinner's ready, let's have dinner together."

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The three of them had dinner together, then Hayden went into the study.

Just then, a knock sounded on the door, and Corvus's voice came from outside, "Master, the DNA paternity test results are out."

Hayden had been reviewing documents, pen "swish-swish" signing his name at the bottom of the file. Upon hearing this, the pen tip in his hand suddenly paused.

"Come in."

The study door was pushed open, and Corvus walked in holding a sealed envelope.

"Master, the DNA paternity test results are in here."

Hayden put down the pen, slowly opened the sealed envelope, and then took out the test results.

The results showed his DNA matched entirely with Caden Crawford, Pip, and Stella. All three were his own children!

"Master, the DNA paternity test results show that Pip and Stella are your children, and they and Caden Crawford came from the same womb. That year, Miss Summer gave birth to triplets for you, she gave you three children."

Hayden was unresponsive for a long time, his deep eyes fell on the documents, pupils shrinking violently. Even though he had already been sure in his heart, seeing the DNA paternity test results, he was still so shocked.

Chapter 684: I Don't Understand What Love Is

He never imagined that back then, Serena was pregnant with triplets, and they were all his children!

This...how could it be possible?

Hayden Crawford stood up and walked over to the polished floor-to-ceiling window, placing one hand on his hip as he paced back and forth several times.

"Master... Master, what's wrong?" Corvus cautiously looked at Hayden Crawford, feeling that his master seemed a bit...silly there, circling around.

Hayden lifted his head, his deep, narrow eyes settling on Corvus' face, "This DNA paternity test couldn't be wrong, could it?"

"Certainly not wrong."

"Pip and Stella are my children?"

"That's what the DNA test results show."

"I have two sons and a daughter?"

"Um... yes."

Hayden felt a bit dizzy, his tall and upright figure swayed a couple of times, as his speculation in his heart was finally confirmed, but his mind was still a blank.

He always thought Pip and Stella were Serena's and Seth's children!

He deeply minded this fact; whenever he thought about Serena having children with another man, a gloomy and bloodthirsty rage burned in his chest, wishing to set the whole world ablaze.

But now, Pip and Stella were actually his children!

No wonder the moment he first saw Pip and Stella, he liked them instantly, perhaps this was... the deep bond of blood ties.

Hayden's strong chest was heaving violently, his pupils constantly contracting, surprisingly, the usually domineering and overbearing man, at this moment, seemed a bit like a helpless child.

He had never thought, other than Caden, he had two other children.

Hayden's legs went soft, feeling like he was walking on cotton, it felt so much like a dream.

This was all too unreal.

Serena actually gave him three children!

Ha.

Haha.

Seeing that Hayden was about to fall, Corvus immediately tried to support him, "Master, be careful!"

Hayden steadied himself, took a couple of deep breaths, and then let out two hearty laughs, "Great, they are all my children, Serena gave me triplets, I have both a leather jacket and a little cotton-padded jacket, I'm practically the ultimate winner in life, is there anyone else, I just want to ask, is there anyone else!"

"..." Corvus then realized that his master was just too happy, the happiness came so dizzyingly that his master was ridiculously giddy.

Indeed, there's no one else!

Hayden now had countless ideas, many things he wanted to do, so he instructed, "Quickly find someone to renovate here, I need to add two children's rooms, no, I'd better move directly, the villa is no longer suitable, after all, with my three kids, a growing family, it's inconvenient, I'll move directly to an estate, the kind with a children's castle."

"Stella is a girl, she's my little princess, I want to personally design her room, princess dresses, princess shoes, anything she can't think of shouldn't be absent..."

Corvus watched Hayden, spinning in circles and thinking, wishing he could bring the best things in the world in front of the three little ones, it was clear his master was truly happy, crazy happy.

In so many years, it was the first time Corvus had seen his master this happy, Corvus himself also broke into a smile.

At this moment, a melodious phone ringtone rang, Hayden had an incoming call.

Who?

Hayden was lost in building beautiful futures for the three little ones, suddenly interrupted by the phone call, he immediately furrowed his heroic brows, who was so tactless to call him at this moment, when all he wanted was to enjoy a moment of quiet joy?

Hayden took out the phone and saw... it was Caden calling.

Hayden pressed the button to connect, "Hello."

Little Caden's cool, childish voice quickly transmitted from the other end, "Daddy, has the DNA paternity test result come out?"

"Yes, Caden, I'm officially letting you know now, you're the big brother, Pip is your younger brother, and you have a little Mimi, you're triplets, all born from your mommy's belly!"

Hayden thought Little Caden would be happy, because he knew his son had always been preoccupied with his origin.

Little Caden thought he was born from a surrogate mother, while Pip and Stella were born from his mommy's belly, so from the beginning, Little Caden was very hostile towards Pip, because he was both envious and jealous of Pip.

Now Hayden was telling Little Caden the truth about his origin, but Little Caden was silent and didn't say a word.

Hayden's smile paused, "Caden, what's wrong, aren't you happy to learn you're triplets?"

A few seconds later, Little Caden's muffled voice sounded, "Daddy, since we're triplets, why doesn't mommy want me?"

Hayden's heart tightened, feeling as if his heart was suddenly grabbed mercilessly by a large hand, yes, earlier he was so overwhelmed with happiness that he forgot there were many doubts behind this matter.

Three years ago, didn't Serena terminate his child?

The triplets must have been born in Alani, why would Serena send the eldest, Caden, to his side?

Now it seemed his father, Jude, must have known everything, and the ghost story that Caden was born from a surrogate mother was just what his father told him!

That damn old fox!

"Caden, back then there were many things between daddy and mommy, which can't be explained in a sentence or two, you just need to know that mommy loves you."

Hayden was organizing his words, although Caden was a genius with high IQ, he was still a child who needed his mommy's love, Hayden didn't want his son to get hurt.

"Really? Even if you had many things happening three years ago, mommy didn't want to come back to see you, then why didn't mommy come back to see me in the three years she was away?"

Hayden, "... Caden..."

"Daddy, you and mommy keep telling me that you both love me, but I really don't know what love is." With that, Little Caden directly hung up the phone.

Listening to the "beep beep" busy signal on the other end, Hayden's heroic brows furrowed into a "川" shape, he tried to call Caden.

But the other end already transmitted a mechanical and cold female voice, "Sorry, the number you dialed is turned off."

Little Caden had turned off the phone.

Hayden was a bit worried about his son, he decided to find Caden early the next morning, and have a good talk with him.

But, what should he talk about?

Hayden sat down in his office chair, some of his earlier happiness and fulfillment dissipating, leaving behind confusion and hurt in his heart.

Three years ago she should not have terminated his child, moreover, she had lied to him!

Chapter 685: I Want Mommy, Waaa~

She deceived him!

She lied to him, saying the child in her belly belonged to Seth Sullivan. Now it made sense; with her incredible medical skills, altering her pregnancy duration must have been a piece of cake.

Why did she deceive him?

Hayden Crawford couldn't forgive her for such a betrayal. The child was his. No matter what, he had the right to know, but for three years, he knew nothing!

What he couldn't forgive even more was, in these three years, she had returned to Alani for the entire time and never came back.

He hadn't been able to be by Pip and Stella's side these three years, watch them grow. His fatherly love had been absent for a whole three years.

She knew very well that he and Caden Crawford lived in the City of Aethelgard. Once intimate lovers, she gave birth to their firstborn after ten months of pregnancy. Yet, she let the father and son fend for themselves these years. She had disappeared from his life, from Caden Crawford's life, for a whole three years.

Thinking of these things, Hayden Crawford wished he could find her right now and personally dig out her heart to see how she could be so heartless!

At this moment, a "knock knock knock" on the door interrupted him, and the maid outside said, "Sir, someone outside wants to see you."

Who is it?

"Let them in."

The maid entered respectfully to report, "Sir, a woman has come outside. She says she wants to see you and... take her child away."

Hayden's gaze flickered, already knowing who it was. Serena Sterling had come!

Today, he had brought Pip and Stella over without locking down the information. He knew she would come; she just came a bit sooner than he expected.

Right now, Hayden didn't want to meet this heartless woman. Thinking about her actions made him want to harshly teach her a lesson and let her suffer a bit.

"I won't see her. Tell her to leave immediately!" Hayden said sternly.

"Yes, sir."

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Serena Sterling had arrived, now standing just outside the villa's gate.

She woke up this morning in the presidential suite, remembering nothing except the memory of drinking too much at The Crawford Group's annual party last night and wanting to take Hayden Crawford down. However, Hayden had thrown her into the water to sober up.

Thinking about her foolish actions, Serena Sterling wished she could dig a hole in the ground and hide.

After leaving The Crawford Group, she returned home and quickly received a call from Auntie Sullivan. Auntie Sullivan said Hayden had taken Stella, and Pip had gone with him too.

Serena was startled. She hadn't yet had time to tell Hayden the truth about Pip and Stella's parentage. He had always been under the impression that Pip and Stella were Seth Sullivan's children. Would he harm the two children?

Serena rushed over here, anxious to see Hayden.

Just then, with a "creak," the villa door opened again. The maid stood by the door and said, "Sorry, our sir said he doesn't want to see you and asks you to leave immediately."

What?

He didn't want to see her?

Serena immediately furrowed her brows, "I won't leave. My two children are inside. Where is Hayden? Why won't he see me?"

"Miss, we're just following orders. The sir doesn't want to see you, so please leave immediately!"

With a bang, the maid slammed the villa door shut.

Serena, "..."

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In the study, Hayden stood tall and upright by the floor-to-ceiling window, lowering his handsome eyelids as he looked below; Serena's slender figure was entirely in his view.

The door had closed, but she hadn't left; she was still waiting outside.

If she wanted to wait, then let her wait for a while.

Suddenly, a childish sobbing sound came from outside the study door, "Woo woo woo~"

Hayden immediately snapped out of his thoughts, startled, because it was Stella's crying. Stella was crying.

He quickly stretched his long legs and rushed out. In the room, he found the maid comforting Stella, "Little Miss, what's wrong? Don't cry, or you won't be pretty."

Yet, Stella kept crying, her powdery little fists rubbing her eyes and rubbing out a face full of tears.

Hayden said in a deep voice, "You can leave now."

"Yes, sir." The maid quickly exited the room.

Hayden looked at Stella. Stella had already bathed, wearing a pale yellow suspender dress with yellow socks on her feet. Standing there crying, one of her socks had fallen off, revealing her tiny foot.

Stella's cries seemed to shatter Hayden's heart. He quickly reached out and scooped Stella into his strong arms, soothing her gently, "Stella, why are you crying? Quickly tell uncle."

Tears sparkled on Stella's delicate little face as she looked at Hayden with big, grievance-filled eyes. Her small pink lips quivered; she wanted to cry again, "Mommy~ Stella misses Mommy~ Stella wants Mommy~ Woo woo~"

Stella missed mommy, so she was crying.

Hayden felt a twinge of pain in his heart. No matter how unforgivable Serena was, the three kids deeply loved her. A mother's love was irreplaceable.

"Stella, be good. Don't cry, okay? You see, it's already very late. Tomorrow morning, uncle will take you to find mommy, alright?" Hayden gently patted Stella's back with his big hand.

Actually, he had personally brought up Caden Crawford, so he wasn't exactly a novice at childcare. However, holding little Stella in his arms now, she was so soft as if boneless. He dared not exert any force, afraid of hurting her.

Stella lay sadly on Hayden's shoulder, her cries rising and falling, her little nose red with a heartbreakingly tender voice, "No~ I want mommy now~ Mommy, mommy~"

At this moment, Pip came in, looking at Hayden, "Handsome uncle, soothing Mimi like that won't work. Mommy always sleeps with Mimi. Even when mommy is very busy, she video chats with Mimi at night."

Hayden looked at his other son Pip, his expression questioning: can't this night be an exception?

Pip shrugged, unable to help.

Hayden was at his wits' end. Now Serena was right outside the door. He had already given the order not to let her in and not to let her see the children.

Furthermore, he had decided to bring Pip and Stella to live with him. He wanted custody of the two children.

But now, plans had changed. He had overlooked the children's dependence and love for Serena. Trying to forcibly separate them from their mommy was probably not going to happen.

Stella was still crying, and Hayden was at a loss. No matter how he tried to soothe her, it didn't work.

Feeling distressed, he bent over, picked up the tiny, milk-scented yellow sock from the carpet, and put it back on Stella. "Alright, Stella, uncle will take you to see mommy now, but you must stop crying, okay?"

Chapter 686: Mommy and Daddy Sleep Together~

Stella quickly stopped crying, her big watery eyes looking at Hayden Crawford, "Really, handsome uncle, can I see my mommy?"

"Of course it's true. Uncle will take you there now." Hayden Crawford held Stella's small hand and led her out.

As the father and daughter left, Pip came to the balcony of the room. He looked down with his little head and saw that Mommy was still standing there.

Pip's Mommy, I can only help you this far. Daddy has already taken Mimi down to greet you personally. The rest of the journey is up to you.

...

Outside the villa, Serena took out her phone, wanting to call Hayden Crawford.

But at that moment, there was a creak as the villa door suddenly opened. The brightly lit interior immediately shone out, and as Serena looked up, Hayden Crawford and Stella's tall and small figures had already entered her view.

"Mommy~" Stella immediately flew towards Serena.

Serena extended her slender arms and caught Stella, lifting her up. She kissed Stella's little cheeks forcefully, "Stella, did you miss Mommy? Mommy missed you so much."

Stella happily hugged Serena's neck and also kissed her mommy's face, giggling, "Of course, Stella misses Mommy every day. Stella even cried because she missed Mommy earlier~"

Seeing Stella's indeed red-rimmed eyes, as if she had cried before, Serena's heart ached, and she kissed Stella a few more times for comfort.

Stella giggled in her mommy's arms.

Watching this mother-daughter duo, no matter how angry Hayden was with Serena, seeing them softened him completely.

At this moment, Serena looked up with her clear eyes at Hayden Crawford, "What about Pip, Mr. Crawford? Please bring Pip out. I want to take both kids home."

Serena was also a bit angry. He had taken the two kids away without a word. Did he know how anxious that made her as a mommy?

He even deliberately didn't see her earlier, making her wait outside the door. Truly wicked.

Hayden Crawford pressed his thin lips together, his sharp, eagle-like eyes glanced at Serena, "Home? Which home? Isn't my place Pip and Stella's home?"

Serena's long lashes suddenly trembled. What did he mean by this? Could it be... he already knew about Pip and Stella's background?

Seeing her shocked expression, Hayden Crawford sneered, curling his thin lips, "Serena, you're such a liar. How long do you intend to deceive me?"

Serena's pupils contracted. She knew he really had found out about Pip and Stella's background.

Actually, she hadn't planned on hiding it from him. She always wanted to find a time to tell him. She didn't expect him to find out on his own.

Just then, Hayden Crawford looked at Stella softly, "Stella, how about you sleep here with Uncle tonight?"

Stella quickly looked at Serena for permission, "Mommy, can we sleep here with Uncle tonight? Uncle treats me and brother very well. Uncle really likes us."

Stella was still thinking about making Hayden Crawford her daddy. Now that Mommy was here, she, as the little matchmaker, of course, had to create opportunities for them.

Serena saw the longing in Stella's eyes, and since Hayden Crawford knew about the children's background, she also wanted to have a good talk with him, so she nodded, "Alright, let's sleep here with Uncle tonight."

"Great!" Stella cheered.

...

Serena carried Stella upstairs. Pip had already gone back to his room to sleep. After checking on Pip, Serena stayed with Stella until she slept.

Stella nestled into Serena's embrace and whispered, "Mommy, what do you think of the handsome uncle?"

"Stella, why are you asking this?"

"I think the handsome uncle is very nice. Grandma says you have to judge men by their looks. The handsome uncle is so handsome, so tall, and his arms are strong. According to Grandma, he's top-notch. He would definitely protect Mommy well. I want him to be my daddy. Mommy, do you like the handsome uncle?" Stella blinked her big eyes at Serena.

Serena, "..."

She had slept for two years in Alani, and Stella was raised by her mommy, Seraphina Linden. Her grandmother, so focused on appearances, now influenced Stella too.

But Serena was quite surprised. Stella had just met Hayden Crawford, but she already liked him enough to want him as her daddy.

Serena patted Stella's hair, "Stella, Mommy has something to tell you. Actually, the handsome uncle is your daddy!"

What?

Stella's mouth opened wide in shock, "Mommy, are you serious?"

"Of course it's true." Serena nodded affirmatively.

Just then, the door opened with a click, and Hayden Crawford's tall figure walked in. He looked at the mother-daughter pair whispering, "Why aren't you asleep, what are you chatting about?"

"Handsome uncle, Mommy and I are talking about you. Mommy told me a secret." Stella blinked mysteriously.

Hayden Crawford came to the bedside and looked affectionately at the little pink bundle, "What secret?"

"The secret is... Mommy said the handsome uncle is my daddy!"

Hayden Crawford's gaze fell on Serena.

Serena didn't expect Stella to have such a quick mouth. She wanted to cover it but was too late, so she just hugged Stella, "Stella, time to sleep."

Stella patted a spot on the bed, "Handsome uncle, you should sleep with us tonight here."

Serena wanted to speak, but by then a part of the bed had already sunk, as Hayden lay down, "Stella, what should you call me?"

"Daddy~" Stella called happily yet a bit shyly.

Hayden Crawford felt as if a stone was thrown into the lake of his heart, instantly causing ripples. He kissed Stella's little cheek, "Stella, Daddy loves you."

Stella was so happy, "Daddy, Mommy, I'm going to sleep now."

"Sleep well." Serena tucked Stella in.

But unexpectedly, Stella got up. She was in the middle of the bed, and she crawled to the inside, stretching out her hands to push Serena into Hayden Crawford's arms, "Mommy, you sleep with Daddy~"

Serena's snowy-white earlobes reddened immediately, "Stella, you..."

"Daddy, Mommy, don't worry about me. I understand. Grandma says kids should be sensible, sleep on the inside, and let Daddy and Mommy sleep together because you need to give me a little brother." Stella said, covering her mouth and laughing.

Seeing such an "understanding" daughter, Serena, "..."

### Chapter 687: Time Is the Most Painful Thing

Serena realized that handing Stella over to her mother was a completely mistaken decision. Moreover, she had already given birth to three children; how could she possibly have another one? What if the next pregnancy also resulted in triplets?

When Serena gave birth to triplets, she had a near-death experience, leaving her with severe psychological trauma. She often nightmares about being pregnant again, waking up in a fright each time. She absolutely did not want to have another child.

At this moment, Stella obediently lay inside, covering herself with a blanket, "Daddy, Mommy, goodnight."

Stella closed her eyes and quickly drifted into dreamland.

The children were asleep, and now it was time to resolve the issues between the adults. Serena slowly turned over, raising her bright eyes to look at the man beside her, "Hayden Crawford, do you already know the truth about the children's parentage?"

Hayden glanced at Serena. To see the children, she had reverted to her stunningly delicate face, and because she was lying down, several strands of her long dark hair entwined around her rosy neck, creating a look of purity yet allure.

This is the woman who gave him three children; she is their mother.

Hayden's heart was indeed moved; he still remembered their first encounter on the train in Bayside when she was only 19.

She gave him the most youthful years of her life and the continuity of his bloodline.

Hayden's long fingers curled slightly, wanting to embrace her, to hold her tightly in his arms and merge her into his soul. There were so much he wanted to tell her, how he loved the children she bore for him, and how he never wanted to be apart from them or from her again. He never wanted her to leave his side again.

Yet, his curled fingers loosened because she too had done many things he could not forgive.

Hayden pressed his thin lips and let out a cold snort, "Were you planning to keep the children's parentage a secret from me forever?"

"I didn't..."

"Yes, you did!" Hayden interrupted her directly, "Serena, you are too selfish and cruel. Let me ask you, why did you send Caden to my side? Did you not want Caden anymore, not want me? You abandoned us in your world, only raising Pip and Stella, even not letting me know of their existence. In the blink of an eye, Pip and Stella have grown so big, time has flown by, and I haven't been able to watch them grow up firsthand. And with Caden too, for three years, day after day, month after month, he is a piece of your flesh, yet you never came back!"

Hayden sat up, his sturdy chest rising and falling, and a layer of blood-red pain quickly enveloped his long eyes.

Time is truly the most wounding thing. Three years ago, by the riverbank in the forbidden area, she had stabbed his heart fiercely, then left with Seth Sullivan, completely abandoning him.

Back then, he watched as she vanished with Seth Sullivan at the edge of the world, out of his life. He naively thought that that should have been the height of pain.

But it wasn't.

In the ensuing three years, day after day, month after month, as he stood alone on the street, holding the months-old infant Caden when he babbled "Mom" for the first time; when he wandered through different women searching for traces of her, he realized that she had merely inflicted a single stab at the riverside. The following three years saw that wound rot gradually, leaving him full of scars, completely disfigured.

Seeing his pained expression, Serena sat up too, her bright eyes instantly reddening as she desperately tried to explain, "Hayden Crawford, listen to me, those three years I..."

"What flowery words are you going to use to deceive me again?" Hayden interrupted her, roughly tearing open his shirt, pointing to the scar on his heart, "Serena, look carefully, this is where you stabbed me. Do you know how I survived three years ago? The doctor said if your hand had been a few millimeters more precise, I would have had no chance of survival!"

"I think I should hate you, and yet ironically... I mustered all my strength to hate you, swore I wanted to forget you, but then I started noticing that over these three years, those women around me began to resemble you somewhat. I was searching for your shadow in different women."

"Sometimes tired, weary, incredibly lonely, I even thought about truly being with a woman, letting her fill your place, letting her care for Caden. I should tell myself that I don't necessarily need you, but unfortunately, I failed; my body never felt any sexual interest in them."

"As I grew older, I reached a time of vigor and abundant desire; yet those women didn't arouse sexual interest, but at midnight, when you entered my dreams, I woke up overwhelmingly hot, stretching my hand beneath to soothe myself. Do you know how powerless and despairing I felt then?"

Speaking, Hayden extended his hand to grip her soft shoulder, squeezing hard, pressing so hard his veins throbbed, "Serena, I've always struggled with a question, always wanted to ask you face-to-face, three years ago... what did I do wrong?"

Hayden had always wanted to ask, what did he do wrong, and now he finally voiced this question.

Although he knew, once he asked this question, he had already lost; he again abandoned all his pride and dignity.

Serena's bright eyes were already brimming with sparkling tears, her long lashes trembling as tears quickly trickled down.

This was his three years.

It turned out this was how he had spent the three years she was gone.

It's said that the Crawford family is filled with passionate men, as Jude Crawford was, and now Hayden is too; they are all devoted and loyal.

Serena raised her hand, her trembling fingertips slowly landing on the scar at Hayden's heart, "I'm sorry, I truly... deeply regret it, but about those three years, I can explain, I really wanted to come back and see you, see Caden, but I couldn't, I..."

Hayden grabbed her small hand and pushed her away, closing his bloodshot eyes before opening them again, leaving only a trace of coolness and indifference, "Serena, if you truly regret it, then I need you to do something for me now."

"What is it?"

"Pip and Stella are my children. I want you to give up custody of them; their custody must be entirely mine."

Serena's ears buzzed as she looked at him in shock and confusion, not understanding what he was saying!

Chapter 688: Feed Him Cookies

Hayden Crawford looked at Serena Sterling. "What, you disagree with giving me custody of Pip and Stella? In that case, we'll have to go to court, but all my conditions are better than yours, and there's no woman around me. Instead, you are now the Princess of Nine Peaks, so I will definitely get custody of Pip and Stella."

"If you willingly give up, things don't have to get so ugly between us. For the sake of the three children, I will give you significant compensation."

Serena Sterling froze completely. Was he really going to... fight her for the children?

He wanted the children without her, right?

Serena Sterling shook her head. "I can't give the children to you. They are my everything."

Hayden Crawford suddenly narrowed his dangerous eyes. "Serena Sterling, are we at an impasse now?"

Saying that, Hayden Crawford got out of bed, looked down at Serena Sterling, "Then you wait for the lawyer's letter. I am determined to get custody of the children."

He turned to leave.

But in the next moment, a soft, white hand reached over; Serena Sterling suddenly grabbed his large hand.

Hayden Crawford's footsteps paused, and he lowered his handsome eyelids to look at her. He saw Serena Sterling raise her palm-sized exquisite face, looking at him, and she softly asked, "Hayden Crawford, are we... beyond reconciliation?"

Hayden Crawford felt a deep pain in his heart, as if a sharp knife had been plunged inside, stirring endlessly, making every breath painful. Seeing her delicate shoulders, reddened eyes, and added tenderness, he just wanted to hold her tightly, press her beneath him, and answer her with fervent passion: he still wanted her!

He could never refuse her.

But, thinking of the three years of separation and her heartless decision, Hayden Crawford stiffened, immobile. A few seconds later, he pulled his large hand away from hers, little by little, and answered, "Since you left me three years ago, we've been past the point of return."

He finished speaking and turned to leave.

He had to leave here quickly because he feared that if he stayed one more second, he wouldn't be able to refuse her any longer.

He was even more afraid she would say one more word. If she said one more word, he might agree to everything she said.

Hayden Crawford left, truly left. Serena Sterling watched his tall figure disappear from her sight, and her whole body went soft as if all the strength had been drained out of her. Her long eyelashes trembled and large tears began to fall.

He really didn't want her anymore.

In fact, she could truly explain. These three years, she didn't choose not to return; she couldn't. After giving birth to the triplets in Alani, she fell into a long sleep.

The moment she awakened, she eagerly returned, went back to the City of Aethelgard, to see him, to see Caden.

But she couldn't say these words, and he didn't want to hear them. What's more, he had already sentenced her to death.

Were they really over?

Crystal tears blurred her vision, and Serena Sterling suddenly broke into sobs.

...

Hayden Crawford didn't sleep all night, tossing and turning. The thought of being the father of three children excited him too much to sleep.

Serena Sterling's exquisite face still lingered in his mind. Recalling last night when she tenderly held his hand, asking if they were beyond reconciliation, he felt a little regret. He admitted he regretted refusing her.

Hayden Crawford hated her, but he hated himself more. She kept hurting him, yet he still loved her, indulged her. She constantly affected his emotions, making her impossible to forget.

In the early morning, Hayden Crawford got up and went downstairs. From afar, he heard Pip and Stella's laughter, and the entire villa had the warm scent of baked goods.

Hayden Crawford walked over and immediately saw Serena Sterling. In the morning, Serena Sterling wore a dress with a floral apron outside, baking cookies for the children.

Little Stella wore a princess dress, circling around her mommy, happily clapping her tiny hands, "Wow, Mommy's cookies are so pretty and smell so good!"

Little Pip took a cookie and tasted it. Little Stella asked in her sweet voice, "Brother, is it good?"

"Yes, it's really good." Little Pip handed the cookie over to feed little Stella.

Little Stella took a bite and then fed the remaining cookie to Serena Sterling, "Mommy, you have to taste it, it's really delicious!"

Hayden Crawford watched the trio sharing a cookie, the scene was warm and beautiful.

Time seemed to quiet down, now the brilliant morning light streamed in through the polished floor-to-ceiling windows, a warm golden hue. Hayden Crawford's gaze fell on Serena Sterling, her long black hair draped over her ears, revealing her snowy earlobes and beautiful, refined profile. She watched the children with a gentle smile at the corner of her lips, the image striking directly into his eyes.

Hayden Crawford felt his heart was filled, soft and satisfying. He had never had such a strong feeling in his life.

Then little Stella was the first to notice him. She immediately called out in a sweet voice, "Daddy~"

Serena Sterling looked up and also saw Hayden Crawford.

Hayden Crawford wore a custom-tailored black shirt and trousers, tall and upright. The shirt sleeves were rolled up a few notches, revealing his strong forearms and a luxurious stainless-steel watch on his wrist. At his age, he exuded an indescribable mature allure.

Recalling last night, Serena Sterling's clear eyes flashed with some dimness. She lowered her long eyelashes, avoiding his gaze.

She actually didn't look at him.

Earlier, she had looked at him once.

Hayden Crawford frowned slightly, feeling a hint of displeasure. He walked steadily forward and kissed little Stella's cheek, "Stella, morning."

"Daddy, morning~" little Stella happily replied.

At this moment, little Pip looked at Hayden Crawford, then at Serena Sterling, sensitively perceiving the subtle tension between them. Alas, judging by their difficult path in love, he, so young, bore all this burden alone and worried endlessly.

Little Pip sighed, then greeted in a childish voice, "Hello, handsome uncle."

Hayden Crawford reached out his large hand and ruffled little Pip's hair, "Pip, what did you call me?"

Little Pip quickly corrected himself, "Daddy~"

"Say it again."

"Daddy~"

Hayden Crawford curled his thin lips and hugged little Pip tightly.

"Daddy, Mommy made us cookies early in the morning. These cookies are really good. Mommy, hurry up and give Daddy a piece to taste," little Pip innocently suggested.

Chapter 689: Serena's USB Drive

The suddenly mentioned Serena, "..."

Pip actually asked her to feed Hayden Crawford cookies!

Stella cheered happily, "Yes, yes, Mommy, this cookie is so good, you feed it to Daddy~"

Looking at the children's innocent smiles, Serena awkwardly stood in place. She couldn't bear to refuse the children, so she lifted her eyes to glance at Hayden Crawford, giving him a look.

Hayden naturally received her eye signal but pretended not to notice. Instead, he glanced down at the cookie and nodded, "This one looks delicious."

"Right, Daddy~" Stella laughed.

Serena, "..."

At this moment, Pip tilted his head in confusion, "Huh, Mommy, why haven't you fed Daddy the cookie yet?"

Sandwiched between the two, Serena, "..."

Serena could only extend her hand, take the cookie, and feed it to Hayden Crawford's sexy thin lips.

Hayden opened his mouth and took the cookie.

His slightly cool and pliant lips brushed against her soft white fingertips, startling Serena. She quickly withdrew her hand, her white earlobes blushing rapidly enough to be visibly seen.

Hayden watched her shy demeanor, like a tender red rose. How odd, he didn't usually like sweets. The only sweet he enjoyed was... her, but now he surprisingly found this cookie exceptionally tasty.

Just then, a maid came out respectfully, "Sir, breakfast is ready, you can eat breakfast now."

Serena felt a bit awkward staying here. She took off the floral apron she was wearing and looked at Hayden Crawford, "I have something to do, so I'll leave first..."

She was about to leave.

Hayden quickly pursed his lips, displeased, "Where are you going? Don't you even have time to stay and have breakfast with the kids?"

That wasn't her intention.

Wasn't he going to fight her for custody? She thought he wasn't welcoming her here.

Hayden truly regretted it now. It seemed like his tone was too harsh last night, making her hesitant now. She dared not take a step forward, and he, concerned about his pride, didn't want to be proactive, not wanting to indulge her too much, so the situation became somewhat deadlocked.

"Don't you want to see Caden Crawford? Last night Caden called me, he was very upset and asked why you haven't come to see him in these three years." Hayden brought up little Caden Crawford.

What?

Serena's bright eyes suddenly constricted, and her heart ached deeply. Her Caden, the one she least wanted to hurt, but she knew that the exposure of secrets would surely hurt Caden first.

"Where is Caden now? I need to see Caden right now." Serena said anxiously.

Seeing that she wasn't going to leave, Hayden's stern and displeased demeanor softened a bit, "Let's have breakfast first, and after that, we'll go see Caden Crawford together. It's better this way."

Serena could only nod, "Okay."

...

The family of four had breakfast together. Serena did not have much of an appetite; she was so worried about Caden, she wished she could fly to his side right now.

Seeing her anxious and worried look, Hayden's hardened heart slowly softened. The once young girl had become his children's mother, and in the future, they would face various issues concerning the children together, growing old hand in hand.

"I'm going up to get a document, wait for me here." Hayden instructed.

Serena nodded, "Then be quick."

Hayden went upstairs to the study.

Serena obediently stood in place waiting. Then, with a "ding," her phone rang; a text message came in.

It was... Melody Ashworth who sent it.

Melody Ashworth actually sent a text at this time, and Serena suddenly had a very bad premonition. She immediately opened the message.

The message was simple: Caden Crawford is with me, come alone!

There was also a photo attached below, a picture of little Caden Crawford, tied up by Melody Ashworth. His cool little face even bore some injuries.

Serena instantly gasped, Caden was in Melody Ashworth's hands.

Melody Ashworth wanted her to go alone.

Serena lifted her bright eyes and looked at the study upstairs, then turned around and ran straight out. She left.

She was going alone to save Caden!

When Hayden came out from the study, he didn't see Serena. The hall was empty, and he couldn't find her.

"Someone!" Hayden called out in a deep voice.

The maid quickly ran out, "Sir, do you have any orders?"

Hayden's face didn't look good now. His handsome face looked so angry it could drip water, "Where is Miss Sterling? Where did she go?"

The maid sensed the cold and stern aura emanating from him, too scared to make a sound, "Sir, Miss Sterling... she just left."

She left.

She left alone.

He had originally planned to take her to look for his son, but once again she left him, left their son, and walked away alone.

Hayden felt a surge of anger rising rapidly in his chest. He raised his foot and kicked over a chair.

With a crash, the chair was kicked open.

Hayden stood with one hand on his waist, his striking eyes filled with deep breaths, "Serena Sterling!" He really wanted to strangle this woman!

Just then, with a "ding dong," the villa's doorbell rang; someone was knocking at the door outside.

Who?

The maid, trembling with fear, ran to open the door. Outside stood a person.

Hayden quickly calmed his mood and was about to have someone bring Serena back. Meanwhile, a gentle and jade-like figure walked in from outside the door.

Hayden froze; this person was... Seth Sullivan.

Seth Sullivan came!

Hayden had been searching for Seth Sullivan these years, but Seth Sullivan was incredibly mysterious, his movements a mystery. Tales of him were legendary, yet without a trace of him. Hayden didn't expect Seth Sullivan to come to him willingly, just like this.

Today, Seth Sullivan wore white, his handsome features like a noble gentleman. Three years without meeting, his aura became even more pure, resembling a celestial being. The maid by the door was already stunned.

Hayden quickly drew a sinister and bloodthirsty arc with his thin lips, "Seth Sullivan, you finally showed up!"

Seth's clear black eyes looked at Hayden, revealing a faint smile, "Mr. Crawford, long time no see, hope you've been well."

Hayden snorted coldly, looking down at Seth with a sovereign aura, "Seth, you didn't come to chat with me today, did you?"

"Of course not. I came to give something to Mr. Crawford today." Seth's hand held a USB drive.

"What is this?"

"These are some videos Serena took in Alani, documenting every moment from pregnancy to childbirth. Before she fell into slumber, she mentioned that this USB drive was for you; she didn't want you to miss any moment with the children."

Chapter 690: Through the Brilliant Colors, She Still Can't Let You Go

Hayden Crawford looked at the small USB drive in Seth Sullivan's hand, his gaze froze. Had Serena Sterling recorded all the details from her pregnancy to childbirth to leave for him?

Also, coma?

Hayden Crawford quickly caught the keyword "coma." He furrowed his brow and looked at Seth Sullivan, "What coma?"

"Mr. Crawford, Serena never told you, right? She once fell into a coma."

"Why did she fall into a coma?"

"Because, in the blink of an eye, beauty fades."

Hearing those five words "in the blink of an eye, beauty fades" again, Hayden Crawford's pupils shrank violently. He had wondered how she had cured herself of this during those three years. But before she left him, she had told him clearly that she could cure it without him.

In the depths of Hayden Crawford's narrow eyes, a sharp and insightful light immediately surfaced. Obviously, she had deceived him.

In these three years, many things had happened to her that he didn't know about.

"Three years ago, Serena's situation was worse than you could imagine. To avoid burdening you, she lied, telling many lies. She said she was with me, that she was pregnant with my child. It was all to make you give up."

"Back then, by the riverside of the forbidden land, when Serena stabbed you, the knife just grazed your heart. Mr. Crawford, with her medical skills, do you think if she really wanted to kill you, she would have let you survive by mere millimeters?"

Hayden Crawford's large hands at his sides quickly clenched into fists. It turned out everything was fake. Those three years, he had been fixated on her and Seth Sullivan's affairs, all of it was fake.

"She... she returned to Alani, how did she cure 'in the blink of an eye, beauty fades'? Her mother would surely save her, she would." Hayden Crawford's words seemed to be comforting himself.

Seth Sullivan nodded, "When Serena returned to Alani, the condition hadn't yet invaded her heart. At that time, with Her Majesty the Queen's extraordinary medical skills, it was indeed possible to save Serena, to give her a new lease on life. However, Serena was already three months pregnant at the time. To cure 'in the blink of an eye, beauty fades,' the child had to be removed. Mother and child, only one could be chosen. It was either the mother or the child. This was the first choice Serena faced when she returned to Alani."

Hayden Crawford's heart quickly tightened. To choose the child or the mother, was that so? She had faced such a choice!

A layer of crimson quickly covered the corners of Hayden Crawford's long eyes. He looked at Seth Sullivan, "She... chose the child, didn't she?"

"Yes, Serena chose the child over herself. But despite this, with her health at the time, the condition slowly eroded her heart and bones. The once youthful and stunning girl rapidly aged, and even with the protection of Her Majesty's medical skills, those months of pregnancy were unbearably lonely and difficult. Later, Serena had premature labor and barely survived the delivery room to give birth to triplets. She gave some last words before her heart stopped and she stopped breathing."

Seth Sullivan looked at Hayden Crawford and slowly said, word by word, "Serena loved her children very much, but I always felt that she loved you more than the children. If it weren't for love, she couldn't have endured till the birth on her own. If it weren't for love, she wouldn't have easily given up her life. Hayden Crawford, Serena once died for you."

Hayden Crawford, Serena once died for you!

Now, that sentence echoed endlessly in Hayden Crawford's ears, leaving his mind blank. He even forgot to breathe.

He never imagined, and now dared not imagine, what she experienced after returning to Alani.

"At that time, when Serena's heart stopped, Her Majesty used the Golden Needle to seal her heart, preserving a breath of life for Serena. But from that day on, Serena fell into a long sleep until she awoke not long ago."

"The first thing Serena did after awakening, as Mr. Crawford might know, was return to the City of Aethelgard."

"Even though time has passed and the pages of life are colorful, you never faded from Serena's heart. Through life and death, a dream of three lifetimes, what she couldn't let go of was still you. She wanted to return and see you with her own eyes, to see the son she sent to your side from across the world to accompany you. You and your son are her biggest concern."

"Mr. Crawford, the USB drive is here for you to watch. None of us know what's inside, but Serena said it's for you."

After speaking, Seth Sullivan turned and left.

Seth Sullivan left.

The entire villa became so quiet, without a sound, and Hayden Crawford, with bloodshot eyes, looked at that small USB drive on the coffee table as if the whole world had quieted down.

Every word Seth Sullivan had said still resonated in his heart, leaving him shaken. He moved, then picked up the USB drive.

This USB drive recorded all the moments of her and the children. Hayden Crawford held the USB drive tightly in his hand and went upstairs.

He entered the study, inserted the USB drive into the computer, and soon the video began to play.

Hayden Crawford's long fingers pressed the buttons and hit "start."

It was in Alani, Serena Sterling's first prenatal checkup. The attending doctor was Seraphina Linden, who maneuvered the medical equipment over Serena's belly, "Wow, Serena, should I say your genes are too strong, or my son-in-law is too capable? You're having triplets!"

"Really?" Serena was very surprised.

"Of course, see for yourself."

The camera focused on the 4D ultrasound. Hayden Crawford saw Caden, Pip, and Stella in Serena's womb for the first time. They were so tiny, so tender, and fascinating as new lives.

The scene changed quickly. Serena appeared on camera, she was lying on a bed, her palm-sized face had become much thinner, with no makeup, clean and clear yet with a hint of sickly paleness. Her pure black hair hung over her shoulders. Her clear, bright eyes looked at the camera, her voice sweet and softly spoken, "Mr. Crawford, what are you doing right now?"

"I have some good news to tell you, I'm expecting triplets, we have three babies now, Mr. Crawford, congrats, you're going to be a daddy!"

The scene shifted again, Serena was now over four months pregnant, she placed her small hand on her belly, and at that moment, her belly moved, a little baby inside gave her a kick.

Serena appeared on camera once more, now over four months pregnant she was no longer as young. Many fine lines had appeared on her small face, suddenly making her look like she was in her thirties.

But her eyes still shone brightly and charmingly, she looked at the camera, her brows and eyes curved into a smile, "Hello Mr. Crawford, today I have good news and bad news to tell you, which do you want to hear?"