

## **Substitute B 951**

Chapter 951: Bought Him a Pair of Underwear

Justin Xavier opened the messages and went through them one by one. In just an hour, she had spent hundreds of thousands shopping.

Previously, she was reluctant to use his card, but now it seemed only right.

Justin Xavier curled his thin lips slowly, and he was very happy; she was his woman and ought to be pampered with his money.

It was rare for the personal secretary to see their president in such a good mood and couldn't help but ask, "President, do you have good news? You seem so happy!"

Justin Xavier reviewed a document, "Can't you tell I'm smiling bitterly?"

Bitter smile?

The personal secretary genuinely couldn't see it; the president looked gorgeous!

"I'm really smiling bitterly. At home, there's a spendthrift woman who spends money like water. Supporting her is quite pressuring; I guess I'll have to work harder to earn money in the future," Justin Xavier said while laughing and sighing.

Personal Secretary: Ehh~

...

At six o'clock in the afternoon, Justin Xavier got up on time to go home after work.

The villa's main door opened, and the maid respectfully said, "Sir, you're back?"

Justin Xavier acknowledged lightly. He glanced into the living room and didn't see her charming figure, "Where's Miss Thorne?"

"Miss Thorne is upstairs."

"Then I'll go find her." Justin Xavier started upstairs but quickly slowed his steps.

The maid curiously asked, "Sir, what's wrong?"

Justin Xavier put one hand in his pocket and tugged at his tie, his move a bit wild, his voice lowered, whispering, "Has Miss Thorne's mood improved?"

Maid, "..."

The maid suspected she was hearing things. Sir was using the cockiest tone to ask the wimpiest question; she was listening, thinking he was going to announce something big and mysterious!

The maid looked at Justin Xavier, meaning, "Sir, I can tell you're whipped by your wife."

Justin Xavier frowned, you're mistaken.

Maid, I've lived half my life, I can't be wrong.

Justin Xavier... cough, cough.

"Sir, Miss Thorne has been in a great mood since she returned from shopping." Congratulations, you can sleep back in the room tonight.

Justin Xavier raised his heroic brows, happily went upstairs, his steps a bit rushed, leaping two or three stairs at a time, and his tall, handsome figure quickly disappeared into the master bedroom.

...

In the master bedroom.

Justin Xavier pushed the door open and immediately saw Leah Thorne. Leah had bought quite a few things during her shopping spree today: lovely clothes, lovely bags, lovely shoes... now she was tidying them up in her dressing room.

She was in a great mood, humming a little tune, wearing a square-necked little black dress, accentuating her curves, her long, wavy hair cascading over her shoulders—such vibrant beauty, beyond words.

Justin Xavier walked over, reached out his strong arms, and hugged her from behind.

Ah!

Leah hadn't noticed him come in and was startled, yelping out loud.

Justin Xavier's thin lips landed forcefully on her earlobe, harshly teasing, "I haven't done anything yet; what are you screaming for?"

"..." Leah struggled a bit, "President Xavier, let me go, you're wrinkling my new clothes."

Justin Xavier held her tightly without letting go, "What's more important, the clothes or your man? Think carefully before answering this question. Who bought you those clothes, huh?"

Leah just felt this man was particularly practical. Rumors had it he was exceedingly generous to women, casually gifting villas and yachts, yet here he was fussing over buying a few clothes, and it wasn't easy spending his money.

"President Xavier, let me go first, I also bought you a gift today!"

Justin Xavier buried his handsome face in her long hair and smooth neck, rubbing around like a clingy puppy, "Using my money to buy me a gift, should I say thank you?"

"..." Leah forcefully pushed him away, then pinched something with her fingers, "President Xavier, this is for you."

Justin Xavier glanced at it—it was a pair of... underpants.

She said she bought him a gift, and it turned out she bought underpants.

She actually bought him underpants.

Leopard-print underpants, pretty... trendy.

Justin Xavier didn't know whether to laugh or cry, her taste never failed to disappoint.

"How much did you pay for this?"

"It was discounted at the mall, 99 bucks each. President Xavier, praise me, am I not a little money-saving genius?" Leah blinked her long lashes seeking a compliment.

"..." She spent so much money on herself and then 99 bucks on a discounted pair of leopard-print underpants for him. Justin Xavier curled his thin lips, genuinely praising, "Leah, you're the best."

"Aren't I?" Leah held the eye-catching leopard-print underpants and compared them on him, "I instantly had my eye on this pair of leopard-print underpants; they suit you so well. Wearing them, you'd be the trendiest, wildest cool boy on this street."

Justin Xavier let her measure, "What size underpants did you buy me?"

"XXL."

"You bought them too small. Leah, is this my size in your eyes?"

"..." Leah's enchanting eyes moved downwards, "You seem... to be this size..."

Justin Xavier reached out to grab her, "Come on, let's thoroughly discuss my size now."

"No!" Leah turned around and ran.

Justin Xavier chased her, and they playfully ended up in the study. Justin Xavier stretched his strong arm to wrap around her slender waist, and they both fell back onto the sofa.

Justin Xavier had slept on the sofa last night; the maid wasn't sure if he could return to his room tonight, so his quilt and pillow were still lying on the sofa and hadn't been put away, and now the two of them had fallen into it.

"President Xavier, let me go," Leah struggled in his arms.

"You're being so naughty, I'll have to properly punish you," said Justin Xavier as he turned her around, putting her small hands on the sofa, kneeling there.

This posture...

Leah's little face reddened; she always felt that her theoretical knowledge was quite rich, but in front of this man, he could always open new Chapters for her.

Leah uneasily moved, and then "slap" a sound landed on her butt.

Justin Xavier slapped her.

Hiss.

It really hurt.

He was really hitting her, Leah felt the place where she was hit burned with pain, her seductive eyes immediately filled with a layer of glistening tears, "Justin Xavier, are you a pervert? Let me go, I'm not playing with you anymore!"

Justin Xavier's eye corners tinged with a bit of red, his kiss fell on Leah's small cheek, "You just spent my money, and now you won't play, Leah, you really have no professional ethics."

"Pah." Leah cursed at him in anger, "This is violence, playing S&M, which requires extra money!"

"How much more, you decide, however you play, you listen to me," he said in a deep, husky voice.

Leah was a bit frightened; his lecherous look was unmatched.

At this moment, the maid's voice came from outside the door, "Sir, Miss Thorne, Old Master Xavier is here!"

Chapter 952: I'm Greedy—I Want Both Power and Beauty

Old Master Xavier is here!

Leah Thorne shivered and immediately broke free from him. "President Xavier, your grandfather is here. If you dare to bully me again, I'll tell your grandfather, and let him deal with you!"

She said with a huff.

Justin Xavier didn't say anything, but he licked his dry, thin lips, displaying his disappointment. He glanced at Leah Thorne, "If you complain, my grandfather won't deal with me. He'll just deal with you."

"Why?"

"Because you little enchantress are always clinging to me, driving me crazy."

"Oh," Leah nodded, "It seems your grandfather truly loves you."

Leah got up to leave.

But Justin grabbed her slender wrist with a gentle pull, bringing her directly onto his firm thigh.

At this moment, footsteps came gradually from outside the door, "Where is Justin? I need to see Justin right now."

"Old Master Xavier, let me inform him first. It's not right to storm in like this."

"Hmph, I am Justin's real grandfather. Do I need to be announced to visit my own grandson? What a joke!"

Old Master Xavier was right outside the door, Leah felt a bit panicked. She didn't want to see any Xavier family members now. She coquettishly shot a glance at Justin, "President Xavier, if you don't let go of me now, your grandfather really will teach me a lesson."

"If you go out like this, you'll run straight into him. Don't worry, I won't let anyone teach you a lesson, except me." Justin granted himself this privilege.

Leah, "..."

The next second, Justin picked Leah up horizontally. With Old Master Xavier right outside, the only solution was to hide Leah. Justin reached out and tucked Leah into a small corner under his desk, then sat in his office chair.

With a "click," the study door was pushed open, and Old Master Xavier walked in.

The maid looked at Justin with difficulty, "Sir, this..."

Justin waved, "It's fine, you can leave."

The maid quickly withdrew.

Old Master Xavier came in, quite discontented, "Justin, I called you last night, and you didn't answer. Now I want to see you, and it's this hard?"

Leah was forced to crouch in this small corner. In front of her were Justin's impressive long legs, leading up from his sharply tailored trousers to an expensive black belt around his trim waist, and further up to his handsome yet infuriating face. Leah glared at him harshly.

Justin looked down at Leah by his leg, her glaring face resembling a cute, fierce kitten.

"Heh." A low chuckle rolled from Justin's throat.

Old Master Xavier, already angry, suddenly saw Justin smiling. He actually smiled.

This was outright contempt for him!

"Justin, what's so funny?"

Justin quickly composed himself, speaking seriously, "Grandfather, did I laugh? I wasn't laughing."

"..." Old Master Xavier was left speechless, "Where is Leah Thorne?"

"She's not here." Justin lied blatantly.

Old Master Xavier snorted when he suddenly saw the pillow and blanket on the sofa, his face changed, "What is this, Justin? Did you sleep in the study last night?"

Justin nodded, "Yes, I said a few harsh words to Leah last night, she got angry and kicked me out, so I slept in the study."

"You! You, you!" Old Master Xavier looked at Justin in shock, trembling all over, "Justin, are you... insane? Are you really indulging Leah so much, I think she's practically sitting on your head now!"

Old Master Xavier always thought Justin was the most like the Xavier family, but no one in the Xavier family had ever been so infatuated.

Hearing this scolding, Justin looked down again at Leah by his leg. She was indeed on his head now.

But he liked it.

"Grandfather, what's the matter you came to discuss with me? You already know, Leah and I are living together now. Between us, there's no need for your interference." Justin said as his thin lips slightly curled.

Old Master Xavier felt his grandson was truly out of control. He stomped his cane heavily on the ground, "Justin, have you forgotten my warning? Between the empire and the beauty, you can only choose one."

The choice between empire and beauty...

Leah raised her enchanting eyes to look at him.

Justin's handsome face remained calm as he drew a slight curve with his thin lips, "Grandfather, you really are old, even the news you receive is outdated."

What does that mean?

Old Master Xavier stiffened, feeling a very bad premonition.

At this moment, the study door was pushed open, and the butler rushed in, "Sir, something's gone wrong!"

"What happened?"

"We just got news that all the people we placed on the board have been uprooted by the young master. Now the core team in the company is all on his side. At today's shareholders' meeting, all the shareholders unanimously voted for your removal. This means Xavier Corp now has nothing to do with you."

What?

Old Master Xavier's breath halted. He feared the day Justin would break free of his control, so he never let go and even planted his own spies.

But now Justin had cut all his lines, directly pushing him out. Remembering how Justin had silently but with airtight precision taken charge with an iron fist recently, Old Master Xavier felt both heart-stopping and trembling.

"Justin, you..."

Justin leaned his handsome back lazily into the chair, speaking nonchalantly, "Grandfather, you always wanted me to choose between the empire and the beauty. I can give you the answer now: I'm a very greedy person. I want both the empire and the beauty."

"You!" Old Master Xavier staggered back a few steps, lucky the butler caught him.

Leah watched Justin in this moment, never denying the allure of Justin as a man. Such a handsome, powerful man capable of overturning everything had protected her for a whole decade. It was hard not to be moved.

Apart from him, no other man had entered her eyes.

As Justin looked down, he saw Leah staring at him, eyes full of tears. Such a look... he hadn't seen in years.

Justin couldn't resist reaching out to pinch her small face.

This time Leah didn't resist, she softly nuzzled her small face into his palm, affectionately snuggling.

At this moment, Old Master Xavier's voice came through, "Justin, don't be bewitched by Leah. These years she kept rejecting you, but recently she suddenly stopped resisting and started subtly seducing you. Haven't you been suspicious?"

Leah felt Justin's fingers suddenly pause.

Chapter 953: Cooperate, or Suffer the Consequences!

Leah Thorne knew that a wise and alert man like Justin Xavier must have already become suspicious.

"Some time ago, Leah met an old acquaintance of the Thorne family. This acquaintance said a lot of bizarre things; she actually told Leah that the Thorne family was innocent and said that back then, it was your father who had unrequited desires and intentions toward Leah's mother. That spectacle of catching in the act was merely your father's scheme, that he drugged Leah's mother, and that Leah's parents' car accident was also orchestrated. The mastermind was also the Xavier family, and even Leah's brother, once the notorious little overlord of the entire city, Mort Thorne, was killed at the hands of your family. It was all due to the Xavier

family... Leah actually believed these absurd claims. Once on the phone, she told me that between her and the Xavier family, it would be relentless hatred."

"What followed, Justin, you also know. Leah began actively showing goodwill, actively approaching you. Justin, wake up. Leah doesn't love you at all. This time she approached you only to use you, to use you to bring down the entire Xavier family. Myself, your father, your mother, and even you are her targets!"

Leah almost laughed. Old Master Xavier spoke with such passion and emotion, narrating the tale of pity and grievance as if these were all slanders, as if the Xavier family were innocent and had never stained their hands with the blood of Thorne family members.

Fraud, greed, hypocrisy, insidiousness, these were the qualities inherent to the Xavier family.

Leah lifted her gaze, meeting Justin Xavier's eyes calmly.

Justin's expression was unreadable, or perhaps he showed no expression at all. He glanced at Leah mildly, "Grandfather, I understand, it's already very late. I'll have someone take you back to rest."

"Justin, I've said all I have to say; think it over yourself." Old Master Xavier turned and left.

...

On the lawn, the butler respectfully opened the back car door and worriedly said, "Old Master, I think the young master is truly bewitched by Miss Thorne. Do you think your words will have any effect?"

Old Master Xavier's murky yet shrewd eyes brimmed with an inscrutable smile. Instead of answering, he asked, "How much of what I said do you think Justin believed?"

The butler stiffened, "Old Master, what do you mean?"

...

In the study, after Old Master Xavier left, Leah quickly crawled out and tidied up her dress.

At that moment, a deep magnetic voice of a man reached her ears, "Leah, do you have something you want to say to me?"

Leah turned to the side, seeing Justin Xavier slowly rotating his office chair. His cold black eyes fell upon her small face.

Leah raised her hand, tucking a lock of hair behind her ear, "Your grandfather was right, this time I came to your side to seek revenge."

"Revenge?" Justin chuckled lightly, a teasing smile forming, "You think you can?"

"No, with your help."

Leah didn't want to deceive him. By clarifying everything now, she was using him, and he could enjoy her beauty and body; no one owed the other.

As for who would ultimately win, it would depend on their abilities.

"Heh." Justin let out a low laugh from his throat, "To what extent do you want revenge?"

Leah shook her head, "I don't know either... It depends on how much you like me."

Justin remained silent, and the study fell into an oppressive silence, making it hard to breathe.

After a long time, Justin spoke, "Let's go have dinner first."

...

After dinner, Leah returned to her room, took a hot bath, and went to bed. Justin hadn't returned; he was working in the study.

Leah began to have nightmares again. Soon, she frowned, feeling as if a heavy stone was pressing on her chest, leaving her breathless.

It was so uncomfortable.

Her densely-lashed eyelids quivered restlessly, and Leah quickly opened her bright eyes.

In the next second, an extremely handsome face loomed large in her vision.

Justin Xavier.

Leah went blank, stunned for a few seconds. She didn't know when he had returned.

He had taken a shower. He wore a black silk pajama robe, with his cropped short hair still wet with droplets, likely too lazy to towel dry. The belt of his robe was loosely tied, revealing his broad chest, exuding an air of wicked temptation.

He was kissing her.

There was nothing gentle in his kiss. After a while, he even bit her tender lips, tormenting them.

Leah felt pain and discomfort, truly uncomfortable. She lifted her soft white hands against his firm chest, trying to push him away.

Then Justin opened his dark eyes slightly, looking down at her, "Awake?"

"Justin, let me go!"

"I'm not in a good mood tonight. You better cooperate, or there will be consequences!"

His words were clear, carrying a warning. Leah wanted to speak, but his overwhelming kisses descended upon her again.

Justin closed his eyes; he found it strange too, that he sought to vent on her when in a bad mood. Her body, wrapped in a soft nightgown, was like an addictive allure easily making him addicted.

Unable to control himself for a moment, Justin bit the tip of her tongue.

Hiss.

Leah gasped at the sharp pain, her body instinctively curling up from the hurt.

"Mm~ umm!"

Leah pounded on him hard.

Justin snapped back, releasing her swollen lips. The girl beneath him was a pitiful sight, with her long hair tangled against her soft face and creamy white neck, her small mouth red and bloodied.

Justin lowered his brows, suppressing his hostility; he admitted his emotions were slightly out of control.

He held her down with one hand while his other hand reached under the pillow, retrieving the small item and then pushing her dress up.

Leah's eyes widened in fear, feeling his determination tonight. She tried to cover her dress.

"What are you doing?" Justin knitted his strong brows, then smacked her small face lightly with his large hand, "My patience is limited too. You can't play me for a fool."

Leah's creamy face bore red marks from his smacks as she closed her eyes, calmly saying, "Not today... Can we do it another day? It's that time of the month for me."

Justin paused, his handsome face already full of displeasure.

Leah wanted to get up, but Justin quickly pushed her back down, his rough thumb grazing her swollen lips, staring at her with a deep fiery gaze.

Leah's heart skipped a beat; she immediately refused, "No..."

Justin undid his belt, his lips curling mischievously, "You said yourself, let's see if you're better than Davina Rowe."

Chapter 954: A Single Red Rose

Justin Xavier stood on the balcony, a slender finger holding a cigarette between his lips.

In fact, he had already smoked several cigarettes, with the ashtray beside him filled with cigarette butts. Slowly exhaling a mouthful of smoke, he could still hear the retching sounds from the bathroom.

Leah Thorne had been inside throwing up for a long time, and it was quite severe, vomit after vomit.

Justin Xavier tossed the half-smoked cigarette into the ashtray, then turned and strode over to the bathroom door, placing a large hand on the doorknob intending to open it, but it was already locked from the inside.

"Leah Thorne, open the door!" he said, frowning with displeasure.

There was no sound from inside.

"Leah Thorne, did you hear me? Open the door quickly, or I'll kick it down!" He had lost all patience.

Still no response from inside.

The passion and indulgence from earlier had dissipated overnight, and Justin Xavier admitted he had some regrets — he had gone too far.

She had been inside for a long time, throwing up like there was no tomorrow.

Justin lifted his foot, ready to kick the door down.

But in the next second, with a "click," the bathroom door opened, and Leah Thorne appeared in view.

Leah's face was as pale as paper, having washed it with cold water earlier, her damp hair clinging to her cheeks. Her lips were red and swollen, with bite marks where he had bitten her. She had been tormented miserably by him.

Justin Xavier's heart twisted painfully, "Does it feel that bad?"

He raised a hand to caress her delicate face.

Leah didn't avoid him. She looked at him coldly and clearly, "What's up, President Xavier, want to go another round?"

Justin's fingers froze in mid-air.

After a few seconds of dead silence, he withdrew his hand, "What a killjoy!"

With that, he turned away in anger, grabbed his coat, and slammed the door as he left.

Leah stood still, hearing the maid's voice downstairs, "Sir, it's so late, are you going out?"

Bang.

The villa's front door slammed shut, echoing loudly, and Justin Xavier drove off.

Leah felt a bit tired. She took a hot shower and then went to bed for some sleep.

...

In the days that followed, Justin Xavier didn't return, and Leah didn't reach out to him either. She returned to the crew to continue filming.

During a break at the set, Madame Goldie approached Leah and whispered, "Leah, Doctor Lucy just sent a message saying Mrs. Xavier has reached out to her, offering a hefty sum to find out what happened to you the year you were 18 abroad."

"Leah, it seems Mrs. Xavier has been investigating you for some time. She's already found out about your hospital visit when you were 18."

Leah was reading the script and didn't look up, only curling her red lips slightly. Doctor Lucy was the one who performed her abortion and diagnosed her with infertility afterward.

Laura Xavier had certainly acted quickly, having already found Doctor Lucy. However, patient records are protected private information and cannot be publicly disclosed.

"Leah, what should we do now? I fear we can't keep this matter under wraps," Madame Goldie said worriedly.

"Keep it under wraps? Why should we?" Leah raised her eyes to look at Madame Goldie.

Madame Goldie was taken aback, "Leah, you mean?"

"Back then, Doctor Lucy took care of me when I was young. I never repaid her all these years. Tell Doctor Lucy to accept the hefty sum from Mrs. Xavier, as a form of reciprocation from me."

"Leah, you want Mrs. Xavier to find out about your abortion and infertility?" Madame Goldie asked tentatively.

Leah's gaze returned to the script, "Just let Doctor Lucy tell Mrs. Xavier about my infertility. Once she knows this, she'll probably be overjoyed."

Madame Goldie was a bit puzzled, "And the abortion?"

"As for the abortion, I'll tell Justin Xavier when the time is right."

Madame Goldie's anxious heart finally settled. The Thorne family and the Xavier family were doomed to a deadlock, and now the battle had begun. Leah was taking back her initiative.

Madame Goldie couldn't help but wonder, if Justin Xavier knew that Leah Thorne was infertile and had had an abortion, how would he react?

He never knew that 18-year-old Leah Thorne once carried his child.

It was his first child.

...

The filming of "Fusheng" was going smoothly, Leah's talent in acting once again leaving people amazed. In the evening, Leah returned to her room to rest.

Madame Goldie brought in a bowl of bird's nest soup, waiting until Leah fell asleep before leaving.

Just as she closed the door, the sound of steady footsteps echoed from the corridor ahead. Raising her head, Madame Goldie saw Justin Xavier approaching.

After the unpleasant incident, Justin had flown off on a business trip and had just returned from the airport. In the dead of night, he wore a long black down coat, a custom-made black suit underneath, exuding a cold, elite, and powerful presence.

"President... President Xavier, what brings you here?" Madame Goldie stammered.

Justin glanced at Leah's bedroom door, "She's asleep?"

"Yes, she just fell asleep. I'm not sure why, but Leah hasn't had much appetite these days. She feels nauseous at the smell of soup and stew. I just managed to get her to eat half a bowl of bird's nest soup." Madame Goldie said.

Madame Goldie didn't know why Leah had no appetite, but Justin Xavier knew. That night, he had forced her to please him, not expecting her reaction to be so severe.

"I see," Justin responded lightly, then pushed open Leah's door and went inside.

Hey, President Xavier!

Madame Goldie wanted to stop him, but the private secretary intercepted her, "Our President hasn't slept for days. The moment he returned, he came straight to Miss Thorne's place. No one is allowed to disturb them."

Madame Goldie, "..."

...

Justin Xavier entered the room.

The room was lit by a table lamp, warm and cozy.

A refreshing scent filled the air, the fragrance of a young girl, exceptionally aromatic, permeating the entire room.

Justin Xavier, having rushed back through wind and rain, paused slightly as he stepped into the room, a string in his heart strummed. It was as if this place was isolated from the outside world, soft and fragrant.

He raised his eyes, spotting the small figure curled up on the bed. Leah Thorne lay beneath the silk quilt, already asleep.

After glancing several times, Justin pushed open the bathroom door to take a shower.

A few minutes later, he emerged in a white bathrobe and approached the bed.

Justin Xavier lowered his handsome eyes to look at the figure on the bed, her long curls cascading over the white pillow, revealing half of her gentle face.

A tiny, beautiful widow's peak, lashes like small brushes, and cat-like alluring eyes now obediently closed. Her red lips, milky white skin, and dark brown hair created a color collision that made his pupils contract.

Justin lifted his hand, his fingertip landing on her small face, caressing it gently.

In her sleep, Leah moved, avoiding his finger, burying her small face deeper into the quilt.

Justin couldn't help but chuckle. In his hand, there was now an item — a red rose with crystal dewdrops, a token of atonement brought from miles away.

## Chapter 955: Justin, Leah Thorne Can't Have Children!

Justin Xavier gently placed the red rose on her pillow, his tall, handsome figure bent down, with a large hand stroking her head and a soft smile on his thin lips as he landed a kiss on her cheek, saying, "Leah, I'm sorry, don't be angry, I'm apologizing to you..."

Alright, he conceded.

Each time they argued and entered a cold war, he was always the first to bow his head.

Of course, each time it was also him who angered her.

Leah Thorne did not open her eyes, nor did she respond to him, seeming as though she was already asleep.

Justin Xavier lifted the quilt and lay down beside her, then extended a strong arm and tightly embraced her shapely body into his arms, closing his eyes.

He hadn't closed his eyes for several days, not daring to do so, not daring to stop himself, because he would think of her, his mind filled with her.

The matter between the Xavier and Thorne families was not worth investigating; his hatred was deeply rooted.

The Old Master Xavier said she came for revenge, merely using him. She was straightforward, candidly admitting it, and he felt he shouldn't indulge her, but he kept retreating again and again.

Always helpless against her.

...

The following morning, Leah Thorne opened her eyes; Justin Xavier was already gone.

The quilt was warm, still lingering with his warm masculine body heat, a warmth Leah found alluring, and she lazily curled into the quilt.

The red rose was still on her pillow, still vibrant and fragrant after a night.

She had actually woken up last night but just chose to ignore him.

Leah Thorne closed her eyes, planning to sleep a little more.

Just then, a string of gentle cell phone ringing started, a call was coming in.

Leah Thorne picked up the phone—it was Laura Xavier calling.

Laura Xavier's call came unexpectedly fast; she should know by now about her inability to conceive.

Leah pressed the button to connect, Laura's voice swiftly coming through, "Hello, Leah, do you have time tonight? You and Justin come to the Xavier family mansion, have dinner with us."

Leah curled her lips into a smile, "Mrs. Xavier, has the sun risen from the west today? Your 180-degree attitude shift makes me reasonably suspect you're inviting me to a banquet with hidden motives tonight."

"Leah, I suddenly came to terms with it; I only have one son, Justin, and he's so fond of you now, even living with you. I don't want to damage the mother-son relationship over you, come home for dinner tonight—we'll meet and talk, alright?"

"Alright, since Mrs. Xavier has extended such a kind invitation, I will certainly attend punctually." With that, Leah hung up the phone.

Leah got up, first going to the set to film, and later Madame Goldie drove her to the Xavier family mansion.

Right then, another string of gentle cell phone ringing began, another call coming in.

Leah glanced at the phone—it was Justin Xavier calling.

She didn't answer, directly cutting off the call.

"Leah, why didn't you answer the President's call?" Madame Goldie asked.

Leah showed little expression, "His mother and I each have our plans, and I don't want to give him any hope being caught in between."

...

Leah arrived at the Xavier family mansion; the Old Master Xavier and Laura unexpectedly showed her great courtesy, and the maid was indeed in the kitchen preparing a sumptuous dinner; everything seemed peaceful.

Soon, the door to the mansion opened, and Justin Xavier returned.

"Justin, you're back?" Laura smiled lovingly.

The maid changed Justin Xavier's shoes, and he walked inside; he glanced at Laura, then walked directly to Leah's side, asking quietly, "Why didn't you answer my call?"

Leah looked at him, "Didn't hear..."

Justin Xavier extended his large hand and squeezed her soft little hand in his palm forcefully as a form of punishment.

Laura felt disregarded. The son she'd raised now only had eyes for another girl, this girl being one she deeply disliked; she seethed, clenching her teeth.

But thinking of the upcoming drama, Laura's mood mysteriously improved; she decided to endure for the time being.

Then the Old Master Xavier spoke up, "Now that Justin is back and the dinner is ready, let's eat."

The four of them went to the dining room and began eating.

Laura suddenly said, "By the way, Leah, I went abroad a while ago and, feeling unwell, visited a local hospital where I encountered a Doctor Lucy. Leah, you're old acquaintances with Doctor Lucy, right?"

Leah knew Laura was eager to address the main issue; she nodded, "Yes, I left the Xavier family when I was 18, and I once consulted Doctor Lucy regarding health issues."

At mentioning the year she was 18, Justin Xavier paused briefly in cutting his steak, but soon resumed as usual, elegantly cutting the steak into small pieces, then shifted it to Leah Thorne's hand side, asking quietly, "Why see a doctor?"

Leah shot a charming glance at the man, "What do you think?"

Justin Xavier's Adam's apple bobbed slightly; in numerous nights following, he'd repeatedly recalled every detail of what happened that evening; she was so young then, seemingly...bled heavily.

At that time, he'd slapped her, pushing her into the abyss; she left with a suitcase, while he stood on the second floor watching her. She wore a dress, with a flow of red and white things between her thin legs...

"Leah, what a coincidence, Doctor Lucy happened to be here on a business trip, so I invited Doctor Lucy over." Laura smiled.

Leah had come tonight to play her part; she curled her lips into a smile, "Oh, really?"

"Of course, bring Doctor Lucy..."

Before Laura completed her sentence, there was a "clang," as Justin Xavier heavily threw the knife and fork onto the plate, causing a loud noise.

The entire dining room instantaneously quieted down, Laura stiffened.

Justin Xavier gently lifted his handsome eyelids to glance at Laura across the table, "Mom, if you want to say something, just say it directly; do it while I'm still patient enough to listen."

Laura had orchestrated tonight's events meticulously, intending to reclaim control and deliver a blow to Leah, but now Justin Xavier abruptly interrupted her rhythm, leaving her face pale.

The maid approached, exchanging new knife and fork for Justin Xavier; he turned to look at Leah beside him, "Leah, if my mom won't say it, why don't you?"

"If neither of you speaks, then we'll leave—this dinner is too hard for the heart to digest, I didn't rush back from the office just to watch your theatrical play."

Tonight Leigh and Laura each had their calculations, but Justin Xavier was incredibly astute, never a mere spectator, having long since discerned the facade.

Being caught between his mother and his woman, or the intrigue of the women themselves, all left him annoyed. Plenty of work awaited him back at the office; he was very busy.

"Justin, then let me tell you bluntly, Leah can't have children!"

Chapter 956: Justin Xavier, Will You Marry Me?

Justin, Leah Thorne can't conceive anymore!

Upon hearing this, Justin Xavier's handsome brow twitched, "What did you say?"

"Justin, you heard right, I've already looked into it, Doctor Lucy said it herself. Leah's uterine lining is thin, she doesn't have the ability to conceive; she simply can't get pregnant!" Laura Xavier said, her eyes sparkling with excitement.

Justin Xavier turned his head, his deep gaze landing on Leah's tranquil face, "Is this true?"

Leah ate a small piece of steak, it was a bit cold, and she nodded gently, "It's true."

"Nonsense!" Old Master Xavier slammed the table, making his entrance, "Justin, you are the Xavier family's only male heir. Among the three unfilial acts, having no descendants is the worst. The responsibility of carrying on the family line falls on you, and a woman who can't conceive is a fatal flaw. Justin, break up with Leah quickly, don't remain stubborn."

Justin Xavier's expression remained calm, he wiped the corner of his lips with a napkin and spoke indifferently, "Are you finished?"

Old Master Xavier and Laura were taken aback, they had built up to this crucial revelation - a woman unable to conceive was a huge issue, and they believed once Justin knew this, he would surely disdain Leah.

Yet Justin's nonchalant attitude shocked them; did he even listen to what they were saying?

Justin Xavier glanced at Old Master Xavier and Laura, his thin lips forming a subtle curve, "Grandpa, Mom, whether Leah can get pregnant or not isn't the issue, because I never intended to have children. I won't have children in this lifetime."

What?

Old Master Xavier and Laura were stunned, "Justin, are you... crazy? How can you have such a terrifying idea?"

Justin Xavier let out a low laugh, mocking himself, "I think our Xavier family genes aren't so precious that they must be inherited, let's not burden the next generation."

"You! You ungrateful child!" Old Master Xavier cursed furiously.

At this moment, Justin Xavier reached out to take Leah's knife and fork, then held her small hand, "The steak is cold, don't eat it, let's go back."

Justin Xavier led her out in large strides.

...

Justin Xavier brought Leah back to the suite within the film crew's premises. Inside the room, he tugged at his tie, "Leah, I'm going to take a shower first. Afterwards, I need to head to the office, you should rest."

After explaining, he walked into the bathroom.

Leah sat on the edge of the bed when her phone rang.

It was Laura calling.

Leah pressed the button to answer, and Laura's venomous voice quickly transmitted through, "Leah, I originally planned to use your infertility issue as a blow against you, but unexpectedly, Justin didn't care at all, huh, do you think you've won?"

Leah said nothing.

"You're wrong, Leah. You didn't win at all; Justin doesn't care whether you can have children or not. Do you understand what I mean? If a man doesn't care about you bearing his children, there's only one possibility: he never planned on having children with you," Laura twistedly laughed.

Leah's expression remained indifferent; in fact, she'd already considered this question.

"Leah, now that you have Justin completely smitten, aren't you particularly proud? Have you ever wondered what you truly mean to Justin?"

"Justin is a normal man; you're so beautiful and the daughter of the rival Thorne family. Wanting you is normal, but Justin won't marry you."

"To Justin, you might merely be a mistress, serving him with beauty. As time passes, beauty fades; Justin will eventually tire of you. Justin never intended to have children with you, nor planned to marry you. He can give you boundless love but not a legitimate status or a child."

"Leah, I really pity you. Your dad, mom, and brother are all dead, you're infertile yourself, destined for a lonely life, forever an unwanted... orphan," ending the call abruptly.

Listening to the "beep beep" from the other end, Leah paused for a few seconds before putting down the phone.

This was when the bathroom door opened with a "click," and Justin Xavier walked out, surrounded by a fresh scent of his shower.

"What are you thinking?" Justin Xavier casually dried the water droplets from his hair and swiftly walked toward Leah.

Leah looked up at him, "I can't conceive, do you truly not mind?"

Justin Xavier knelt on one knee, holding her cold hand, "I've said it, this isn't an issue because I'm not planning on having children."

"Is that so?" Leah curved her lips, smiled, "You don't plan on having children, or you don't want to have children with me?"

Justin Xavier furrowed his handsome brows, "What's the difference?"

"Of course there's a difference, Justin Xavier, I'm asking you, have you ever thought about making me pregnant and having children with me?"

She was persistent about this question, seeking an answer.

Justin Xavier narrowed his eyes slightly and nodded, "No, I've never thought about having children with you, is that enough?"

With that, he stood up, "I'm off to the company, sleep early."

"Justin Xavier," she softly called his name.

Justin Xavier halted his steps, turned to look at her, "Anything else?"

Leah's dark eyes settled on his handsome face, "Justin Xavier, if I said I want to get married, I want to marry you, would you kneel now and propose with a diamond ring?"

Justin Xavier froze, his gaze like an unfolding night, staring at her.

Leah asked again, "Will you marry me?"

The room fell silent; after a few seconds, Justin Xavier shook his head, "No."

He won't marry her.

Nor did he plan on having children with her.

These were truths Justin Xavier felt no need to lie about.

Leah pulled her gaze back, "Oh, I see, you can leave."

"Leah, what's wrong? Isn't our current relationship good? Children and marriage... shouldn't be topics for us, you're so smart, don't make me see this uninteresting side of you," Justin Xavier said emotionlessly.

Leah felt Justin was clearer than her; the daughter of the Thorne family could be kept as a mistress, but wouldn't become his Mrs. Xavier nor bear his children.

He says he doesn't plan on having children now, but who knows in the future? With his identity, power, and status, lack of children is the least of his worries.

Leah stood up, came before Justin Xavier, she tiptoed, leaned into his handsome cheek and planted a kiss, her charming face now adorned with a captivating smile, her voice sweetly coy, "Got it, President Xavier, just joking with you, why do you take it so seriously~"

Chapter 957: The Boy and Girl Standing in the Rain

Although she was smiling, the smile did not reach her eyes, making Justin Xavier find it unbearably glaring.

"President Xavier, don't work too late, and drive carefully on the road. I'm going to take a shower now." Leah Thorne walked towards the bathroom.

Justin Xavier immediately extended his large hand and grabbed her slender wrist.

"What's wrong, President Xavier?" Leah fluttered her lashes and asked him.

"Is your inability to conceive related to me? When you left, it seemed... like you were hurt badly." Justin Xavier lowered his voice.

Leah's refined brows and eyes were relaxed and lazy, "President Xavier still remembers, huh? I had just celebrated my 18th birthday back then... I was indeed hurt badly, lost quite a lot of blood, and had over ten stitches. I recall when Dr. Lucy asked why my boyfriend wasn't there, I said I didn't have a boyfriend, and those nurses looked at me with disdainful and strange gazes. I endured the pain to climb off the bed to pay the fees, and a man ran over asking me, little sister, how much are you selling for..."

Justin Xavier's fingers tightened subconsciously around her delicate wrist.

Hiss.

Leah immediately let out a painful hum and glanced coquetishly at him, "President Xavier, you're hurting me."

Justin Xavier quickly released his grip.

His throat dry and parched, he moved his thin lips several times before making a sound, "Leah, I..."

"President Xavier, there's no need for apologies. When I was at my most difficult, you didn't come looking for me, you were absent, so there's no need to mention it later." Saying this, Leah turned around and entered the bathroom.

...

Justin Xavier was driving on the road, heading to the company.

He had been in a meeting at the office when his mom called asking him to come to the Xavier family mansion for dinner, but he refused without thinking, wanting to hang up. But his mom said Leah Thorne had already arrived.

He immediately dropped his work and rushed to the mansion, driving his car swiftly along the way because he feared she would be bullied.

He didn't know beforehand that she couldn't conceive, and he hadn't planned on having children with her.

Their journey together had been full of ups and downs; they had just come together and hadn't enjoyed any sweet couple's time yet. He didn't want any third party to interfere, including a child.

He had raised her, calling her sister was possible, calling her daughter was also possible; in his eyes, she was still so small. He had pampered her so much, how could she have children?

He hadn't thought about marrying her either; she was the Thorne family's daughter, and he couldn't give her marriage and a title, which was the bottom line—no more retreat.

Regarding her leaving at 18, he indeed didn't go looking for her.

He had cared for her for so many years; it was the first time he truly missed being in her life.

It's not that he didn't want to find her; countless times he had the impulse to seek her out, but his legs felt like they weighed a thousand pounds, not daring.

He truly didn't dare.

Didn't dare to have anyone inquire about her whereabouts, didn't dare to hear her name anymore.

Later, he found Madame Goldie, who brought her back.

The time she was gone was a blank space in his life; he didn't know what had happened to her.

Slowly, Justin Xavier parked the luxury car, on the bustling streets, the city's neon lights at night spilled through the car window onto his handsome, jade-like features, and he suddenly stopped, taking out a cigarette, quietly lighting it.

In the lingering bluish smoke, he furrowed his eyebrows tightly, feeling guilty...

No matter how sinful the Thorne family is, she was just an innocent little girl, whom he pushed into the abyss with his own hands.

Day after day, the torment and desire in his heart could no longer be suppressed, so he took possession of her under the guise of hatred.

From that day on, he understood profoundly that he had ultimately lost that girl, the girl whose eyes used to be full of him.

Stopped in his tracks, because of one person, fearing an entire city.

He truly didn't dare.

At this moment, the phone ringtone sounded, a call came.

Justin Xavier pressed the button to answer, the voice of his private secretary came through, "Hello, CEO, Elder Ford has arrived. When will you be back?"

Justin Xavier silently extinguished the half-burned cigarette, "I'll be there shortly."

...

Leah Thorne left the film crew to shoot a series of New Year fashion photos; her fashion and business resources have always been top-ranked in the entertainment circle.

The shoot went smoothly, Madame Goldie went to retrieve the car from the garage and instructed with concern, "Leah, I'll go get the car, wait here for me, don't wander off."

Leah nodded, "No worries, I'm not a three-year-old child."

Madame Goldie looked at Leah's charming and radiant face, finally understanding the man's worry, Justin Xavier. The woman was too beautiful, taking her out wasn't safe.

Madame Goldie left.

Leah stood obediently in place waiting, when raindrops began falling onto her small face. She glanced up; it was raining.

It actually started raining.

Leah stretched out her small hand to catch the cool raindrops.

In the next second, a black umbrella was suspended over her head, shielding her from the wind and rain.

Who?

Leah turned and saw a young, handsome boy in front of her.

"Leah, do you remember me?"

Leah looked at the person in front of her and asked in confusion, "You are?"

"Leah, this is for you. So many years have passed, do you still like dolls?"

Leah looked at the doll in her palm, suddenly remembering, her eyes brightened, "Simon Ford?"

Twenty years ago, the Thorne family in high governmental positions and the Ford family in commercial wealth were well known; furthermore, the Thorne and Ford families were close family friends.

However, later the Ford family settled abroad, and the Thorne family's sudden downfall led them to gradually fade from everyone's view.

Yet, these years the Ford family merely withdrew from Bayside, to develop overseas; now the Ford family is financially robust, having become financial magnates.

Simon Ford is the only son of the Ford family, excellent from a young age, born from an esteemed lineage, and now Leah Thorne's age, at the prime of youth.

Simon Ford wore a camel-colored trench coat, holding a black umbrella, his eyes deep and bright as he looked at Leah Thorne, "Leah, my little sister, you've finally recognized me."

This doll was once her childhood favorite, bought by her mommy.

Later, as she grew up, Leah hoped to buy a similar doll, but they were no longer available in the market, already discontinued.

Looking at this doll and encountering an old friend, Leah's beautiful eyes shone with twinkling star-like smiles, she looked at Simon Ford, "Simon Ford, long time no see."

"Yes, long time no see, Leah, my little sister, you've grown so much."

Simon Ford still remembered when Leah's father, Quinn Thorne, betrothed Leah to him as his fiancée; she was just a little girl, still the most dazzling little princess of the Thorne family.

Leah and Simon Ford exchanged smiles.

At this time, a Maybach slowly pulled over, the driver's window slid down, revealing a cold and handsome face; Justin Xavier arrived.

Justin Xavier looked at the opposite street where the young boy and girl exchanged smiles, both in the peak of youth, standing in the rain, sharing an umbrella, as beautiful as a sand painting.

Chapter 958: Officially Pursuing Leah Thorne

Justin Xavier recognized Simon Ford at a glance, Young Master Ford, a man who grew up in the sunshine. If he remembered correctly, years ago, the Thorne and Ford families had a longstanding relationship and had promised their children in marriage. When Quinn Thorne was alive, he personally betrothed Leah Thorne to Simon Ford as his fiancée.

Quinn Thorne, from his high position, had met countless people, yet he favored Simon Ford and entrusted his daughter's future to him.

Justin Xavier's gaze landed on Leah Thorne. At this moment, she was holding a doll and was smiling. She was truly smiling, her captivating eyes completely blossomed, smiling like a flower.

Last night, she smiled at him too, but it was fake and perfunctory, as if since she returned to his side at 18, she had never truly smiled.

Now, beside another man, she was smiling so happily.

Justin Xavier's slender fingers suddenly tightened, gripping the steering wheel hard.

He closed his handsome eyes for a moment, forcing himself to suppress the anger in his chest, then opened the car door and got out, "Leah, Young Master Ford, what a coincidence."

Leah Thorne turned at the sound and saw Justin Xavier, tiny water droplets hitting his straight shoulders. He was dressed in black, coming through the rainy night.

Madame Goldie had just brought the car up and immediately saw the three people on the street. Madame Goldie looked at the unknown entity next to Leah Thorne, which was Simon Ford, and internally screamed, finished, finished, what did she say, leaving Leah here alone was too dangerous!

In the time it took her to fetch the car, something happened, and it was significant!

Justin Xavier approached Leah Thorne. His handsome face showed no emotional waves; instead, he looked rather gentle, "Leah, why are you here with Young Master Ford?"

Simon Ford looked at Justin Xavier and then at Leah Thorne, "Sister Leah, who is this gentleman?"

Before Leah Thorne could speak, Justin Xavier curved his thin lips and whispered, "Leah, tell Young Master Ford who I am."

Leah saw a hint of danger in Justin Xavier's cold black eyes but calmly looked away, "Oh, let me introduce, this is Justin Xavier, he is... my brother."

She said he was her brother.

Ha.

Justin Xavier let out an inexplicable low laugh.

"I remember now, Sister Leah. I heard that after trouble befell the Thorne family, you were adopted by the Xavier family. This must be Bayside's richest man, Justin Xavier, President Xavier. Hello," Simon Ford said graciously, calling him "Uncle Xavier."

"Uncle Xavier" Justin Xavier, "..."

Why did he find this "uncle" so jarring? Indeed, now over thirty, it was about the time for others to start calling him "uncle."

Justin Xavier raised his hand, his large palm resting on Leah Thorne's shoulder, pulling her into his embrace, slightly curving his lips, "Young Master Ford, hello."

Leah sensed his displeasure. Now his arm around her shoulder was so domineering, as if declaring his sovereignty in front of Simon Ford.

Indeed, Simon Ford paused slightly upon seeing him embracing her. After all, they weren't real siblings; this hug was too intimate.

Leah quickly struggled a bit, breaking free from Justin Xavier's hold. She looked up at Simon Ford, "Simon Ford, I need to rush back to the set for a night scene. Thank you for the doll, I'm leaving."

"Sister Leah, let's add each other on WeChat, so I can contact you later," Simon Ford suggested.

Leah hesitated for a moment, then took out her phone, "Okay."

Simon Ford scanned Leah Thorne's WeChat, and the two added each other as WeChat friends. Leah boarded Madame Goldie's nanny car and left.

...

Leah left, leaving only Justin Xavier and Simon Ford there. Justin Xavier watched Simon Ford, whose gaze was still following in the direction Leah Thorne had disappeared.

Justin Xavier's black eyes were calm and still, but upon closer look, there seemed like two dangerous little abysses that could draw in anyone's soul. He coolly lifted his thin lips, "Young Master Ford, I met your father last night. He's been looking for you. I didn't expect you to come find Leah."

Simon Ford reluctantly withdrew his gaze, "Uncle Xavier, a girl as beautiful and talented as Sister Leah must have many boys pursuing her, right?"

"Uncle Xavier" Justin Xavier raised an eyebrow; in truth, there were none. With him around these years, there were no other men around her. Although they liked her, they dared not pursue her.

"So, has Young Master Ford taken a liking to Leah?" Justin Xavier directly asked.

Simon Ford's handsome face blushed, "That's right, Uncle Xavier, this time I came back for Sister Leah. I want to formally pursue her."

Justin Xavier had his hands in his coat pockets, "Does your father know about this?"

"My dad? I've already talked to him, and he hasn't explicitly stated his opinion. Besides, this is my personal relationship. My dad will respect me. The girl I like, my dad will definitely accept. The Thorne and Ford families were once old friends; Sister Leah was my fiancée before, just that times have changed now."

"Uncle Xavier, I know you and Sister Leah have a deep bond. Please rest assured to entrust Sister Leah to me. I'm serious, and I will take good care of and cherish her," Simon Ford declared solemnly.

Justin Xavier looked at Simon Ford, slightly curved his thin lips. What a simple and naive kid~

Simon Ford's father was a cunning old fox. Regarding the past marriage agreement between the Thorne and Ford families, of course, he wouldn't express his position now.

And those pledges from Simon Ford, better said to the winds.

Justin Xavier indifferently responded, "Hmm, quite good."

...

Leah Thorne returned to the set's room, not feeling too hungry. Madame Goldie prepared a vegetable and fruit salad for her.

Leah ate a small cherry tomato with a small spoon. Just then, the door clicked open; Justin Xavier had returned.

Leah looked up, smiling actively, "President Xavier, you're back?"

Justin Xavier closed the door, took off his coat, and approached behind her. Seeing her simple dinner, he frowned slightly, "Why are you just eating grass?"

Leah playfully blinked her long lashes, "President Xavier, don't you know? Fairies only eat grass."

Justin Xavier reached out to tousle her long hair, indulgently agreeing, "Then Fairy Thorne, can you spare some of your Immortal Herbs for me to try?"

Leah picked a perilla leaf dipped in salad dressing and fed it to his lips, "Ah, open your mouth."

Justin Xavier ate it, his strong brows furrowing tightly.

"Tastes bad? Can't be, I think it's pretty good..."

Justin Xavier's large hand propped on the table beside her, enclosing her in his embrace from above, "Perhaps we aren't eating the same thing. Let me taste from your mouth..."

He lowered his head, moving to kiss her red lips.

Chapter 959: Go Take a Shower!

"Don't." Leah Thorne swiftly dodged, not letting him kiss her.

Justin Xavier looked at her, his large hand weaving through her long hair, grasping the nape of her neck, exerting a slight force to make her raise her head, then lowered his gaze and kissed her.

Leah trembled as she was kissed by him in this forced posture of submission. Now her head was in his palm, he was in complete control of her, giving her no chance to refuse or escape.

After a while, when Leah felt her lips and tongue starting to numb, Justin Xavier released her, "Fairy Thorne, finish eating your Immortal Herbs."

"..." Leah picked up the small spoon and continued eating her vegetable and fruit salad.

Justin Xavier sat on the sofa, elegantly and casually crossing his long legs, holding a document in his hand, he looked down, "Do you like the doll Simon Ford gave you that much?"

Leah glanced at the doll beside her, she indeed liked this doll a lot, and since bringing it home, it hadn't left her side.

"Yes, I really like it."

Justin Xavier didn't look up, focused on the document, but his thin lips curved into a shallow arc, he said softly, "Girls who like dolls are little girls, Leah, you've passed the age of being a little girl, you should like jewels... diamonds now."

Despite the fact that the Pearl Nightingale diamonds he gave her didn't receive such enthusiasm from her either.

Leah held the doll in her hands, raising her eyes coquettishly at the man on the sofa, "Why are you speaking in such a sarcastic tone, did my doll provoke you? I'm at my prime, everyone else calls me Miss Sister, but you, Uncle Xavier!"

Leah emphasized the term "Uncle Xavier" deliberately to provoke him.

Justin Xavier never thought he was old, but that little brat Simon Ford who came out of nowhere actually called him Uncle Xavier, it annoyed him, making him feel like an old cow eating young grass.

Justin Xavier gently lifted his eyelids, looked at Leah once, "Do you believe Uncle will properly handle you on the bed later?"

Yes.

Of course, she believed it.

Leah ignored him, continuing to eat her salad.

Just then, with a "ding", Leah's phone rang, a WeChat message came through.

Leah opened WeChat to see a message from Simon Ford, proposing they meet for a meal the next day.

Leah wanted to refuse; she didn't want to attend any social gatherings.

But then Simon added that his father wanted to meet her.

Leah paused, she was still young then, without much impression of Mr. Ford, but the Thorne and Ford families were said to be old family friends, did Mr. Ford want to say something to her?

Leah replied with a single word, "Okay."

At this moment, Justin Xavier's deep, magnetic voice came to her ears, "Who sent you a WeChat, was it Simon Ford?"

Leah put her phone down, "Yes, Simon Ford invited me to a meal tomorrow."

"You agreed?"

"Why should I refuse?"

Justin Xavier didn't look up, signed his name swiftly at the bottom of the document, his voice indifferent, "Leah Thorne, you know what I don't like, so don't provoke me, stay away from Simon Ford."

"The Ford family is now a leading financial giant. Mr. Ford is very discerning about his daughter-in-law's choice. Although you once had an engagement with Simon Ford, it no longer counts. Mr. Ford won't look favorably upon you, do you understand what I mean?"

If Justin Xavier hadn't brought it up now, Leah would have forgotten that she had once been engaged to Simon Ford.

She had no romantic feelings for Simon. She was young when the engagement was set, so she never took it seriously.

Leah looked up at Justin Xavier, a lazy smile emerging from her red lips, "President Xavier, I don't understand what you mean. Why wouldn't Mr. Ford look favorably upon me?"

Justin Xavier paused while holding his pen, he raised his head and looked at Leah.

Their gazes met, and Leah's smile grew wider, "Are you suggesting, President Xavier, that because I am your kept mistress in name as your sister, or because I can't have children, I'm a flawed woman?"

Looking at the smile on her small face, Justin Xavier's handsome face instantly turned cold.

Leah put down her small spoon, pushed away the vegetable and fruit salad, and hugged the doll, "President Xavier, rest assured, I have self-awareness, people like me wouldn't be favored by good families."

Finishing her speech, Leah got up, "I'll go take a shower."

She had to pass by his side to reach the bathroom, Justin Xavier suddenly reached out and grabbed her delicate, fair wrist.

Leah paused, stopping in her tracks, tilting her head in confusion at him, "President Xavier, do you have something to say? Oh, I get it, you're upset because when you asked me to introduce you to Simon Ford today, I said you were my brother?"

"That was really unfortunate, President Xavier doesn't plan to marry me; our relationship should be... kept in the dark, right? I would've liked to say I was your kept mistress, but I wasn't authorized to, so I didn't dare to say anything to anger you."

Justin Xavier's handsome brow was covered with a layer of cold frost, he gazed at her silently.

Leah tried to pull away, "President Xavier, why won't you let me go? Oh, I see, you want to take a couple's bath with me?"

"Fine, no problem, taking a couple's bath is part of my duties anyway, I'll start undressing now."

Leah raised her other hand, beginning to undo the buttons on her clothes.

Taken aback, Justin Xavier growled every word with a low, aggressive voice, "Leah, don't degrade yourself like this!"

"Am I not degraded enough already?" Leah smiled back, questioning him.

The atmosphere in the room froze, the temperature dropping to a low point.

Justin Xavier released his large hand, "Go take a bath, I don't want to see you right now."

Leah walked off.

...

Leah took a hot bath and then went to bed, turning her back and curling up snugly in the duvet.

Soon, the duvet was lifted, and she was scooped up horizontally.

Leah opened her eyes, staring at the handsome face in her line of sight, Justin Xavier held her on the sofa, letting her rest in his strong arms.

He still looked displeased, a man always in a high position used to being worshipped, only she dared to anger him.

"Who said you could sleep?" he said, his voice deep with displeasure.

Leah was stunned for a few seconds, then raised both small hands to wrap around his neck, leaning in to kiss his thin lips.

But, Justin Xavier avoided her, not letting her kiss him.

Leah paused, since when did this carnivore start eating vegetarian?

Justin Xavier gazed at her, "What are you doing?"

"You... don't want it? How do you want me to please you tonight?" Leah's small hand restlessly slid down...

Justin Xavier quickly grabbed her small hand, preventing her from causing any trouble, "Not in the mood tonight, no sleeping, accompany me to look at the documents."

Chapter 960: You Are His Only Weakness in This Life

He said, feeling out of sorts tonight?

Yet, where her fingers had just glided over, every muscle in his body tensed up, and even his body temperature rose.

Justin Xavier brought over a blanket and covered her with it, even tucking both her small hands inside, "You've messed up my mood, and you still want to sleep? Sleep what? No sleeping, keep me company while I work!"

"..." Leah Thorne inexplicably found him very childish, just moments ago he was the one who said he didn't want to see her!

Justin Xavier didn't pay her any more attention, securely wrapping her in the blanket, and continued to look at the documents.

Leah Thorne had no interest in the documents; she held her eyelids open at first, but soon became sleepy.

She wasn't pretentious at all, finding a comfortable position in the crook of his arm, she buried her little face in his chest and closed her eyes.

While she was drowsily asleep, she felt a little spoon come near her mouth, she opened her mouth, and it was a sweet and well-cooked eight-treasure red bean porridge.

She took a bite and then turned her head, unwilling to eat anymore.

At this moment, a very fierce voice came from above her head, "Open your mouth, don't force me to use my hands."

He was really fierce.

Leah Thorne obediently turned her little face back and ate half the bowl of porridge he fed her.

She fell asleep.

Justin Xavier used a tissue to wipe her mouth corner, satisfied, and then withdrew his hand, the bowl still half full with the porridge, he ate it himself.

After doing all this, he continued to look at the documents.

The girl was already sound asleep in his arms, her tender and charming little face flushed pink, adding an extra touch of endearment, Justin Xavier looked down, gently kissing her lips.

His large hand also reached into the blanket, gave her a couple of pinches...

Because he didn't control his strength, the girl in her dreams made a couple of "woo woo" sounds.

Justin Xavier immediately let go of her, his own long eyes already tinged with a scarlet hue.

...

Leah Thorne woke up in the big bed, Justin Xavier was already gone.

She was filming during the day and went to a banquet at the Ford family in the evening.

Simon Ford had been waiting for her on the lawn outside the villa, and he greeted her happily, "Leah, you're here."

Leah Thorne nodded, "I'm not late, am I?"

"No, no, it's just me being impatient."

At this moment, Simon's father came out, "Leah, you've grown so much, I almost didn't recognize you."

Leah Thorne looked at Simon's father, he was well-preserved, a fifty-year-old man elegantly mature, now looking at her with loving eyes.

"Hello, Uncle Ford." Leah Thorne greeted obediently and politely.

"Simon, go check if dinner is ready." Simon's father dismissed Simon.

Simon Ford didn't want to leave, but out of respect for his father's authority, he reluctantly glanced at Leah Thorne, then went in.

"Leah, when the Thorne family had trouble back then, I didn't rush back and over the years you've been adopted by the Xavier family. With Hugh Xavier's despicable character and Laura Xavier's twisted and extreme nature, you've surely suffered a lot."

Leah Thorne knew that Simon's father had dismissed his son because he had something to say to her, she shook her head, "It's all in the past now."

Leah Thorne wasn't some naive girl. Compared to the Xavier family, this Simon's father before her seemed even more unfamiliar, so she wouldn't open her heart easily.

"Leah, back in those days, our families, the Thorne and Ford families, were close friends. Your father even personally betrothed you to Simon, so when the Thorne family was in trouble, I should have come back, but at that time I had no choice."

"Your father was on good terms with Hugh Xavier, but I saw right away that Hugh was ambitious like a wolf. I warned your father several times, but he didn't take it seriously, not only helping elevate the Xavier family but also distancing from me because of it."

"At that time, The Ford Group had a serious operating oversight, all the financial lines were broken, and at that time, the Xavier family, with your father's help, had already become the new elite of Bayside, Hugh Xavier took this opportunity to strike me down, driving me out of Bayside."

"I had no choice but to take my family abroad and start again. When I heard about the accident involving your parents and brother, everything in Bayside was already under the Xavier family's control, and I couldn't save you."

"Over the years I've developed quite successfully overseas, and I never forgot you, Leah, so I brought Simon back to find you."

Simon's father said these words with deep emotion, continually sighing, as if his heart was in deep pain.

Leah Thorne looked at Simon's father, "Uncle Ford, you don't need to feel guilty, maybe this was just the Thorne family's fate."

"Leah," at this moment Simon's father lowered his voice deliberately, "have you ever thought about whether this was the Thorne family's fate or if it was orchestrated by human hands?"

Leah Thorne's heart skipped a beat, "Uncle Ford, what do you mean?"

"Leah, I suspect the car accident involving your parents back then was orchestrated, it was a deliberate murder, I've already found clues."

Leah Thorne's pupils contracted, "Truly?"

"Of course it's true, Leah. I came back this time to avenge your father, now you and I must join forces, let's send those criminals of the Xavier family to prison and bring them to justice, we must take down the Xavier family!"

This was Simon's father's purpose of coming, he wanted Leah Thorne to join hands with him to take down the Xavier family.

Leah Thorne saw the blazing flames of hatred in Simon's father's eyes, his hatred for the Xavier family was genuine.

"Uncle Ford, what do you want me to do?"

"Leah, now Old Master Xavier, Hugh Xavier, and Laura Xavier aren't the ones to fear, the truly fearsome person is... Justin Xavier."

Justin Xavier...

Leah Thorne lowered her densely fringed lashes.

Simon's father continued, "The night I returned to the country, I met with Justin Xavier, I didn't expect someone so extraordinary to appear among the Xavier family's descendants, Justin Xavier is a person whose mind is terrifyingly deep, resourceful, can manipulate situations, as long as he's around, the Xavier family will have endless wealth and glory, and we won't be able to take down the Xavier family."

Leah Thorne nodded in agreement, "Yes."

"So Leah, Justin Xavier is left to you, the hardest armor, the softest heart, you are the only weakness and vulnerability in his life."

Is it so?

Leah Thorne didn't believe it. She always wanted to know if he truly loved her, later she got the answer, he didn't love, what he gave her was fondness and doting.

He was always so restrained, calm, rational, and composed, he never lost his decorum.

"Uncle Ford, I fear I can't complete this task, you overestimate my importance in Justin Xavier's heart."

Simon's father smiled and shook his head, "Leah, is it really me overestimating, or are you underestimating, why don't we see as we slowly unveil the layers of fog, let us look into Justin Xavier's heart."

Leah Thorne said nothing.

"Leah, let's join hands, what are you still hesitating about, don't you want revenge?" Simon's father said eagerly.

Leah Thorne stood in the evening breeze, the hem of her dress fluttering, she lifted her pair of clear and charming eyes to look at Simon's father, smiling, "Uncle Ford, how did you know the relationship between Justin Xavier and me?"