

## The Epic BD 171

### Chapter 171 Why, Ethan Knight (3)

That being said, there was one thing that Charles agreed with Elijah about—Lucas did leave behind quite a lot of possessions and so many houses, which would be enough for them.

Little did they know that this was far from over, though.

They had yet to work out a solution when Mr. Lector arrived at the Woland Residence with lots of reporters. Before Charles could figure out what was going on, the reporters dashed up to him and showered him with praise, making him dizzy.

Only then did Mr. Lector say, “Old Mr. Woland, you’re so kind and generous. Right now, all you need is to sign your name, and we’ll have everything donated according to your wishes to help those in need. Please sign this document, Old Mr. Woland.” He handed a document and a pen to Charles.

Despite being dizzy at being lavished with praise, Charles wasn’t completely befuddled yet. “What is this?”

Mr. Lector replied flawlessly, “This is a document signed by Mr. Pierce Woland and Miss Alice Woland to give away all the estate left by Lucas Woland and his wife. They said this is what you want, so they will respect and lend you their support on this, Old Mr. Woland.”

Charles was absolutely stupefied. *When did I say I wanted to give away those things? They’re all mine, so why should I give them away?* However, there were so many reporters present at this moment. If he were to say he wasn’t going to donate anything, he would probably be torn apart. The reporters had purposely flattered him just now. If he were to refuse to sign the document right now, not only would he be objecting to it, but he would also be going back on his word. Moreover, Pierce and Alice had signed the document, so he could no longer keep the fortune even if he wanted. However, those things were all his. He didn’t want to give them away, and he mustn’t give them away either. If he were to do so, how was he going to get by in the future?

Leaning close to Charles’ ear, Mr. Lector whispered, “Old Mr. Woland, my client said that if you refuse to give it away, he will sell off the estate of Lucas Woland and his wife at one dollar. As their son, he absolutely has the right to do so, by which time you’ll only end up losing your reputation without gaining anything.”

In an instant, Charles’ face paled several shades. In reality, he didn’t know much about the law, but the attorney didn’t seem to be lying to him. And besides, he had no other choice at this very moment. If he refused to sign the document right now, he might become the object of criticism. Despite his resentment, he couldn’t do anything about the situation at this very moment. In the end, he had no choice but to sign the document. With so many reporters surrounding him and the attorney urging him, he didn’t even manage to read closely what was written on the document.

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Seeing him sign the document, the reporters showered praise upon him again.

Charles' face went livid at their words.

Elijah was totally stunned. *What on earth is going on here?*

Mr. Lector left with the signed document. As soon as he left, a group of people came in to pack things up.

Everything in the Woland Family was part of the estate left by Lucas and his wife, so all of them would be given away. The group of people checked everything without leaving anything behind; Alice didn't even leave a needle for Charles and the others. After sorting everything out, the group of people immediately chased Charles and others out of the house, saying, "Old Mr. Woland and Mr. Woland, please move out of here as soon as possible. This house has been donated to us, too, so we're going to take over it.

Having just returned from shopping, Sophia was still unaware of what had happened. Seeing people moving things away from home, she instantly panicked. "What are you doing? Why are you moving our stuff?"

These people ignored her and kept on moving things. After all, they were justified in doing so.

Of course, this wasn't only happening at the Woland Residence. The same thing happened at all properties under the name of Lucas and Sienna, too,

Over the past seven years, those in the Woland Family had occupied Lucas and his wife's family property. In the past, Alice had been lenient with them for the sake of their kinship, but now, she mercilessly settled the score with them, even going so far as to donate the family's residence that was located in the countryside. She really didn't leave anything behind for those in the Woland Family.

In just a single day, those in the Woland Family lost everything and were driven out without even a place to stay. Since everything in their houses was either moved away or sealed, they didn't even manage to take anything out with them.

The Wolands had gotten a lot of money from Lucas and the Glenn Group over the years, but they were already used to spending money like water. The Glenn Group had been in a slump in recent years and thus hadn't made any money, so the Wolands didn't have much savings left. One could really say that they had become homeless in just a single day.

It was nothing if they had always been poor and were used to living a hard life, but these people had been living a life of opulence and luxury by leeching off Lucas like parasites over these years. Now that they were suddenly left without anything, how could they possibly stand it?

Charles had some money left in his hands, though. He wanted to keep up appearances and was used to living a life of luxury over these years, so he checked into a decent hotel.

At this moment, the Wolands were all packed into the hotel room that Charles checked into.

Unable to withstand such a disparity, Sophia swore tearfully, "What a pair of ungrateful b\*stards! How could they actually drive their

own grandparents into a corner like this?!" It was quite something for her to have the cheek to consider herself Alice and Pierce's grandmother. After all, she knew that Lucas wasn't her own son, so what entitled her to

say that she and Charles were their grandparents? At this very moment, she swore at Pierce and Alice as if justice were on her side, forgetting how they had kept hunting down Alice and how they had schemed against her.

At this moment, Elijah was at a complete loss for what to do. He could only turn to look at Charles, asking, "Dad, what should we do now?"

Charles looked sullen while pursing his lips. He never expected so many things to happen in just a single day. Not only did they end up losing the Glenn Group, but they also lost those family possessions; they weren't even able to keep anything. In the end, they only managed to take some clothes with them, which they usually wore.

Cunning and wicked as Charles was, he was only an old man from the countryside. In reality, he didn't have any good ideas either.

"Dad, you've got to do something about this! Now that we've lost everything, how will we survive now?" Bethany burst into tears at once. "We don't even have a place to stay now, and besides, we have little money in our hands. I have only a few hundred left in my bank account."

After Lucas' death seven years ago, Charles had ordered that Elijah take over the Glenn Group and distribute money to everyone every month, so they were able to receive a good amount of money

regularly every month. As they got the money very easily, they had no qualms about frittering the money away, thinking that however much money they had spent the previous month, they would receive it again

the next month.

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As a result, they never saved any money at all.

Fearing that the other Wolands would ask her family for money, Amelia also complained about being short of money. "We've run out of money, too," she said. "The Glenn Group has been making less and less honey in recent years. The money has been distributed to you all, so we don't have much left."

"What's the use of saying this right now?! The most important thing at the moment is to figure out what to do from now on!" Charles barked.

Elijah suggested, "Let's go to Alice! We can ask her for money and demand that she provide for us. We're her family, and Dad and Mom are her own grandparents. She's got to support us, no?" It was really shameless of him to have the face to say something like this at this very moment. He totally forgot how he had tried to have Alice tracked down and killed.

Amelia argued, "Alice doesn't have anything right now. She's given the Woland Group to Bruce, so how could she have any money left?" She wasn't speaking for Alice, though; she really thought Alice was broke.

Bethany, on the other hand, was completely brainless. "Amelia's right! Alice's got no money to be squeezed out of her anymore, or Dad wouldn't have had to scheme—"

"Just shut your mouth!" Charles glared at her, losing his temper at once.

Elijah had some brains at this moment, though. "This is all Pierce's doing! Let's find out where he is and ask him for money!"

"Where are we supposed to look for him? He appointed a lawyer to handle the Glenn Group's affairs! Where are we gonna look for him?" Charles also wanted to find out where Pierce was. The point was, how were they supposed to look for him?

Bethany suggested, "We'll go to Alice. She certainly knows where Pierce is!" In reality, her purpose was to find a way to get money. "As long as we've found Pierce, we'll be able to ask him for money in the future."

"Let's have Alice come back and ask her about it, then."

"But Alice isn't answering our calls now after what happened last time. She definitely won't come back."

"That's enough! Stop quarreling, all of you! Let me think about this," Charles thundered to interrupt their quarrel. "You all may leave now. Just go wherever you're supposed to. I want to get some rest." Looking at the people crowding the room, he felt a headache coming on. Immediately, he began chasing them away.

Bethany retorted, "Dad, where else can we go? We've lost everything now. We've got no choice but to follow you around." She instantly took up a bed in the room.

Amelia quickly followed suit by taking up the other bed.

Taking a look at the chaotic scene before him, Charles was both angry and resentful. After leaving the hotel room, he found a quiet spot and dialed a number. The moment he got through, he muttered under

his breath, "You've seen the situation now. We've been kicked out with nothing left, so you mustn't leave us high and dry."

The person on the other end probably agreed to meet with him. Charles nodded repeatedly, saying, "Alright, I'll be there right away."

No sooner had Charles left the hotel than Alice got word of it. She immediately instructed, "Follow him and see who he's going to meet." At first, she merely guessed that there might be a third party involved in this, so the purpose of her being so ruthless toward the Wolands was to force the third party to come into the open. However, she didn't expect the third party to lose their composure so soon.

She guessed the third party might've learned that Pierce was still alive, which was why they were so anxious to meet with Charles. That person had obviously attempted to root out her whole family seven years ago. She was lucky to have survived, but she had been hunted over the past seven years. If the person were to know that Pierce was still alive, they would definitely strike again!

After

leaving the hotel, Charles took a cab to a relatively secluded clubhouse, where a man was waiting for him. As soon as Charles entered the room, the man growled, "What the hell's going on? How could Pierce be still alive?"

Charles didn't put on airs as usual in front of the man. He humbly replied, "I also have no idea what's going on! What should we do now?"

"Find out where Pierce is. Since he's still alive, we'll get rid of him. We mustn't keep him alive!" said the man with unconcealed viciousness on his face.

Charles' voice became somewhat quieter. "How are we supposed to look for him? We don't even know where he is right now!"

The man's eyes narrowed slightly. "Pierce hasn't shown up for seven years. Why would he make such a huge scene all of a sudden? Could Alice have something to do with this?"

"I don't think so. Alice doesn't know anything, so she couldn't possibly orchestrate something like this." Charles still believed that Alice wasn't a threat at all.

The man had a thoughtful look on his face, though. "I think Alice might be involved in this. Don't forget that you guys failed to harm her just a couple of days ago before something like this happened. Perhaps this was planned by her alone."

Charles asked gingerly, "What do you mean?"

"If Alice really was the mastermind behind this, then she must know where Pierce is. As long as we catch her, we'll definitely be able to find out where he is, by which time we'll be able to get rid of them both simultaneously," the man said with a visibly murderous expression. "If this was really arranged by Alice, we have to get rid of her as soon as possible."

Charles argued, "What is Alice capable of, anyway? She's just a little girl, and a little girl can't pose any threat to you-" In reality, he was scared after the previous incident. He didn't want to kill anyone anymore. After all, if he got found out after killing someone, he would definitely come to a sticky end.

The man looked at him coldly.

"A little girl? Your family regards women as inferior to men, but the Moreno Family's women are much more-" he said, only to break off mid-sentence upon realizing that he had made a slip of the tongue. He quickly changed the subject, saying, "Okay, I'll get someone to look into Alice again. If we find anything wrong about her, we mustn't keep her alive. Moreover, if this was really Alice's doing, we'll certainly be able to find Pierce through her."

In the end, Charles went back worriedly.

Meanwhile, after Bruce urged her once again, Alice handed him a tender document.

After getting the document, Bruce quickly glanced through it with a look of delight. "I heard earlier that Galerprises' tender document was pretty good, but I didn't expect it to be this good. Well, I can rest assured now. This time's project will definitely be ours."

Seeing the way he looked, Alice reminded him while suppressing her disgust, saying, "The order of submission is still very important." After all, this act was arranged by her, so it was only natural that no mistakes could be made. It was more suitable for Bruce to take the initiative to do something than for her to do so.

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Bruce was startled for a moment before he quickly nodded. "Yes, yes, you're right. I'll have it arranged so that Galerprises won't have any chance," he replied. "You're getting smarter now, Alice. The tender submission will begin in two hours. I still have to make some preparations, so I've got to go." At this moment, he was still gazing at Alice affectionately, but he no longer mentioned the subject of marrying her. Obviously, he was going to turn his back on her before he even succeeded in getting what he wanted.

Alice sneered

inwardly. *Can he be even more disgusting than this? Well, this is a good thing, anyway. Had he not been so despicable and greedy, my plan wouldn't have gone so smoothly.* She had spent seven years making the arrangements. At first, she had wanted to find more evidence, so she mustn't rush to catch the bad guys. However, now that there was a new turn of events on Charles' side, she could be even more ruthless toward the Yeager Corp, by which time she would let both sides fight each other to make it easier for her to find more evidence.

When the tender submission began two hours later, Bruce entered the hall with a swagger. He already had everything arranged so that Galerprises, which was supposed to submit its tender document before him, would do so after him instead. As long as he announced his bid first, Galerprises would have no choice but to admit defeat and watch him secure the project.

It was useless even if there were people involved who knew the contents of Galerprises' tender document. After all, their having read the document couldn't be considered as evidence. Even if everyone knew that the tender document in his hands was originally Galerprises' own, no one would have proof of it. As long as he announced his bid first, he would definitely get chosen first, unless Galerprises could come up with an even better tender document. However, that was totally impossible, so he was feeling smug right now.

When it was finally his turn, he had his project manager announce his bid. Seeing the visible change in Archie's countenance, he almost laughed out loud right away. Archie seemed anxious and panicky; it seemed that Galerprises could only be eliminated.

After Bruce's project manager announced his bid, it was clear that the personnel involved were satisfied. They had a look of approval on their faces, while the representatives of other companies taking part in the tender submission looked all envious..

Bruce darted a glance at Archie. In the end, he couldn't help but curl his lips into a smug smile.

Just then, Archie stood up instantly. "I have something to say," he said. "Mr. Yeager's tender document is a carbon copy of Galerprises' own. I'm now accusing him of stealing trade secrets."

"Ha!" Bruce laughed at once. "Archie, how dare you accuse me of stealing your trade secret? That's my line! You've got to have proof to back up your accusations, or I can sue you for slander!"

Archie looked at him with a triumphant smile. "Sorry, but I do have proof of it. My company just had the tender document in your hands notarized yesterday, and here's the notarial deed. Would you like to take a look at it, Mr. Yeager?"

Bruce was instantly stupefied. *Who on earth would have a tender document notarized? No, wait a minute. Tender documents have to be kept confidential in the first place, yet Archie actually had the tender document notarized? Is he crazy?*

"Mr. Yeager, you might find it difficult to understand why I had the tender document notarized. Actually, I did it for fun... because I had nothing to do." Archie smiled a dazzling smile. "It can't be helped. That's how capricious I am."

"How's your company gonna use the tender document after you had it notarized?" Bruce really couldn't figure this out.

"Oh, so you're worried about this for us? Well, it's really unnecessary, Mr. Yeager." Archie smiled even more happily before casually taking out several documents. "My company has plenty of tender documents like this one, so it's really nothing. I never thought you'd value it so much as to steal it. If you really wanted it, you could've just told us. I could've absolutely sent you a few of these."

It couldn't be more obvious that he was showing off. *Would we be short of these documents with Alice's help? What a joke!* "As for the tender document that we're going to submit, it's even better and more accurate, of course." He took out another tender document and even purposely waved it in front of Bruce. "Mr. Yeager, if you wanted to steal our tender document, you should've stolen something better. The one you'd stolen was so bad that we even considered it too hard to be used as toilet paper."

Bruce was stunned, and his face quickly went through several expressions. He never thought something he had gone to the trouble of stealing from Galerprises would actually be treated as garbage by the company. He wasn't shrewd in doing business, but he wasn't an idiot either. At this moment, he finally realized that he had been fooled by Archie. The man must've set up this trap for him after finding out that he was going to steal his company's tender document. Unfortunately, Alice, that idiot, didn't notice this at all, thus making him feel so embarrassed today.

Just then, Archie's face fell, and he fixed Bruce with a penetrating gaze. "Mr. Yeager, we'll definitely hold you accountable for stealing our company's trade secrets."

Bruce's eyes flickered. He could totally shift the blame onto Alice by saying that it was she who had given him the tender document. He could say Alice had fooled him by claiming that the tender

document was made by her; he could also say he didn't know beforehand that she had stolen the tender document from Galerprises. He made up his mind to make a scapegoat out of Alice. "This tender document was given to me by A-" he began.

As soon as he began his speech, however, Mr. Affleck suddenly said, "Alice once arranged a meeting between Mr. Yeager and me. At the time, Mr. Yeager wanted to buy our company's tender document, but I didn't agree to it, so I suspect that she had something to do with our company's tender document being leaked."

What Mr. Affleck said did reveal Alice's involvement in this, but it confirmed Bruce's guilt, too. Now that he had said so, Bruce could no longer try to shift the blame onto Alice by saying that he didn't know this beforehand. After all, he had directly said to Mr. Affleck that he was willing to buy Galerprises' tender document.

This was also part of Alice's design. Otherwise, she wouldn't have arranged a meeting between Bruce and Mr. Affleck. Knowing full well how despicable Bruce was, she definitely wouldn't give the man any chance to avoid all punishment.

As a result, Bruce had no choice but to bite back the words on the tip of his tongue.

Archie let Mr. Affleck continue to announce their bid, while he immediately summoned the reporters who had actually been arranged to be there beforehand. "Our company will file a lawsuit against Bruce Yeager for stealing our company's trade secrets. We'll also have Alice Woland, our company's employee, investigated. He immediately announced the company's decision in public. He and Alice had agreed on this beforehand for the purpose of dealing with Bruce. Of course, what was more important was to put up the smoke screen.

The reporters had the situation at the scene and Archie's speech was on live stream. After watching the live stream, Charles quickly made a phone call, which the person soon answered. However, the person clearly sounded impatient. "What's the matter this time?"

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After watching the live stream, Charles quickly made a phone call, which the person soon answered. However, the person clearly sounded impatient. "What's the matter this time?"

The excitement in Charles' voice was evident at this moment. "Did you watch the live stream just now? Alice just stole Galerprises' tender document for Bruce's sake, and the company's gonna investigate her and take her to court for this!"

There was a brief silence on the other end of the line; the person was probably checking the news. After a while, the person replied, "Is she out of her mind?"

"Alice is stupid in the first place, plus she's head over heels in love with Bruce and would do anything for him. I already told you that she's nothing to worry about," Charles said in an apparently relaxed voice. He analyzed on his own, "I already told you that she had nothing to do with those things. She's just an idiot. If I were Pierce, I wouldn't tell her anything, so I don't think she knows anything about him. Are we still gonna look into her now? Do we still need to get rid of her?"



There was another silence on the other end of the line. Then, the person replied with a chuckle, “Well, so much for the Morenos. In that case, we’ll let her off for now. As for Pierce, we’ll start elsewhere to investigate him.”

Charles replied, “Now that Alice got involved in Bruce’s theft of trade secrets, we can seize the opportunity to get our hands on the Woland Group right now.” This was his main purpose in making the phone call.

“Yeah, we can do that. The Woland Group has made a lot of money these years, so it’s okay to make it ours. And besides, we might be able to force Pierce to show himself by doing so. Once he dares to do that, I’ll make him disappear from this world forever.” The person on the other end did nothing to conceal their murderous intent.

“You’re right that we mustn’t let Pierce stay alive. Alice is an idiot, but Pierce isn’t. I’m worried that he’s still alive and has found out some secrets about what happened seven years ago.” Charles also had ruthlessness written all over his face with complete disregard for his past relationship with Pierce. Of course, there was another important reason why he wanted to get rid of Pierce—he wanted to take back the Glenn Group and get his hands on the Woland Group. If Pierce really were still alive, this probably wouldn’t go smoothly.

At this moment, the two of them thought of Alice as an absolute good-for-nothing. As they thought little of her, they didn’t watch out for her at all; they even withdrew the men they had initially sent to investigate her.

Since it was a live stream, Charles wasn’t the only person who watched this.

Ethan received news of the live stream, too.

“Mr. Knight, Archie Moreno said he’s gonna investigate Young Madam Knight. If she really has something to do with the matter, I’m afraid he’ll even take her to court,” Caleb reported in a low voice. He was really scared. He had reported this to Ethan a few days ago, at which time Ethan told him to let her be, which he actually did. But who would’ve thought that the matter would turn out like this? Alice actually went so far as to steal trade secrets. Caleb didn’t think the theft of trade secrets was the point here, as this was no big deal for Ethan. The point was Alice had done so for Bruce’s sake, which was...

Caleb gingerly looked up at his boss. When he saw Ethan purse his lips thoughtfully, his legs actually stopped trembling. Much to his surprise, Ethan didn’t seem very angry.

Indeed, Ethan wasn’t really angry at this moment. He was only puzzled as to why the matter would turn out like

this. *Smart as Little Fox is, there’s no way she couldn’t tell that Bruce Yeager was coaxing her, yet she actually helped him steal the tender document. Why? Why would she do this? Even if she really did that, with her*

*cleverness, there was no way she would leave behind such an obvious flaw and wait for others to catch it . As I see it. the situation right now*

*is full of holes. This isn’t supposed to be her way of doing things! So why on earth would things turn out like this? Just what exactly is her intention?*

That being said, he just watched Archie say he was going to investigate her. Archie had said so directly in front of the reporters, so it was obvious that he wasn't joking. *Well, whatever her purpose and intention are, I can't let others investigate my wife.* However, he couldn't ask her directly about this. If he were to do so, it would appear that he was suspecting her and questioning her. Therefore, he'd better help her out by getting to the root of it first.

He found a phone number and dialed it. It belonged to Archie, and he saved it after having somebody look into Galerprises a few days ago.

Caleb stood there without saying a word.

When the phone call was answered, Ethan first politely introduced himself. "Hi, I'm Ethan Knight."

"H-Huh? You're Mr. Knight? Are you Ethan Knight?" Archie said on the other end with apparent bewilderment in his voice; obviously, he was shocked by Ethan's self-introduction. However, he reacted quickly enough. The next moment, he asked, "May I know why you called me out of the blue, Mr. Knight?"

Ethan had always been direct. Without beating around the bush, he came straight to the point. "Forget about investigating Alice, and I'll compensate for your losses. Let me hear your conditions." Naturally, he already understood the whole situation and knew full well that Galerprises didn't suffer any losses. However, what he said indicated that however much Archie demanded as compensation and whatever conditions he proposed, he would agree to them.

Only then was Archie really taken aback; he was even more astounded than when he suddenly got a phone call from Ethan for no apparent reason just now. "You're freaking me out, Mr. Knight. What's going on here?" *Ethan*

*Knight's pleading for Alice? What's going on? Ethan and Alice? What do these two have to do with one another? Why didn't I know that? Wait a minute, why should Ethan Knight plead for Alice? Does Alice need him to plead on her behalf?!*

At this moment, Archie almost jumped to his feet and slapped his desk. *Why? Why? Why on earth would Ethan Knight do this? What the heck does Alice have to do with him? This is none of his business, so why would she need him to plead for her?*

Ethan replied, "I think I've made myself clear enough. As I said, let me hear your conditions. If I can't meet them, there's still the Knight Family." Such words carried even greater weight, for they meant that even the Knight Family could stick up for Alice.

"Ha!" Archie let out a chuckle. "No, I don't understand what you mean. Alice is just an employee of our company. Is she related to you in any way, Mr. Knight?" *Why would Ethan Knight mention the Knight Family? Just what did Alice do to get this guy to step in for her? Not only that, he's even willing to let the Knight Family intervene in this! I don't get it!*

Ethan stopped Archie's curious inquiry with just a sentence. "Mr. Moreno, you just have to tell me your answer

"What if I say no?" Archie asked tentatively. Honestly, the offer Ethan made was really very tempting.

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Most importantly, this was an act put on by him and Alice in front of the Wolands and the person hiding behind the

Woland Family. He wouldn't really investigate Alice, to begin with, so he could absolutely get something from Ethan without spending a dime. If he were to turn down such a good offer, he would be doing an injustice to himself.

Ethan fell silent for a moment. Then, he slowly replied, "In that case, I'll make this a matter within the Knight Family."

Caleb was stunned as he looked on. *What does Mr. Knight mean by this? He obviously sounds like he's gonna throw his weight around!*

Once again, Archie was stunned on the other end of the line. Clever as he was, he understood what Ethan meant, of course. By saying that he would make this a matter within the family, Ethan implied that he would make Galerprises belong to the Knight Family!

He had long heard about Ethan being ruthless in doing things, and it now seemed that the rumor was true. But now, Ethan was pleading on Alice's behalf, and Galerprises was Alice's company in the first place. He wondered what Alice would do if Ethan really were to make the company belong to the Knight Family.

At the thought of this, Archie couldn't help curling his lips into a smile. For an instant, he wanted to yell at Ethan, 'Go ahead and try to make Galerprises belong to the Knight Family, then!' and see whether Alice would let Ethan off for this. In the end, however, he forcibly suppressed the urge to do so. Ethan was not to be messed with, and he still had no idea what was going on right now. So, he had to ask Alice about this before deciding on what to do. Letting out a breath in secret, he suppressed all the mischievous ideas in his mind and replied ambiguously, "I'll think about your offer, Mr. Knight."

"Alright, I'll wait for your reply, Mr. Moreno." Ethan, who had always been a man of few words, gave a polite reply.

After hanging up on Ethan, Archie immediately dialed Alice's number. As soon as he got through, he yelled, "Alice, I want an explanation!"

Alice was instantly dumbfounded. "An explanation? For what? Did our plan go wrong or something? It's been going smoothly, no?" Having devised the plan herself, Alice knew how it was going, of course. Things had turned out exactly as they had planned.

"No, the plan didn't go wrong, but something happened, which makes me very curious," Archie replied in a loud voice that sounded quite agitated at this moment.

"What is it?" Alice was really dumbfounded; she really had no idea what was going on.

"Ethan Knight just called to ask me to stop investigating you. So, explain to me what's going on here!" Archie yelled, once again raising his voice by a few decibels.

Alice was stunned for a moment. "Ethan Knight just called you?" She was equally surprised by this turn of events.

Hearing the tone of her voice, Archie let out a snort at once. "Yeah, that's right! Not only did he call to ask me to stop investigating you, he even offered to compensate me, saying he's willing to fulfill whatever conditions I propose. Now answer my question: what did you do to make him plead on your behalf? What's your relationship with him?"

Hearing the tone of Archie's voice, Alice knew that she had to explain this. After seven years of spending time together, she absolutely trusted Archie, so she didn't hide this from him either. "Caroline is a member of the Knight Family."

For a moment, Archie didn't realize what she meant. "So?"

Alice explained further, "She already returned to the Knight Family."

Only then did Archie understand what she meant. But then, his brow furrowed. "And then what?"

Alice pondered for a moment. Then, she said, "After that, Mr. Knight—"

Archie's countenance changed. He cut her short at once, saying, "Don't tell me he's trying to repay your kindness toward Caroline! I know what kind of a person he is. Even if he wants to repay your kindness, there's no way he'll do so in such a way." Ethan was a principled man, and he always did things in a straightforward, simple, and crude way. Therefore, such a roundabout and tactful way of doing things wasn't his style at all. Judging from his approach right now, he seemed to have scruples about something, though it seemed more like he was trying to cherish something.

"I'm staying at the Knight Residence now," Alice said while letting out a breath in secret. She could almost predict how Archie was going to react to this.

It was clear that Archie had yet to understand this completely. "You're staying at the Knight Residence? Why? You can't stay there even if it's for the purpose of looking after Caroline. If people learn about this, who knows what they're going to say about this? The Knight Family isn't the same as the Yeager Family. Alice, have you ever thought of the consequences—"

Alice had no choice but to explain again, "Ethan and I got a certificate."

Archie was stunned for a moment. Suddenly, he lowered his voice, asking, "What certificate is it?"

"The kind that you must apply for at the city hall with a partner. You know, the kind that many people will get once they reach a certain age—"

Alice wished she could tell Archie directly that she and Ethan were officially married, but she feared that doing so might upset Archie badly. *Well, I'd better be more tactful by letting him figure it out on his own so that he can take some time to come to terms with it.*

As it turned out, Archie reacted much more quickly than Lydia and others did. Apparently, he instantly figured out what the certificate was for. "You're really something, Alice! How dare you get married in secret!"

et?! How dare you?!” he chided. After muttering to himself, he yelled immediately, “Alice, I’ll give you half an hour to come to me. You know the consequences if I don’t get to see you in half an hour!”

Alice knew there were certain things that she couldn’t hide from and had to face up to when it was time to do so. After pondering for a moment, she asked, “But in what capacity am I supposed to go to you now?”

Archie fell silent at once. He and Alice had just put on such an act. If she were to come to him right now, they might end up giving themselves away. However, if she were to come over as Tanner West, it would also reveal some other things.

He struggled to suppress his anger, but he couldn’t do so no matter how hard he tried. “Fine! Could you first explain why you got married to Ethan Knight?” Despite being unable to meet Alice in person, he definitely couldn’t let this slide, so he had to know everything he needed to know.

Alice replied honestly, “It was for Caroline’s sake.”

Archie let out a deep breath while trying hard to suppress his emotions. “We’re talking about getting married here Do you know how serious this is? And yet you married yourself off like that for Caroline’s sake? How dare you—”

“Our marriage’s a sham. We’ll get divorced.” Alice didn’t hide this from Archie. Most importantly, of course, it was clear that she could no longer hide it from him.

Archie was rendered speechless; it took him a few seconds to find his voice. “What do you mean? The marriage is a sham? You’ll get divorced? What’s all this about?”

## **Chapter 176 Divorce (2)**

Archie took a few seconds to regain his senses. “What do you mean? What fake marriage? What do you mean by divorce?”

“This was something Mr. Knight and I agreed beforehand,” Alice explained, shedding light on everything.

“You agreed with him beforehand? Did he say that this marriage is fake? He said that you will divorce eventually?” His voice trembled with confusion. “H—He said that?”

“Yes,” Alice replied without offering further explanation. Although she signed the agreement with Rosy, it was Ethan’s intention as well.

Instantly, Archie fell silent. He felt that something was off about this matter, but since he hadn’t interacted with Ethan and didn’t know him well, he couldn’t assert himself.

Although the Knight Family’s way of doing things seemed like bullying, he understood Alice too well. If she didn’t want to do something, no one could force her. Trying to bully her wasn’t an easy task.

“So, what gives him the right? It’s a fake marriage, and you’re going to divorce soon, so what gives him the right?” *Since they had agreed on a fake marriage, what made him think he had such authority? “What gives him the right to plead for you?”* It was obvious that this question was what he was most concerned about—what gave Ethan the right to plead for his beloved Alice?

“What? Just because he’s Ethan Knight, or just because he’s from the Knight Family? Does he think he intimidates me?” His frustration was evident in his words.

Alice, being a smart person, remained silent at this moment. She never expected Ethan to approach Archie to plead on her behalf. Her original plan was to leave the Knight Family after this matter was resolved. Once she left the Knight Family, her actions wouldn’t affect them anymore. This was why she had implemented this plan.

“He even threatened me and said that if I didn’t agree to his request, he would turn Galerprises into the Knight Family’s property. How dare he threaten me?” Archie vented his frustration over the phone since he couldn’t see Alice.

When she heard that, a faint wave of surprise flicker appeared in her eyes. *Ethan actually threatened Archie like that? It’s not quite his style of doing things.*

“He also said that I could propose any condition I want. What nonsense conditions does he think I care about?” Archie grew more and more indignant as he spoke. However, his words suddenly came to a halt.

After a few seconds of silence, he spoke again, his voice noticeably softer. “I wonder what conditions he will agree to. Honestly, I’m quite curious. Alice, how about I agree to his request? After all, this is just a game for us. I wasn’t going to investigate you in the first place. I can go with the flow and agree to his request since he said that I could propose any condition I want.” After his anger subsided, he felt it was time to consider some practical matters.

“It’s up to you. As long as you’re not afraid that he will come after you one day when he finds out the truth.” Although Alice didn’t say much, her reminder was obvious.

“What can he do if he finds out? His request was for me not to investigate you, and I definitely won’t. So, I have already fulfilled his request. Even if he discovers something one day, there won’t be any issues.” Archie felt it would be a great pity to let go of such a good opportunity. “Besides, I still have to give him a reply later. I can’t just tell him that I don’t agree.” His reasoning was quite difficult to refute. “I think we can keep this condition in reserve. If we don’t need it, we can forget about it. But who knows, it might come in handy someday.” He was quite the mastermind behind his schemes.

“It’s up to you to decide.” She understood his intention from his words and didn’t say much further.

“Alright.” He readily agreed, feeling relieved. However, after a moment of silence, he couldn’t hold his curiosity anymore. “When will you divorce him, then?”

"My plan is to divorce him after this plan is executed. I will move out from the Knight Residence after that." *This was my plan all along.*

"So soon? Are you saying you are going to divorce now?" Archie was taken aback. *Isn't this divorce too soon! I've just learned that they are married, and they are considering divorce.*

"Yes," she replied softly. "But I still need to have a proper conversation with Caroline and then clarify things with Mr. Knight before proceeding with the divorce."

Her *plan is quite well thought out.* Suddenly, he felt that everything was rather fishy and poking his curiosity "Your plan sounds good, but will Mr. Knight agree to it?"

"Of course, he will. That was what we agreed on, and it was his idea in the first place," she replied naturally because she was just speaking her mind.

"Okay then. I won't meddle in this. I can't anyway, so you handle it yourself." He inwardly sighed. *This has clearly gone out of my league. There's no need for me to worry about it.* "Well then, I'll hang up now. I should take care of that important matter first." *Since Alice is about to divorce Ethan soon, shouldn't I quickly agree to h:*

go

*request?*

After ending the call with Alice, Archie retrieved the number that Ethan had called from and dialed back.

The phone rang once, and before the second ring, the call was answered. This surprised Archie. *Wow, he's fast.*

"Mr. Knight, I've considered it, and I agree to your request. I won't investigate Alice any further." He had thought about what he needed to say before making the call, so his words came out smoothly.

On the other side of the phone, Ethan was slightly stunned but then replied lightly, "Alright."

"That settles it, then. There is no need for compensation. You mentioned that I could propose any condition, but

I don't have anything specific in mind now. I'll tell you when something pops up in the future. How does that sound?" His idea was well thought out, indeed. "Of course, you can rest assured that any conditions I propose will not violate the law or ethics, harm others, or involve any unscrupulous acts."

Hearing that, Ethan furrowed his brows slightly but still agreed. "Okay."

"Alright, that's settled. Pleasure doing business with you." Archie hung up the phone, feeling satisfied.

On the other hand, Ethan looked at the phone in his hand, his eyes narrowing slightly. "Archie agreed just like that?" *Something seems off about this.*

When Caleb

heard Ethan's words, he was shocked. "There's no reason for him not to agree, Mr. Knight. This is not a

bad deal for Galerprises. Investigating Young Madam Knight wouldn't benefit them. Moreover, the conditions you just proposed are impossible for anyone to refuse.

Even if you hadn't mentioned those conditions, he would have agreed out of respect for you."

## Chapter 177 Divorce (2)

"Are you saying that I'm oppressing him?" Ethan raised an eyebrow and glanced at Caleb.

*Which sentence I*

*said implied that?* Caleb was dumbfounded. "Well, if that's considered oppression, everyone would want to be oppressed..." This was his real thought. *I seem to have let Mr. Knight use his power to oppress*

me too.

Suddenly, a stony gaze swept over him, and he immediately fell silent.

At this moment, Alice was in the Knight Residence. She walked over to Caroline, who was playing with toys, and decided to talk seriously with her. "Caroline, can I talk to you for a second?"

"What do you want to talk to me about, Mommy?" Caroline quickly looked up at her. Yet, her shining black eyes were filled with nervousness and concern.

Seeing Caroline

like this, Alice felt her heart wrench and was reluctant, but she still had to talk to her. After all, she couldn't

stay in the Knight Residence with Caroline forever. She would eventually have to leave. Right now, she was just leaving a little earlier.

In fact, it was best for her to leave now since Caroline had already completely adapted to life in the Knight Residence. If she continued to stay, it would only make Caroline develop a habit and dependence on the current situation. On top of that, what she was about to do next would be dangerous, and she didn't want Caroline to be affected in any way.

"Caroline is a big girl now. So, we need to talk..." She didn't hug Caroline as she usually did but sat across from her, maintaining eye contact. It was a sign that this conversation was going to be a calm discussion, not a mother demanding something from her child.

"I'm not a big girl. I don't want to be a big girl." Caroline, who was usually sensible, immediately resorted to being stubborn. "I'm still little. I'm still a baby, Mommy. Caroline is still a baby." She stood up and jumped into Alice's lap, trying her best to gesture. "Caroline is so small and short."

Hearing that, Alice didn't know what

to say. *How am I supposed to continue this conversation?* "Caroline, I..." She gritted her teeth, trying to steel herself.

However, Caroline wrapped her arms around Alice's neck right away. "I will listen to everything you say. Please don't leave me, Mommy." After thinking for a moment, she added, "I can also make Daddy listen to everything you say. Can you not leave, Mommy?"



At her words, Alice was stunned for a moment. *Make Ethan listen to everything I say?* She didn't dare imagine that scene.

Likewise, she couldn't bear to part with Caroline; she really couldn't. However, her plan had already begun, and there were certain things she had to do. She was certain that there was a third party behind Charles, but the person she sent to investigate hadn't found out his identity. *The person is definitely no ordinary man.*

Her genuine concern lay in the potential danger that her plan might entail. The safety of Apollo and her brother was of utmost importance to her, and she was equally determined to ensure that Caroline remained out of harm's way.

Furthermore, the upcoming tasks required her to handle them under the identity of Tanner, so she had to lie low. She couldn't continue to appear as Alice in the Knight Residence or Rodcaster. Therefore, she had to leave.

As she pondered and was about to speak again, Ethan returned.

"What are you doing?" When he saw Caroline tightly hugging Alice's neck, his brows slightly furrowed. "Caroline, let go of Mommy. You're squeezing her too tight."

At once, Caroline looked up and glared at him. "Hmph, stupid Daddy."

"What is this about? Did I do something wrong?" He was utterly confused by the scolding. *This little girl is in a foul mood again.*

"Let's ignore him and go back to our room, Mommy." The angry Caroline tugged on Alice and headed upstairs. *Stupid Daddy is useless. He can't even keep Mommy. I don't want to talk to him anymore.*

seems

Seeing that, Alice let out a sigh. *It seems I need to find another opportunity to talk to her.*

"Why are you ignoring me? What did I do?" Ethan felt unfairly treated and frustrated. *One is my daughter and the other is my wife. Why are they ignoring me?*

"You're useless. Why do I need you?" Caroline huffed disdainfully. *Mommy is about to leave, and stupid Daddy is still of no use at all.*

At her words, his heart sank. Not only was he rejected by his wife, but his daughter was rejecting him too. *What's going on in my life?*

However, Ethan was no longer the same person he used to be. In the past, if he was rejected, he would just let it end there. But now, even though he was blatantly rejected, he didn't show any signs of being discouraged. Instead, he followed behind Caroline and Alice, asking, "How am I useless?" *I have just helped my wife solve a problem, so how am I useless?*

Alice couldn't help but smile, seeing that Caroline was now full of energy when arguing with Ethan. There was no more tension or worry than earlier. Moreover, their banter seemed natural, indicating that she had fully accepted him. From there, she could tell that he genuinely cared for Caroline. If that was the case, she could leave with peace of mind.

Suddenly, her phone call with Archie earlier came into her mind, and she couldn't help but glance at Ethan. At that moment, Ethan happened to look up, and their eyes met.

Although he was startled, a smile still tugged at his lips involuntarily. *Is she stealing glances at me? Does this mean that she still cares about me? Or perhaps she has already developed feelings for me. After all, I'm no ordinary man. I won't believe that she has no feelings for me after spending so much time together. Or maybe she was just pretending not to care before?*

As Alice noticed the smile on his face, she felt a little puzzled. *Why does his smile seem strange?*

After they went upstairs, Caroline continued to cling to Alice. She was quite a cunning little girl, for whenever she sensed that Alice wanted to say something, she would find a way to disrupt it.

This made Alice let out a sigh secretly. *Having such a clever daughter can sometimes be quite a headache. I might need to come up with another plan.*

After Caroline fell asleep, she took the initiative to find Ethan. Coincidentally, Ethan was in the hall downstairs at that moment. So, she went downstairs and sat across from him.

He was taken aback for a moment, but when he looked at her, a smile played on his lips uncontrollably once again. *It seems that she really is starting to care about me.*

"Mr. Knight, can I talk to you for a second?" After her attempt, she realized that it was difficult for her to communicate with Caroline, so she wanted him to talk to her instead.

"Yes?" He was slightly puzzled, as they had been married for so long, yet this was the first time she had taken the initiative to talk to him.

"Mr. Knight, thank you for... looking out for me." She felt genuinely grateful to him for giving Archie the call today.

### **Chapter 178 Divorce (3)**

"Mr. Knight, thank you for... looking out for me." Alice felt truly grateful to Ethan for giving Archie the call. Although he didn't help much, she still appreciated his kindness. However, she couldn't reveal her relationship with Archie, so she couldn't directly express her gratitude.

Meanwhile, Ethan looked at her without saying anything. *Why is she thanking me for looking out for her? Isn't that what I should do? Is this something she should thank me for?*

Since she was used to his silence, she didn't think much about it and went straight to her point. "Mr. Knight, it has been some time since Caroline moved into the Knight Residence, and she has completely adapted to life here."

"Well, she has a good ability to adapt." He agreed on this point.

"So, I think it's time for me to let go. Even though the time isn't..." She wanted to mention that the six-month period they had agreed upon had not elapsed, but since Caroline had already adapted, she could leave early.

"Alice? You guys are still awake?" Rosy, who happened to come downstairs, suddenly interrupted her words. "Well then, Alice, I bought a few things today that I think would suit you. Come upstairs with me and take a look." She rushed up to Alice and reached out to hold her.

Rosy words and actions left Alice puzzled as she was the one who made her sign an agreement as soon as she entered the Knight Family, so she had always been cold and distant toward her. *Why is she suddenly so friendly?*

She couldn't just accept things from Rosy casually, so she politely refused. "Thank you, Rosy, but it's okay."

"Then, can you help me see if the things I bought for myself look good on me?" However, Rosy didn't let go of Alice but insisted on pulling her upstairs.

Alice felt

that Rosy was Caroline's family after all, so she couldn't easily reject her and embarrass her. In the end, she could only stand up reluctantly.

"Alice and I are in the middle of a conversation, Mom." Ethan was listening to Alice's words, but before he could figure out the meaning behind what she was saying, he was interrupted by his mother just like that. This made him a little dissatisfied. Now his mother even wanted to take Alice away directly, so he couldn't help but protest.

"I'm just borrowing your wife for a while. Do you have to be that anxious? Can't you wait for a while?" Rosy glared at him and then pulled Alice toward the stairs.

Hearing that, Ethan rubbed his nose. *I'm quite anxious*, indeed. However, the way his mother called Alice 'your wife' sounded pleasant to his ears, and he couldn't bring himself to compete with his mother for his wife. So, the words he wanted to say remained unsaid.

Meanwhile, Alice followed Rosy

upstairs, and when she made sure Ethan couldn't see them, she directly asked, "Is there something you wanted to talk to me about, Mrs. Knight?"

"It's nothing, really. I just heard you say that Caroline has adapted, and you want to let go. Are you planning to leave?" Rosy lowered her gaze slightly to conceal her guilt.

“Yes. Since Caroline has fully adapted now, I plan to leave early.” Alice naturally wouldn’t hide this from Rosy.

“So soon?” Rosy exclaimed. After realizing her slip of composure, she quickly added, “When do you plan to leave then?”

“In the next couple of days. By then, I will sort things out with Mr. Knight.” Alice thought that since she and Ethan were legally married and had also signed the agreement, these matters needed to be resolved.

“Why the rush? You can stay a little longer. I can see that Caroline doesn’t want to let you go either.” There was a hint of guilt in Rosy’s eyes, and her voice became slightly softer.

“I will leave sooner or later. Now that Caroline has adapted, it’s best for her if I leave now.” Alice was accustomed to considering everything for Caroline’s sake, so she thought through many things in advance.

After a moment of hesitation, Rosy said softly, “You don’t need to trouble Ethan in some matters. You can come to me, and I will handle them directly. He is a man after all, and there might be some things that he can’t handle gracefully.”

“Can

you

handle everything on my behalf, Mrs. Knight?” Alice’s eyes flickered lightly.

At her question, Rosy nodded repeatedly. “Sure. I can handle everything for you.”

“Alright, I’ll deal with the procedures with you tomorrow, and if possible, I’ll move out tomorrow as well.” Alice didn’t think too much

about it. For her, it didn’t matter who handled the matter as long as it was done well. After all, when they got married, she wasn’t even present. Ethan had just sent Caleb to collect the marriage certificate, so Rosy should be able to handle these things as well.

After that, Rosy specifically added, “Okay, I’ll talk to Ethan about it.”

“Okay.” Alice nodded indifferently. Although she and Ethan had signed a marriage certificate and lived together for several months, they weren’t actually close. Ethan was usually silent and not someone she could have a proper conversation with. Since Rosy was willing to take care of everything, she couldn’t ask for more.

Rosy didn’t take Alice to her room, so there was naturally nothing to see. They had their conversation in the corridor on the third floor.

Alice had initially planned to talk to Ethan about Caroline, but now that Rosy said she would handle everything, she simply told her the situation. After going downstairs from the third floor, she didn’t return to the hall on the first floor but went straight back to her room on the second floor.

On the other hand, Ethan had been waiting in the hall for a long time but didn't see his wife return. However, he thought that it might not be appropriate for him to disturb their rare mother–daughter–in-law time, so he continued waiting in the hall.

It wasn't until Lawrence returned and Rosy came downstairs alone that he looked at his mother in confusion. "Mom, where's Alice?"

"She came downstairs earlier. We talked for a while, and she came down after that. Didn't you see her?" Rosy glanced at her son. "Could she have gone directly to her room to rest?" In fact, she knew that Alice had gone back to her room as soon as she came downstairs. This was what she liked about Alice, for Alice had truly kept her word and not grown any feelings for Ethan.

Of course, for Alice to go straight to her room without going downstairs to find Ethan not only satisfied her but also relieved her. She was genuinely concerned about the agreement being discovered by her son. However, since Alice said that she would move out tomorrow after handling some things, this matter would be completely resolved. She wouldn't have to worry about it anymore in the future.

### **Chapter 179 Ethan's Scheme (1)**

Ethan and Alice's matter would be completely resolved, and Rosy wouldn't have to worry about it anymore in the future.

With furrowed brows, Ethan thought, *She went back to her room just like that? I waited here for so long, and she just went back to rest? She's the one who said she wanted to talk to me.*

Although he was frustrated, there was nothing he could do. After all, she was his wife. *What else can I do? I can only spoil her.*

He then got up and went upstairs. As he passed Alice's room, he tried the doorknob and found that the door was locked from the inside. At once, his heart sank. *Does she really need to guard herself against me like this? Is this necessary?*

After taking a deep breath, he reminded himself not to be impatient and to take it slowly. *Little Fox is still wary of me. I can't rush things.*

Alice had originally planned to handle things with Rosy the next day and leave directly. However, just before dawn, she received a phone call from Jane, who informed her about some unusual situations involving her brother. Worried and anxious, she immediately booked the earliest flight.

Before the break of dawn, she hurriedly left the Knight Residence and headed to the airport. She was too anxious and worried, and the flight was scheduled so soon that she didn't bother to disguise herself.

The last time she retrieved the document with her brother's fingerprint, she disguised herself as Tanner because the trip would raise suspicions about her visiting her brother. However, this time, no one

would know that she was going to see him, and those people were no longer monitoring her. Hence, leaving openly would actually draw less suspicion.

On the other hand, Ethan woke up early as well and noticed that Alice's room door was left open. Her room was slightly messy, especially the clothes in the wardrobe, which had clearly been rummaged through.

He checked Caroline's room but didn't find Alice there. So, he quickly went downstairs but still couldn't find her. After that, he took out his phone and dialed her number, but no one answered after several attempts.

At that moment, Alice had already arrived at the airport and was busy with the formalities, Her phone was in her bag, and she had lowered the volume during the night, so she didn't hear the ringing.

His face darkened gradually, and he decided to call Caleb.

Before long, Caleb returned his call and said, "Mr. Knight, Mrs. Knight bought a ticket for a flight to Cliaria... Bruce did the same, and their seats are next to each other."

Caleb's voice sounded somewhat shocked. *What's going on? Mr. Knight has just solved Mrs. Knight's case of business espionage for Bruce, and now she's trying to elope with him?*

Meanwhile, Ethan's eyes flickered quickly. *Yesterday, she said that Caroline had already adapted and that it was time for her to let go. And today, she's planning to leave the country with Bruce already?!*

Previously, he had been certain that she had no feelings for Bruce, but recent events made him uncertain. *Does she have feelings for Bruce?*

After a sigh, he said firmly, "Book me a seat next to her." *I will see for myself what she is up to.*

On the other hand, Alice truly didn't expect to encounter Bruce on the plane, let alone have seats next to each other. *What the hell is going on? I don't think his case of business espionage has been resolved. Archie has already filed charges against him and applied for his arrest from the prosecutor's office. How can he still appear on a plane?*

At this thought, she narrowed her eyes slightly. Archie had just returned to the country with her, and they had been keeping a low profile. Obviously, their influence within Rodcaster was not enough. Although Archie has applied for Bruce's arrest, with Thomas' connections in Rodcaster, it wouldn't be difficult for him to secure Bruce's release. *Is he trying to escape?*

"Alice, what a coincidence," Bruce said, surprised to see her. As she had guessed, he indeed had the intention of escaping. Of course, calling it an escape was more like going on a trip. After all, in his current situation, no one at the company listened to him, and he had nothing to do.

Before she could recover from the shock, she felt a shadow block most of the light. So, she instinctively looked up, and upon seeing the person in front of her, she became even more stunned. *What the hell? Why is Ethan here too?* She didn't know how to react and just stared blankly at Ethan.

“You’re drooling.” Ethan looked at her with a smile that was incredibly charming, but his words were just not so pleasant.

When Bruce noticed Alice’s dumbfounded gaze at Ethan, a hint of disgust was clearly displayed on his face. *Oh, she is truly disgusting. Why does she react like this when she sees a hot guy? That’s Ethan Knight! He’s not someone you can lock your eyes on!*

*Mr. Knight just has a strict upbringing and good manners; otherwise, he would have kicked you off the plane a long time ago. It’s obvious that he is displeased with the way she is looking at him. The remark he made earlier was clearly meant to humiliate her, but she is incredibly stupid and doesn’t realize it.*

At this moment, neither Ethan nor Alice was paying attention to Bruce, so they were unaware of his thoughts.

Alice instinctively reached out to wipe the corner of her lips, only to realize that she had fallen into Ethan’s trap. Feeling frustrated, she sighed secretly. She had initially planned to change her seat, but...

Bruce and Alice were seated next to each other, with Bruce by the window and Alice by the aisle. Seizing this rare opportunity to be on the same flight as Ethan, Bruce wanted to get closer to him. “Alice, let’s switch seats. You can sit by the window, and I’ll sit by the aisle. If you need anything, I’ll be at your service.”

Alice could clearly see his intentions, but his suggestion aligned with her thoughts, for she noticed that Ethan had already taken a seat just an aisle away. She felt that he was somewhat dangerous at the moment, and her instincts urged her to maintain a distance. While she didn’t believe she had provoked him, her innate response was to avoid potential hazards.

When Ethan saw her moving to the window seat as Bruce suggested, his eyes narrowed slightly, and he suddenly stood up. “How about you sit with me, Mr. Yeager? There’s an empty seat next to me.”

“Sure, sure, sure. Bruce nodded repeatedly, overjoyed. *Mr. Knight actually knows me? He even initiated a conversation with me and invited me to sit next to him!*

## **Chapter 180 Ethan’s Scheme (2)**

“Sure, sure, sure.” Bruce nodded repeatedly, overjoyed. *Mr. Knight actually knows me? He even initiated a conversation with me and invited me to sit next to him!* He was somewhat taken aback by this pleasant surprise.

After Ethan stood up, Bruce took the seat beside him, but suddenly, Ethan turned around and sat directly

next to Alice.

At this moment, Alice was stunned, and so was Bruce.

“This is your seat, Mr. Knight.” Bruce didn’t understand what was happening and thought that Ethan had mistakenly sat on the wrong seat, so he pointed to Ethan’s original seat..

“Oh, I’m not used to sitting with strange men,” Ethan replied, as if it were only natural.

Hearing that, Bruce looked at Ethan, then at Alice, feeling that something was off, but he couldn't put his finger on it. *Not used to sitting with strange men, but used to sitting with strange women? But I've heard that Mr. Knight has never been interested in women. It's absolutely impossible for someone like Alice, who is dumb, foolish, and even disfigured, to catch his eye.*

Of course, he would never have thought that Alice was married to Ethan. Even if someone forced him to believe it, he wouldn't.

After Ethan sat beside Alice, he casually asked, "Where are you going?"

Alice didn't plan to hide from him, so she replied, "Cliaria." In fact, she felt he was asking pointless questions since the plane was heading directly to Cliaria, so where else could she be going?

With an arched brow, he asked again, "What are you going to do there?"

She just glanced at him but didn't answer. *I'm not talking to you. Who knows why you suddenly appeared here?* Moreover, he came in like he was interrogating a criminal, which made her feel uncomfortable.

Meanwhile, Bruce, who was unwilling to be ignored, suddenly spoke up. "Oh, I made plans with Alice to go to Cliaria together for a trip."

At his words, Alice widened her eyes and looked at him in disbelief. *Who's going on a trip to Cliaria with him? Is he out of his mind?! What the f\*ck?*

"Is that so?" Ethan ignored Bruce, just looking at Alice with calm eyes, revealing no unusual emotions. However, for some reason, Alice suddenly felt a chill, and she also sensed a dangerous aura.

She wanted to deny it, but if she did, Ethan would surely ask more questions. However, considering that he already knew about her brother's situation, there was no harm in telling him. As she was contemplating, she didn't answer immediately.

When Ethan noticed that she was not contradicting Bruce's words, he looked away and focused on the front. Then, he lightly tapped his fingers on the armrest of the seat. *Tap, tap, tap...*

Each tap made Alice anxious. It felt as if a small hammer was striking her heart with each beat, and the sensation was strange, but overall, it made her anxious.

She didn't know how many times he had tapped, nor did she know how long he would continue. So, she took a deep breath and whispered, explaining to him, "I'm going to Cliaria for my brother, not with Bruce. I didn't even know he was on this flight."

At her answer, a smile gradually tugged on his lips, and he stopped tapping. His gaze once again turned to her, and he smiled, looking incredibly charming.

At the same time, she thought of what Bruce had said earlier. It was clear that he saw Ethan sitting beside her, and Ethan didn't reject her, so he wanted to use her to get closer to Ethan. This thought made her



feel disgusted, and she was determined not to give Bruce that opportunity. "Don't mess around. Don't let Bruce figure out our relationship."

Instantly, Ethan's smile disappeared. *What? What does she mean by 'don't mess around'? What does she mean by 'don't let Bruce figure out our relationship'? Why can't Bruce know about our relationship? Am I that shameful to her?*

"Let's change seats, Alice." Bruce truly lacked self-awareness. He thought that as long as he made a request, Alice would agree.

At this moment, Ethan's gaze turned slightly cold. *Who does he think he is to dare to command my wife in such a tone? He then glanced at Alice. She won't agree, right? If she dares to agree, then I'll... I'll kiss her right now.* As this thought crossed his mind, even Ethan himself was taken aback for a moment. He couldn't decide whether he hoped she would refuse or agree.

Meanwhile, Alice's eyebrows visibly furrowed, showing signs of impatience. *He is truly disgusting. I only pretended to go along with him one last time because I had other plans. Does he really think he is my everything and I should obey him?* At this thought, she glanced sideways at Bruce and replied with just one word, "Scram."

Her plans were already over, and Yeager Corp was in chaos because of her. Bruce was simply an idiot, and the Yeager Family no longer held any significance to her. Of course, more importantly, she had discovered new clues. Although the events from seven years ago were related to the Yeager Family, Damien was clearly not the mastermind.

To uncover more evidence, she needed to start with the third party behind it all. So now she had no reason to continue to appease Bruce.

As Ethan was earnestly considering how he would kiss her next, he was stunned by her words. Huh? *I thought she wouldn't refuse his request.* Although he knew she didn't truly have feelings for Bruce, he knew she must have had some purpose that required her to listen to Bruce. So, he thought she would agree. *She actually rejected him? And she rejected him so directly, so... rudely. But I like it! That's my girl.*

"Alice..." Bruce also clearly froze, looking at Alice with disbelief. "What's wrong with you? Mr. Knight is still here. Don't make a spectacle of yourself." He completely failed to grasp the seriousness of the situation. *Is she throwing a tantrum? Perhaps because I said I would marry her earlier but didn't follow through, but the bidding didn't work out in the first place, and she had messed it up. How dare she have the nerve to throw a tantrum at me? If it weren't for Mr. Knight being here and me wanting to get close to him, I wouldn't even bother this fool.*

Alice couldn't be bothered to pay any more attention to Bruce. *Make a spectacle of myself? You are the one doing that, Bruce.* Regardless, she and Ethan were still husband and wife, a family.

"Alice, come over here. Don't disturb Mr. Knight." Bruce was still not giving up; he was still trying to establish a relationship with Ethan.

