

## **The Epic BD 201**

### Chapter 201 Ethan Seeks Alice (1)

In reality, Caroline knew that her mother left her a number before leaving, but she didn't want to tell the Knights about it, including her current father.

Why would she tell them?

If she told them, they would only continue bullying her mother.

She absolutely could not do that!

No one was allowed to bully her mother!

There was a gleam in Ethan's eyes as he could see that Caroline was lying. Caroline probably knew how to contact Alice, but she told a lie.

Ethan discreetly let out a sigh and decided not to pursue the matter.

He understood what Caroline was thinking, and he also knew her personality. Alice had raised Caroline, so the child was as stubborn as she was. If Caroline didn't want to say something, no one could force it out of her.

Caroline had been suppressing it all along, but she was just a child. She remembered what her mother taught her, so she would be a good and polite child. Hence, she suppressed her rage instead of letting it out.

However, she couldn't hold back the tears in her eyes. Her tears rolled down her cheeks, but Caroline didn't cry aloud. She simply stood there and silently let her tears fall.

"Don't be scared, Caroline." Britney's heart ached for Caroline when she saw that, so she walked over to comfort the child.

Caroline hastily took a step backward. However, she only took one step backward before stopping. She gazed at Britney with her watery eyes as she said, "Grandma, you're my grandma, but I don't have a mommy anymore. Not anymore."

Britney's heart was breaking, but when she remembered that Alice had already left and not longer had any connections to the Knights, she thought that Caroline should forget about Alice too. "Caroline, she's not your real mother, after all..."

"Mom." Ethan's expression shifted. He had never been so stern to his family before; he had always been gentle.

Perhaps realizing her slip-up, Britney stopped speaking.

Caroline's expression shifted noticeably as well. She looked at Britney in disbelief, then after

a moment, she nodded earnestly. "Yes, she's not my real mother, but she rescued me and raised me for three years, yet my family treated her like that. She's not my real mother, so why would she save me

and raise me? Why would she endure so much suffering for me? She's not my real mother, so why would she care about me? She's not my real mother, after all..."

Caroline spoke the phrase 'not my real mother' again and again, breaking everyone's heart when they heard it.

Even Ethan's eyes turned red.

Britney lowered her head and didn't make another sound.

Just then, the door was pushed open. Holland and Marie walked in.

"What's the matter? Why is Caroline crying?" Marie felt her heart aching when she saw the tears streaming down Caroline's face. She quickly walked over to Caroline so that she could carry the latter in her arms.

Caroline, who never rejected their touch before, subconsciously avoided her.

"What's going on with Caroline?" Marie was stunned. In reality, she had overheard what Caroline said last when she was opening the door moments ago.

Marie only heard Caroline saying, 'She's not my real mother, after all, but her heart was already breaking. She didn't know what exactly happened, but she knew that it had something to do with Alice.

Britney didn't say a word because she didn't dare to..

Ethan didn't make a sound, either. He didn't know how he should phrase his reply.

Caroline reached up and wiped off her tears furiously, then she looked at Marie, straightening herself as she said, "It's nothing. It's just that Mommy-No, Alice. Alice left."

"Left? She's the daughter-in-law of the Knight Family. Where did she go?" Holland was confused, for he had no idea what was going on.

Marie, however, felt her heart sink. Even though she only spent a few days with the Knight Family, and even though Alice disappeared from the Knight Family the day after she arrived, from Caroline's words for the past few days, Marie could picture how close Caroline was to Alice.

However, Caroline corrected herself on purpose just now, switching from 'mommy' to Alice's name. She quickly looked at Holland, saying with a slightly higher voice, "She doesn't have to be the daughter-in-law of the Knight Family."

Caroline had been holding it in these few days. After Alice left, she pretended as if she wasn't affected. She constantly remembered what Alice told her, so she didn't say or mention anything.

But now, Caroline couldn't endure it anymore. When Caroline remembered what Holland said to Alice before Alice left, her small face darkened. "She came to the Knight Family just for my sake. She wasn't trying to be a daughter-in-law of the Knight Family."

"What's Caroline going on about? Alice is the daughter-in-law of the Knight Family in the first place." It was obvious that Holland still hadn't grasped the situation.

After all, ever since they came back, Caroline had been the only one talking. Caroline was just a three-year-old, after all. Holland thought Caroline was merely throwing a tantrum.

Caroline froze for a moment. Her eyes turned red again, but she didn't allow her tears to fall this time. "She's not anymore. She never will be in the future."

Ethan's gaze glinted as he moved to speak.

However, Caroline quickly continued, "Now, she's finally free again. She doesn't have to stay here and suffer for my sake anymore. You think anyone can bully her, but that's not true. I know that if there's something she doesn't want to do, no one can force her to do it." Caroline paused, then looked at Ethan. Then, she added, "Not even you, Uncle Ethan."

Ethan froze, but he didn't refute Caroline's words.

Marie looked worriedly at Caroline. "Caroline..."

Caroline turned to look at Marie. "I'm fine. I'm happy that she's finally free, and she doesn't have to suffer for me anymore. I should be happy. I was wrong to ask her to stay in the Knight Family in the past. She should pursue happiness for herself. She should find someone who truly loves her and cares for her."

When Ethan heard that, his expression instantly shifted.

However, Caroline wasn't done with him. She turned to him and added, "Uncle Ethan, you're not worthy."

She looked at the people in the room, then said earnestly, "Don't worry, I'm a member of the Knight Family, so I will stay here. I can't keep on troubling her; she painstakingly raised me for three years, so I can't expect her to keep doing that. I'll stay in the Knight Family and be good because before she left, she told me to be nice to all of you." Caroline had been suppressing it for too long, so now that she could finally vent everything, she let all her thoughts loose.

She then looked at Holland. "She said that even when she heard you insulting her the night she came back, Great-Grandpa."

Chapter 202 Ethan Seeks Alice (2)

She then looked at Holland. "She said that even when she heard you insulting her the night she came back, Great-Grandpa."

At her words, Holland's face showed a hint of embarrassment. On that day, he couldn't bear it and said those words because he saw Alice stealing trade secrets.

Ethan, who had been silent all this while, looked at Holland and asked, "What did you say to her, Grandpa?" This turn of events was beyond his expectations. The situation with the agreement was already terrible enough, but he didn't expect it to get worse.

Now that Caroline had decided to speak up, she wasn't about to help them keep it a secret. "Great-Grandpa said she's dumb and foolish and that her children will be stupid, which will affect the

intelligence of the children in the Knight Family.” Shen then purposely added, “She won’t bear children for the Knight Family anyway. So, what does their intelligence have to do with her?”

Ethan felt extremely uneasy hearing this. At the same time, he also remembered the words Holland said on the phone that day, which Alice also heard. How much suffering has she endured ever since she married me?

“Caroline is right. What does the intelligence of the Knight Family’s children have to do with. Alice? She doesn’t even want to be a part of the Knight Family, let alone bear children for me. That’s wishful thinking.” Ethan’s heart was in turmoil. Although he couldn’t vent his feelings. as directly as Caroline, there were some things he still needed to say.

Suddenly, he chuckled, but there was no trace of amusement. He looked at Holland and slowly added, “You’re overthinking, Grandpa.” He then let out a self-deprecating snort. His voice was low and heavy, but it carried an unmistakable finality as he said, “She won’t bear children for me. I’m afraid you won’t have any great-grandchildren in your lifetime.” The meaning behind his words was clear—he would not marry anyone other than Alice in his lifetime.

Holland blew a gasket when he heard those words. “You blame me because she refuses to bear children for you? What does that have to do with me? It’s not like I’m preventing her from bearing your children. If you have the ability, go make her do so! You can’t even get your wife to bear children for you, yet you dare to blame others!”

With that, Ethan’s already devastated heart was further wounded. He’s right. I can’t blame anyone other than myself. I’m the one who didn’t discover the problem earlier, and I’m the one who didn’t handle the situation properly.

“What is going on here?” Marie could sense the increasingly tense atmosphere, but until now, they still didn’t fully understand what was happening.

Britney dared not say a word, for the agreement was her idea. She had kept it a secret from everyone and convinced Alice to sign it.

As her son, Ethan naturally couldn’t expose his own mother.

Caroline, however, was filled with dissatisfaction and directly took the agreement from Ethan’s hand and handed it to Marie, saying, “Take a look for yourself, Great-Grandma.”

Marie’s expression grew darker as she read the agreement.

After she finished reading, she took a deep breath and then looked at Britney. “Did you ask Alice to sign this?” Marie was a smart woman and immediately guessed that since Alice was brought back by Ethan himself, he would never ask his wife to sign such a thing. The only person in the Knight Family who could do such a thing was her daughter-in-law.

Britney lowered her head and did not answer, but her silence was an admission.

At the sight of Britney’s silence, Marie took another deep breath, trying hard to remain calm and not get angry. Yet, the more she looked at the agreement, the angrier she became. “Alice is Ethan’s wife, and yet you made Alice sign this.”

“Ethan married her because of Caroline,” Britney said quietly, still unwilling to admit her mistake.

Marie was already angry, and when she heard Britney’s words, her expression darkened at once. “You also know it’s because of Caroline, right? Alice saved Caroline’s life and raised her for three years. She is our family’s benefactor. How can you treat our benefactor like this? Is this how we treat benefactors? We don’t even treat enemies like this.”

At that, Holland also took the agreement and read it. His face turned unpleasant as well, but he didn’t say anything.

Since he couldn’t say anything, Marie decided to say everything that needed to be said. “When did our family become so cruel? How could our family do such a thing?”

Although she was not very satisfied with her daughter-in-law on ordinary days, she had never said anything harsh. It was obvious that today’s events truly angered her.

I only saw Alice once that night, but I liked her. That night, even though Holland said such harsh words, Alice remained quiet, not mentioning anything, but her quiet demeanor didn’t make Marie look down on her. Instead, it made her look up to Alice. The next day, Marie didn’t see Alice at all. She asked a few times, but her ‘good’ daughter-in-law told her that Alice might be too busy with work. If I had known about this situation earlier, I would never have watched without doing anything. After all, she’s the one Ethan married.

Thinking about the disadvantageous terms in the agreement, her expression became even more unpleasant. “How did you force that child to sign such unfair terms? How could you bear to do it?”

“I didn’t force her. She looked through it and willingly signed it.” Britney tried to defend herself.

When Marie heard her answer, she was so furious that she started laughing. “That’s because she has dignity, she is generous, and she has high standards. She’s not impressed with the Knight Family” After a deep breath, she asked again. “What were you planning to do if she hadn’t willingly signed this agreement?”

At her question, Britney was stunned for a moment. “I didn’t think about it.” Mainly because Alice was too cooperative at the time and things went smoothly, so she didn’t have to think much about it.

“Fortunately, that child willingly signed it. If she hadn’t, what kind of coercion would our family have resorted to? It would have been...” Marie shook her head slowly. “Now that I think about it, I feel sorry for that child.”

“But she isn’t worthy of Ethan.” Up until now, Britney still believed she was right.

“You think your child is precious, but does that mean other people’s children are worthless? Every family cherishes their children!” Marie tried her best to suppress the anger in her heart, but Britney kept fueling the fire. This made Marie unable to hold back any longer. “It’s pitiful that her parents are deceased, and there isn’t even someone to stand up for her and seek justice from us, letting us freely bully her.” She had a good temper and rarely got angry, but now she was truly furious.

Chapter 203 Ethan Seeks Alice (3)

“But I understand now. Alice never had any intention of becoming a member of the Knight Family. You think she’s not worthy of Ethan, but she didn’t have any interest in him in the first place. Otherwise, how could she have left so freely?” Marie no longer wanted to argue with Britney, so she sat directly on the couch and waved her hand. “What’s done is done, so just let it be. Just as Caroline said, Alice is now free. It’s a mutually happy outcome.” As she spoke, she intentionally shifted her gaze toward Ethan. She saw his expression change several times, gradually becoming more and more unpleasant.

Seeing that, she inwardly sighed. Ethan is clearly happy with Alice, and he has set his heart on her. Alice appears soft and will stay quiet when she encounters something. She won’t get angry and make a fuss. However, a person who behaves this way is actually stubborn and determined. Now that she has left the Knight Family, it may not be easy for Ethan to win her back again. Anyway, I’m old now. I shouldn’t care too much about these things anymore. I’ll just let the children handle their affairs,

After she took a sip of water, she stood up again and looked at Holland. I’m tired. Let’s go upstairs and rest.”

“No way. This matter hasn’t been resolved yet.” Holland felt dissatisfied.

“It’s none of your business whether it’s resolved or not. She glared at him.

However, he still had his mind fixated on his great-grandson. “It’s related to my great-grandson. How can it be none of my business?”

“Just shut up.” Marie wished she could shut his mouth. Seriously? You’re bringing up that topic now? Immediately after, she held his hand and walked toward the stairs.

Yet, he seemed somewhat dissatisfied and muttered under his breath, “Alice may have been disfigured, but she used to be beautiful. The child she gives birth to will be beautiful too. He might be more beautiful than James’ great-grandson.”

“What does it have to do with you? Alice won’t bear any children for the Knight Family.” She found it both funny and exasperating to hear his words. He finally sees how good Alice is now, but what did he do before that?

“Alice and Ethan are legally married. They haven’t filed for divorce yet. We just need to find a way to bring her back,” he muttered again.

Suddenly, Marie stopped in her tracks, then she quickly turned around to look at Britney and Ethan.-She saw Ethan looking grim, while Britney appeared guilty. At this moment, her heart sank along with them. She hadn’t considered this matter before, but when Holland brought it up just now, her thoughts aligned with his. However, Ethan and Britney’s reactions made her feel that the situation might be even worse. than she had anticipated.

Marie couldn’t help but ask again, “Did Alice file for divorce when she left?” If she has really filed for divorce, she will never step foot inside the Knight Family’s door again.

Seeing that neither of them spoke, she started to feel anxious. “Ethan, did you and Alice file for divorce?”

“We didn’t go through with the divorce proceedings.” When Ethan answered, he felt a pang of pain in his heart.

“That’s good, that’s good.” Marie visibly breathed a sigh of relief. “It’s a good thing that Alice is not the type to leave no room for compromise.”

“No, that’s not true. Uncle Ethan hasn’t filed for divorce, but Mommy... She received the divorce certificate,

so she left without any hesitation, Caroline couldn’t help but reply. I heard everything

“If there was no divorce, where did the divorce certificate come from Holland frowned, completely puzzled

Marie also looked confused, but the next moment, she quickly looked at Britney and asked. You give Alter the divorce certificate Where did you get it?”

Not daring to hide it from Marie, Britney lowered her head and answered, “I got a fake one.

At her reply, Marie burst into laughter out of exasperation again. Tve underestimated you all these years. You’re really something.” After taking a deep breath, she asked again. “Tell me, what else have you done? Make everything clear.”

“N-Nothing else.” Britney was nervous and afraid of Marie, so she stuttered.

However, Marie wasn’t easily fooled. She continued to stare at Britney without saying a word, making her even more nervous and scared.

After a moment of hesitation, Britney spoke again. “I saw that her current situation isn’t good, so I wanted to give her some money...”

Hearing that, Ethan, who was texting someone to find Alice, quickly looked up at his mother again. At this moment, even with his good upbringing, his face turned cold. “You gave her money? You gave her money when she left?”

Likewise, Marie’s expression turned uglier.

When Britney met his son’s gaze, it startled her so much, she flinched. She hastily added. “S-She didn’t take it. She said you also gave her money back then, and you put the money in Caroline’s account. 72 million, not a penny less. She was possibly genuinely frightened, so she revealed everything.

Suddenly. Ethan laughed. I’m really a b’stard.

“What makes you think she cares about your money?” Marie was so angry that she didn’t know what to say

“She told me she didn’t lack money at the time, but considering her current situation, with her company given away and being in trouble after working for only two days, how could she not need money?” Britney still couldn’t believe the things Alice had said.

Marie was stunned and she narrowed her eyes. "You didn't tell Alice such things back then, did you?"

Britney didn't answer, but her silence and evasive gaze were enough to explain everything.

At this moment, Ethan's eyes turned dark, and he didn't want to say anything anymore.

Suddenly, Caroline spoke up. "Mommy doesn't lack money. Back then, she bought me the best things. The food, the toys, and the things I used were all the best. I had what other kids had, and even what they didn't. She even asked people to specially design my clothes, my shoes, and my accessories. She said I was her precious treasure, so everything I used should be unique."

Marie felt a sense of shame listening to Caroline's words. Look at how Alice treated my precious Caroline, and then look at how we treated Alice. I'm too embarrassed to see her again.

All this while, Ethan kept his head down and remained silent while he sent another text message. He was on the verge of going crazy and losing his mind.

Chapter 204 Ethan Seeks Alice (4)

All this while. Ethan kept his head down and remained silent while he sent another text message.

"When the Woland Group was still Alice's, she didn't lack money. Britney felt somewhat embarrassed upon hearing Caroline's words, but she didn't reflect on herself and only blamed others.

Marie couldn't tolerate it anymore and yelled at her, "Shut up!"

Meanwhile, Ethan didn't even glance at Britney.

When Caroline looked at Britney again, her expression showed a noticeable sense of distance. "Mommy doesn't lack money now either. Before she left, she made reservations for my clothes, shoes, and matching accessories from 4 to 18 years old. They are all very, very beautiful."

"You said your mom made reservations for your clothes and shoes from 4 to 18 years old?" Marie felt even more remorseful toward Alice when she heard that, but she had one doubt. "How do you know they are very beautiful? You can't see them now."

"Mommy gave me an album. I'll go get it and show it to you. Caroline quickly ran upstairs while speaking. After a minute, she came running back down with a thick album in her hands.

At this moment, Marie was standing by the stairs, so she took the album directly from Caroline's hands and flipped through it, becoming more and more shocked as she looked at it.

When Caroline mentioned that everything Alice gave her was unique, she didn't think much about it. However, now she truly realized that Caroline's words were not an exaggeration but rather an understatement. She could guarantee that the clothes and shoes in these albums were not available on the market. They were truly one-of-a-kind designs. Just the designs alone made them priceless treasures.

"Sweetie, which shop did your mom go to make these reservations?" After Marie looked through the album, her emotions were stirred up.

Caroline quickly replied, "I don't know. Mommy didn't say. She only mentioned that she would have the items delivered to me periodically."

"Alice is truly thoughtful Marie sighed deeply. "On the other hand, our family.

Holland was hot-tempered and straightforward. If this matter had been done by his son or grandson; he would have blown a fuse. Yet, since it was his daughter-in-law, he couldn't directly scold her. He tried to endure it but couldn't hold back anymore. "We've gone too far indeed." Then, he turned around and shouted at Ethan. "Hurry up and find your wife! What are you waiting for? Are you waiting for someone to bring her back to you?"

"No need to look for her. She won't come back." Even though Caroline was young, she understood her mother well. Since Mommy left, especially under those circumstances, she will never come back. It will be useless for anyone to find her. She specifically added, "Even if Uncle Ethan goes to find her, it will be useless.

"You're still a child. Don't worry about adult matters." Holland was furious, but when he looked at Caroline, his expression instantly softened.

However, Caroline's face immediately turned sullen. That's my mommy. Even though you not my real mother, to me she is."

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How could Holland bear to see the sadness in her eyes? When he saw that, he felt his heart break "Who says she's not your mom? She is your mom; she was before, and she always will be."

The hot-tempered Holland would directly scold his son and yell at his grandson, but he has always doted on and indulged the girls in the family He used to pamper Christine excessively and now he was even fonder of Careline. Even though Caroline had only been at the Knight Residence for three days, he already wished he could pluck all the stars and the moon for her.

With a face full of grievance, Caroline grumbled, "You scolded my mommy, saying she's dumb and foolish

"I spoke the truth. She's not very clever; otherwise, she wouldn't have..." The straightforward Holland instinctively started saying what was on his mind but stopped himself when he saw Caroline's gaze

"Mommy is not dumb. She's smart. Suddenly, the usually quiet Caroline became fierce and defensive. No one can say anything bad about Mommy.

When Holland saw her reaction, he was visibly taken aback. In the past few days, he had noticed that she was well-behaved, polite, and considerate. However, there was a slight lack of intimacy. He had initially thought she was shy, but now he understood that she was angry at him because of what he had said about Alice that day. To be so protective of her mother at such a young age, she truly lives up to being a member of the Knight Family. "Alright, alright, you're always right." He nodded.

"You look like you don't believe what I say." She was clever and not easily fooled.

Feeling uneasy, Holland touched his nose. "We should stick to the facts. Your mom may be a little dim-witted, but being dumb also has its advantages."

I've already said Mommy is not dumb. She's amazing. Her face turned red with anger.

"What's so amazing about her?" His eyes lit up. Does Alice have some remarkable qualities we don't know about? Deep down, he had always harbored a grudge against Alice's lack of intelligence. After all, intelligence was inherited, and he worried about the possibility of her level of intelligence being passed on to future generations of the Knight Family.

Although he had his reservations, Alice had married into the Knight Family and was their benefactor, so he never even considered driving her away.

That night, he had been furious upon learning about her theft of trade secrets. His hot temper got the better of him, leading him to say those things. If she has some remarkable qualities and isn't as foolish and dumb as the rumors suggest, that will be perfect. I don't expect her to be highly intelligent. As long as she isn't too dumb, even being on par with an average person will be acceptable.

"Mommy, she... she..." Caroline, who had just been fierce, suddenly hesitated.

Alice had never told her about the things involving the Woland Family. She had never discussed those matters in front of Caroline. When she was with Caroline, she was always a gentle and loving mother. She only wished for her to grow up carefree and happy, so she hid certain things from her. This caused Caroline to not know what she would usually do.

Disappointed, Holland pursed his lips. I shouldn't have had any hope in the first place. It's evident that Alice lacks intelligence considering what she did. How can she have any remarkable qualities?

#### Chapter 205 Ethan Seeks Alice (5)

Never mind, I've given up. I just hope that my great-grandson won't be too dumb. If he turns out to be really dumb, he can join the military and rely on physical strength since he lacks intelligence. What else can be done? "Never mind, I've given up. Holland sighed, realizing that this time he was destined to lose to James.

"You may look down on my mommy, but she looks down on all of you too." Caroline pouted angrily.

"Hey, can't I speak the truth?" When he saw her pouty expression, he wanted to laugh but managed to hold back his laughter. He didn't want her to be as polite and respectful toward him as before; he preferred her current attitude toward him. So, he intentionally teased her, although deep down he truly felt this

way.

"No, you can't say anything bad about Mommy." Suddenly, she had a lightbulb moment. "If you promise not to say anything bad about Mommy from now on, I will consider liking you." She realized that she didn't dislike her great-grandfather too much. I can try to like him for the sake of Mommy.

A noticeable smile played on his lips as he readily agreed. "Okay. I promise you."

In fact, Holland had only criticized Alice that night, and it happened to be overheard by Alice herself. After that, he never said anything like that again. Although he was still somewhat dissatisfied deep down, he still restrained himself most of the time.

At this moment, Marie heaved a sigh of relief. Naturally, she knew what Holland was thinking, so she didn't intervene and let the two of them banter. Sometimes, such banter was more likely to foster affection.

In the past few days, they had been overly cautious with Caroline, while Caroline had always been polite toward them. However, something seemed to be missing in their interactions. Now, it was much better.

"Caroline, would you like to go upstairs and play with me for a while?" Marie eagerly desired to have a closer relationship with Caroline, but Caroline hadn't shown much affection toward them earlier. Today, when they were about to leave, they had wanted to invite Caroline along, but she had refused. "I promise never to let Great-Grandpa say anything bad about your mom again." She was a smart woman and had already grasped Caroline's intentions.

As Caroline looked at Marie, she blinked and then lowered her voice slightly as she negotiated, "Can he praise Mommy then?"

"Hey, aren't you asking for too much now? What is there to praise about her? Why don't you start by telling me what there is to praise about her?" Holland couldn't hold back and retorted directly.

At his words, Caroline's little face instantly fell, and when she looked at him, her eyes revealed anger and a sense of grievance.

Meanwhile, Marie glared at Holland. "Can't you speak nicely?"

"Fine. I'll do it. I'll praise her. Okay?" Holland gritted his teeth.

Caroline was obviously pushing her luck. "Go on."

5 Bonus

Holland was taken aback. "This is quite a chall-" When he saw the looks from both Caroline and Marie, he swallowed the rest of his sentence.

With a helpless look, he pondered for a while and reluctantly said, "Alice has good manners, and she has done a great job raising her child."

"Okay, I'll let you pass." Caroline was finally somewhat satisfied and continued to negotiate. "If you praise Mommy once every day, I'll like you a little more every day."

Shock, he exclaimed, "That would cost me my life. But didn't you say she wouldn't come back to us anymore, and that she wouldn't come back even when your dad went to find her? So, what's the use of my compliments?" He found her request to be quite extraordinary.

She simply replied, "I'm happy when I hear you complimenting Mommy." Then, she added seriously, "I'm very happy when Mommy compliments me every day, but when I hear someone else complimenting her, I'm happier."

“Well, apart from everything else, Alice did raise her child well.” Holland was straightforward and spoke his mind. I admit this point about Alice, but it’s a pity that if her child turns out to be dim-witted and inherits her intelligence, it may not help no matter how much we teach him or her.

“Come on, Caroline. Let’s go upstairs and leave your dad alone. Let him go find your mom.” Marie beckoned to Caroline.

This time, Caroline didn’t refuse and followed Marie upstairs. She even affectionately held Marie’s hand and assumed a posture of supporting her. She was indeed very considerate and thoughtful.

In the first-floor hall, Britney couldn’t help but feel a tinge of jealousy when she saw that. It had been several months since Caroline returned to the Knight Residence, and she had spent quite a few months with her. Yet, Caroline had never been so intimate with her before. She hadn’t even gone to her room with her.

At this moment, Ethan didn’t pay much attention to these at all, as he was currently contacting people to find his wife.

When he learned that Alice had left, he immediately sent a text to Caleb, asking him to find Alice. Not much time had passed since then, but he had already urged Caleb twice.

He was usually very concise with his words. His first message was ‘Find out where Alice is, and the following two messages were just two question marks.

Caleb had worked for Ethan for quite some time, so even though Ethan only sent two question marks, he was certain of what Ethan meant. Isn’t he pressing too urgently this time? It has only been half an hour. That’s not enough time to find Mrs. Knight. Last time, we searched for two days without any success. I hope that this time won’t be like the previous one.

Since Ethan was urging him, he didn’t dare delay. He immediately mobilized everyone he could to find Alice.

“We’re looking for Mrs. Knight again? What’s going on? Did she go missing again?” Sam was confused when he received the task. What is going on with Mr. Knight? Why is he looking for Mrs. Knight so often?

“I’m not quite sure what’s going on either. Mr. Knight just returned from a mission, and as soon as I brought him back, he sent me a text asking me to find Mrs. Knight. It has only been half an hour, but he has already urged me twice,” Caleb expressed how he was in a difficult situation as well.

“I hope it’s not like last time,” Sam said, feeling somewhat scared as he recalled the previous incident. It was truly terrifying. We searched for Mrs. Knight for two days but to no avail. She seemed to have vanished into thin air, and then she reappeared on her own. “Why don’t we ask Mr. Knight to wait a little longer? Perhaps Mrs. Knight will show up on her own,” he said half-jokingly.

Chapter 206 Tanner West (1)

“Why don’t we ask Mr. Knight to wait a little longer? Perhaps Mrs. Knight will show up on her own.” Sam said half-jokingly.

“He’s pressing more urgently than last time. Go find her quickly. Caleb remained the most reliable, for he would never be careless with Ethan’s orders.

The previous search for Alice clearly left Sam traumatized. “Alright, I’ll go find her. I hope we can find her quickly this time. It’s already late. If it’s anything like last time, we won’t be able to sleep tonight.”

On the other hand, only Ethan and Britney were in the first-floor hall of the Knight Residence. Suddenly, Ethan started walking toward the door.

Britney quickly stood up. “Everything I do is for your good, Ethan.”

Instantly, he stopped in his tracks but didn’t turn around. Today, he found out everything his mother had done to Alice, but his upbringing prevented him from reprimanding or shouting at her. “I cannot stop you from doing whatever you want, but Alice is my wife. I chose her for myself, and I’ll only make that choice once in my lifetime. If I can’t bring her back…” He suddenly paused and narrowed his eyes. “So be it.”

“What do you mean? What do you mean by ‘so be it? So be what?’” She was taken aback. In fact, she knew his son well, so she understood the meaning behind his words. However, she couldn’t believe it, or rather, she didn’t want to believe it.

“What else do you want from me, Mother?” He finally turned around and glanced at Britney.

At this moment, he referred to her as ‘Mothead of the usual ‘Mom’. Sometimes, excessive respect lacked certain things.

She looked at him with a pitiful and aggrieved expression. “I’m your mother, and I want you to be happy. Everything I’ve done is for your good.”

Ethan remained silent and resumed walking toward the door.

“How can someone like Alice be worthy of you?” Britney couldn’t help raising her voice as he was about to leave.

At her words, he halted his steps once again, but this time he turned around. His cold eyes were fixed on his mother. “What does it matter if she’s worthy or not? Me liking her is already enough.”

“What do

you like about her? What does she have that makes you like her? You married her because of Caroline.” Britney still believed she hadn’t done anything wrong.

Suddenly, he narrowed his eyes. I married her because of Caroline? Everyone thought he married Alice because of Caroline; even she believed that. Yet, only he knew that Caroline was just an excuse; his true purpose had always been Alice.

He wasn’t certain if the woman from seven years ago was actually her. He still hadn’t found any evidence to prove it. However, when he saw her at the wedding in the hotel, he noticed her apparent helplessness masked by a calm demeanor, the cunningness in her bright foxlike eyes, and her frail yet stubborn figure when she left. At that time, he was uncertain about his own feelings.

It was only when Chris mentioned that she had a child that he felt a surge of nervousness and excitement in his heart. At that moment, he truly understood his feelings. Deep down, he hoped that she was the woman from seven years ago. Yet, it was later confirmed that he had allowed his imagination to run wild.

Nevertheless, a thought flickered in his mind when he saw the photo of the child. If Caroline was a descendant of the Knight Family, he could naturally bring Alice into their fold. Even if she wasn't the woman from seven years ago, he was determined to make her a part of the Knight Family. So, his ultimate purpose had always been her.

"She's disfigured and so dumb. She has done so many stupid things and she's worthless. Even your grandpa isn't satisfied with her. Why do you insist on..." Britney listed Alice's shortcomings, even bringing up Holland's name.

"She is my wife. Even if she truly is worthless, she is still the only wife I will have in my lifetime." Ethan's cold and resolute eyes gleamed with determination as he spoke each word calmly. As he looked at her, he said word by word, "If you cannot accept her, there's no need to force it. Likewise, if she doesn't like it here, I won't let her suffer."

That was just the way he was. He was destined to be unable to please everyone, and even if he tried, in the end, it would only result in Alice being the one who suffered, as she was younger. Why should Alice be the one who suffers? Why, after my mother has done all those things to her, should I let her continue to suffer? There's no reason for that. As a son, he couldn't do anything to his mother, but as a husband, he absolutely could not let his wife be mistreated any longer.

At his words, Britney was stunned. "What are you saying? Are you going to disown me for Alice? I've done so much to raise you, and this is how you treat me? You only think about how Alice is suffering. Why don't you think about whether I will suffer or not? When she left, she even threatened me. Why don't you care about that?"

Clearly, she hadn't expected her son to protect Alice so fiercely, to the point of wanting to disown her for Alice. This was something she couldn't tolerate at all. Why should I be treated like this?

"What do you mean?" Ethan's heart sank, suddenly feeling a bad premonition.

"When Alice left, she said that from now on, she and all members of the Knight Family were strangers. She told me to remember that." She clearly still cared about the words Alice had said at that time. Although she also had the same thoughts, such words should have come from her, not from Alice. After marrying into the Knight Family for so many years, Britney developed the habit of being superior. She was used to everyone treating her with respect.

Ethan stared straight at his mother, his lips twitching slightly. However, he felt his throat dry up and he was unable to say a single word.

Alice usually appeared soft and gentle when she was in the Knight Residence, restraining all her sharp edges for the sake of Caroline. Yet, his mother had pushed Alice to the point where she spoke those words.

He knew Alice. She appeared soft and gentle, but in reality, she was more resilient than anyone else. Once she made up her mind, no one could change it. And if she had spoken those words with her own mouth, she would definitely follow through. All members of the Knight Family, which includes me. So, she was saying that from then on, she would treat me as a stranger! My mother has truly left me with no way out.

Chapter 207 Tanner West (2)

+5 Bonus

What else could Ethan say? There was nothing he could say. My priority now is to find Alice. Even if she won't forgive me, even if she treats me as a stranger, I have to find her first. I'm afraid of not being able to find her like last time. He ignored Britney and quickly left the hall.

After getting in the car, he immediately called Caleb.

"Mr. Knight, we are still looking." Caleb was genuinely confused. It hasn't been long since he urged me last time.

"Mobilize everyone we can from other cities." Ethan didn't want to think about anything else right now. He just wanted to find Alice as soon as possible.

"All of them in the country?" Caleb was shocked, and his voice carried astonishment.

Without hesitation, Ethan emphasized, "All of them."

Surprised, Caleb gasped and composed himself before responding, "Understood."

After he hung up the phone, he was still trying to process the situation. Did Mr. Knight go crazy? Mobilize everyone we can? Does he realize how many people that involves? Just to find Mrs. Knight? With this method, even if she turned into an ant and hid in an anthill, we would still be able to find her.

Sam, who was sitting next to Caleb, listened with only partial understanding, so he couldn't help but ask, "What's going on?"

"I think the situation this time might be very serious; even more serious than last time."

Caleb's face

grew solemn.

"Very serious? How serious can it be?" Sam asked jokingly.

"Mr. Knight just called me and told me to mobilize everyone we can." Caleb paused for a moment, then emphasized, "Everyone."

At his words, Sam's eyes widened. "Mobilize everyone? Just to find Mrs. Knight? T-This is insane."

"That's why I said it's serious, and when I heard Mr. Knight speaking just now, he seemed off." Caleb, who had been by Ethan's side, understood Ethan's situation the best.

Even Liam, who was usually silent, couldn't help but ask, "What do you mean 'off'?"

“His voice was deep and heavy, carrying a kind of dead silence in it,” Caleb said with concern. “I think something very serious might have happened.”

Chapter 207 Tanner West (2)

“Why are we just standing here then? We need to find her quickly.” Sam’s face changed from relaxed to serious.

At once, Caleb contacted the available personnel as per Ethan’s instructions.

Everyone who could come was already here, and those who couldn’t come were searching locally. Perhaps Mrs. Knight has left Rodcaster and gone somewhere else. This method of investigation was like casting a wide net. Any trace, no matter how small, couldn’t be missed.

However, even until the next noon, there was still no news.

Ethan had ordered the search four days ago when Alice left the Knight Residence. What was even more terrifying was that they only found the record of Alice leaving the Knight Residence around 12.00AM on the night she disappeared. Shortly after leaving the Knight Residence, she vanished without a trace, just like last time when she disappeared from Royale.

At this moment, Caleb was reporting to Ethan with a heavy heart, “Mr. Knight, we haven’t found Mrs. Knight yet. She disappeared the night she left the Knight Residence four days ago, but we found no records of her leaving Rodcaster. Despite a thorough search in Rodcaster, there were no indications of her presence. We also checked Galerprises, but she didn’t go there. We assigned personnel to investigate other companies as well, but unfortunately, there’s still no sign of her.”

When he reported to Ethan, he was on tenterhooks. It wasn’t just because they hadn’t found Alice, but also because Ethan seemed visibly distressed. In the previous incident, when Alice went missing for two days, Ethan was anxious, but it was different this time. Now, he wasn’t just anxious; he was filled with fear and even despair. It felt as if Alice would never be found. again and as if she would never return.

“Keep searching.” Ethan said with a hoarse voice. He hadn’t uttered a word throughout the night and morning, but his voice was now so hoarse that it was barely audible.

1

Stunned, Caleb looked at Ethan with concern. “Understood. I’ll assign more people to search thoroughly.” I’ve worked for Mr. Knight for a long time, but I have never seen him like this before. Just as Caleb was about to leave, he suddenly remembered something. “By the way, I found some information about Tanner West. He has come to Rodcaster.”

Ethan raised his gaze, his eyes empty and confused, as if he didn’t understand why Caleb would bring up Tanner at a time like this.

In the end, Caleb had to remind him once again. “Your father asked you to meet Tanner.”

When Ethan heard that, his eyes flickered, and he seemed to finally remember. “Don’t worry about that for now.” All he cared about at this moment was finding Alice; everything else was insignificant. So, he pushed aside the tasks his father had assigned him.

## Chapter 207 Tanner West (2)

“Alright, I understand.” Caleb, having received his instructions, didn’t dwell on it anymore. He would focus all his efforts on finding Alice and ignore everything else.

Suddenly, Ethan gave another instruction. “Not just Rodcaster; continue searching in other cities.” Although they hadn’t found any records of her leaving Rodcaster, they also hadn’t found her within the city.

The last time she returned, he thought he should respect her and not pry into her affairs, he didn’t ask. If I had known it would come to this, I would have asked for a clear explanation from her back then.

“I’ve already given the order. People in other cities are also searching tirelessly. They will report immediately if there’s any news.” Caleb had notified them the previous night, and at that time, Sam had laughed at him, thinking he was being too excessive. Now it seemed that his actions were not excessive at all.

Seeing Caleb come out, Sam asked anxiously, “Still no news? No news at all?”

With a sigh, Sam shook his head.

“Do you think Mrs. Knight is some kind of fairy? How can she disappear without a trace? Can a normal person do that?” Sam felt that this situation couldn’t be explained by normal circumstances.

“I also find it incredibly strange. How can a person suddenly vanish?” Even Liam was puzzled.

“We searched all night and all morning, and there’s still no news. I don’t know how long it will take this time to find her.” Sam wasn’t complaining; he was just stating the facts.

“Mr. Knight hasn’t slept all night either. He reviewed the surveillance footage tirelessly, starting four days ago, when Mrs. Knight left the Knight Residence. He meticulously examined the footage, frame by frame.” Caleb noticed this as soon as he entered the room. “And he probably hasn’t eaten anything, not even taken a sip of water. His voice has become hoarse.”

## Chapter 208 Tanner West (3)

+5 Bonus

At that moment, Caleb felt a wave of worry wash over him as he thought about Ethan. “Mr. Knight’s voice sounded raspy, so he obviously hadn’t eaten or drunk anything.”

Sam frowned upon hearing that. “He’s checking the surveillance footage? Haven’t we done that already?”

“He must have been worried that we would miss out on something. That’s why he personally double-checked everything. Furthermore, he had a deeper comprehension of Mrs. Knight than we did. There’s a chance he’ll find something we overlooked if he goes through it personally.” After working with Ethan for so long, Caleb deeply understood the man’s character.

On the other hand, Liam was stunned after hearing that. “There are so many surveillance cameras throughout the city. How long would it take Mr. Knight to go through them alone?”

“He won’t stop until he finds her,” Caleb said with a solemn expression on his face. “Also, his behavior raises grave concerns.”

“What is the matter with Mrs. Knight? Why did she go missing? The last time she did this was already excruciating for us, and now she’s doing it again! What’s wrong with living a good life? Why did she run away?” Sam inquired because he was preoccupied with numerous thoughts. Why, after marrying Mr. Knight, would she not settle down to a peaceful life? Is she still not satisfied? What exactly does she want? Does the fact that Mr. Knight went to such extremes to locate her give her a sense of significance?

“She’s not an unreasonable woman. Something must have happened.” Caleb had interacted with Alice on multiple occasions and concluded that she was not a woman of that nature.

“I’m not implying that she’s being unreasonable. Even though it’s understandable that people occasionally act irrationally, there must be a limit. Going overboard is bad. What’s the point in squandering time and resources on her?” Despite Sam’s lack of context, his comments were plausible.

Suddenly, Caleb’s face blanched as he noticed Ethan approaching them, and he immediately whispered to Sam, “Shut up.”

As Ethan approached them, he continued to walk past them without pausing or even looking in their direction. Instead, he stated in a remarkably calm manner, “Sam, you don’t have to work for me anymore.” He had always been a man who valued his employees and was not the type to be angry with someone for no apparent reason.

When he heard Sam’s grumbles about Alice, his heart throbbed in agony, though. At this moment, he couldn’t handle any negative comments directed at his wife. In the meantime, he never stopped walking, and as soon as he finished speaking, he left before anyone could

Chapter 208 Tanner West (3)

+5 Bonus

react.

However, Sam was taken aback after hearing that and had not expected to be dismissed for expressing his opinions. Yes, I admit that I should not have gossiped about Mrs. Knight, but I didn’t say anything particularly hurtful comments about her. I speak only the truth!

On the other hand, Caleb was so dumbstruck by what had happened that it took him a while. to regain his composure.

“Is Mr. Knight serious about what he said earlier?” Liam whispered, now that he was sure Ethan was out of hearing.

“Have you ever seen him joke around before, especially about something like that?” Caleb responded with a sharp glare. He then turned to Sam. “I told you to work more and speak less. You just had to run your mouth. It would have been fine if you were talking about. anything else. Why did you have to talk about Mrs. Knight? What will you do now?”

“How would I know?” After saying that, Sam was stumped. Working for Ethan was his lifelong dream, and he did so because of his deep respect for the man. From the moment he began working for Ethan, he never considered leaving.

“How about we plead for mercy?” Liam was usually a man of few words but had a big heart, especially since they had always gotten along.

“Plead for mercy? Do you wish to die?” Caleb glanced at Liam and sighed silently. “You didn’t notice the expression on Mr. Knight’s face as he spoke; it was calm and emotionless. Rather than appearing angry, he seemed to be distancing himself.”

“Something about his actions seemed off to me as well. What happened between him and Mrs. Knight?” Liam had also noticed the same thing.

“Let’s not ask about it. From now on, no one will say a single word about her.” As he said this, Caleb gave the other two men disappointed glances. “Use your brain. Don’t anger Mr. Knight during this time.”

However, Liam was still concerned about Sam’s situation and asked, “What about Sam?”

“He will head back home and spend some time with his family. So, no one should mention Sam’s name in Mr. Knight’s presence for the next few days.” Caleb paused before continuing, “We’ll put this issue on hold until we can find Mrs. Knight. Perhaps, there is hope for Sam if she begs mercy on his behalf.”

When Sam heard those words, his eyes widened in shock. “I just badmouthed her. Would she even do that? Had my wife found out I had spoken ill of her, she would have chased me with

a knife.”

“If you know that, why the heck did you run your mouth off?” After saying that, Caleb wished

Chapter 208 Tanner West (3)

he could punch Sam in the face. “You should probably go home first. Remember, don’t show your

face around Mr. Knight for the next few days. I’ll come up with a solution.” Naturally, he did not want Sam to leave, but he was aware that in Ethan’s current state, the mere presence of Sam in front of him could provoke Ethan to do something unthinkable.

“Fine. I’ll head home. Please keep me informed of any developments.” Sam didn’t spend much time brooding or fuming over what had transpired. After all, he knew he was to blame for gossiping about Alice. He reasoned that if he were in Ethan’s position, he, too, would have been incensed to overhear someone badmouthing his wife.

“Let’s hurry up and find her. Hopefully, we’ll locate her quickly, or else Mr. Knight might go crazy.” When Caleb recalled Ethan’s expressionless face from earlier, he couldn’t help but

worry.

“If we don’t find her, we might also go crazy.” Liam was a reserved man, but he was unusually talkative today.

Silence engulfed the room as Caleb and Sam listened to his words and agreed with Liam's statement.

In contrast, Ethan had been holed up in the room reviewing surveillance footage when he suddenly recalled something, prompting him to leave and retrieve it from the Knight Residence.

Meanwhile, at the Knight Residence, Lawrence had been away on a business trip for several days, and when he returned around midnight last night, Ethan had already left.

On the third floor, Holland and Marie were taking care of Caroline, and when she became tired from playing, they all went to sleep.

At that moment, Lawrence opened the bedroom door to find Britney still waiting for him. Nonetheless, she did not say anything about what happened to Alice.

Due to his exhaustion from the trip, he did not report to the office the next morning, so nearly everyone was at the breakfast table. When he didn't see Alice, he asked, "Where is Alice? Why isn't she here?" As he was aware that Ethan was frequently out of town for work, he did not inquire about his son's whereabouts and instead asked about Alice.

When Britney heard this, her body stiffened, and she ducked her head to hide her guilt.

On the other hand, Holland would never publicly tell his son what his daughter-in-law had done, so he lowered his head and concentrated on his food.

#### **Chapter 209 Tanner West (4)**

On the other hand, Holland would never publicly tell his son what his daughter-in-law had done, so he lowered his head and concentrated on his food.

Marie heaved a sigh after seeing that and did not say anything either.

In the meantime, Caroline glanced at Britney before looking at Holland and Marie as she kept quiet and continued to drink her juice. However, the elderly couple was surprised by her reaction.

When nobody answered Lawrence's question, he assumed nobody knew the answer and dropped the subject. He was always the kind of parent who didn't like to pry into his kids' affairs, so his question about Alice's whereabouts was motivated purely by worry.

After breakfast, Holland dragged Caroline back upstairs. "You were very eager to tattle last night. Why didn't you say anything today?" He was astounded because he had never anticipated that she would remain silent earlier.

Marie was also perplexed by the child's actions as her eyes bore into Caroline and asked, "I would like to know the reason as well."

After that, Caroline gazed at the two elderly, gray-haired individuals before her and heaved a sigh that made her look just like an adult. Then, she replied solemnly, "Mommy said I should act according to whom I'm talking to."

He was visibly startled upon hearing that. "Oh? Tell me more. I wish to know."

“Mommy advised me to be kind and tolerant with my family and friends. Of course, that was only if they were worthy of my patience. Grandma may have bullied Mommy, but she is still my grandmother and is usually very nice to me. I think I should be more lenient with her.” After a brief pause, she continued, “Mommy would definitely want me to do that.”

*She did not speak up earlier because of her mother.* Marie mused as she gently stroked Caroline’s hand and remarked, “Oh, how can a child be so mature?”

Although Caroline’s words had also tugged at Holland’s heartstrings, the girl’s single word remained etched in his mind. Hence, he asked, “Didn’t you say you should act differently around different people? What else?”

“Mommy said I should be calm and collected when dealing with strangers and other people,” she explained. After some thought, she added, “When it comes to my enemies or rivals, I do not need to hold back at all.”

He was visibly shocked by that and exclaimed, “Your mother taught you all that?”

“No, but while Mommy was on the phone, I overheard her saying that to someone else. Mommy says I am a little princess who only needs to look beautiful, be happy, and lead a carefree life. I’m still young, so Mommy wouldn’t teach me anything complicated. Still, she taught me how to protect myself and what to do when I encounter mean people.” When she mentioned her mother, the girl spoke with pride.

After hearing this, Holland remained silent and then sighed. “Alice behaves exactly like a Knight but is a little too foolish. If she were smarter...”

When Caroline heard that he was speaking badly of her mother, she glared at him with wide eyes.

When he saw that, he cleared his throat. “I’m an honest man. I would never lie-

“Hmph!” She was even angrier upon hearing his explanation.

“Can you be nice at all?” Marie hissed and glared at her husband.

At that moment, Holland felt so oppressed and wronged. “Can’t I even speak of the facts?”

“What facts? You say nothing about Alice’s strengths. Your statements are biased because they are based on hearsay that may be inaccurate. Perhaps, she is a very smart woman.” At this point, Marie was on Caroline’s side.

“What has she done that paints her as a smart woman?” He refused to back down and continued to argue, “I’m just saying it as it is. From what she has taught Caroline, it’s clear that she’s not a bad person. Still, her intelligence is a fatal flaw. It’s not something that could be made up for.”

After hearing that, Caroline’s cheeks puffed out in anger as she continued to glare at him. “I’ve decided that today is Hate Great-Grandpa Day.”

“No! I’ll praise her. I’ll sing her praises, okay?” After seeing the girl’s angry, puffed cheeks, the elderly man finally gave in.

“It’s too late. If you start praising Mommy now, you’re not being sincere. It doesn’t count.” Caroline was a smart girl who was not that easily fooled.

On the other hand, Marie could not help but smile as she watched. *She is so witty! Additionally, she is kind, astute, respectful, and lovable. Alice has clearly taught her well.* Then, she grabbed Caroline’s hand and supported the girl’s declaration by saying, “That’s right. I’m with you, Caroline. It’s Hate Great-Grandpa Day.”

Holland’s eyes boggled in response, and wailed, “No way. This is discrimination.”

With Marie’s support, Caroline was even more confident in herself and uttered, “You were the one who bad-mouthed Mommy.”

Eventually, he heaved a long sigh and said, “Fine. I’ll be careful in the future. Some things simply cannot be said.”

“Haha!” Marie could not resist guffawing upon hearing that. She knew her husband was a hot-tempered man who would never listen to anyone but her and that no one else could sway his opinion. Nonetheless, he was now entirely subservient to Caroline’s demands.

When Christine was a little girl, Holland doted on her. At that time, he was much younger and somewhat stern, so she was naturally wary of him, and their relationship was not as close as it is between Caroline and him now.

In the meantime, Caroline laughed when she saw that her great-grandfather had conceded. The look of pure joy and contentment on her face as she did so was a sight to behold.

Her smiling face caught Marie’s attention, and she noticed how much the girl resembled Christine. *Nonetheless, Caroline is more vivacious, courageous, and upbeat than Christine. Since Christine grew up in the Knight Residence, it stands to reason that she ought to be more confident and authoritative. In contrast to Christine when she was a child, Caroline excels on all those fronts. How did Alice raise Caroline to be such a young lady? What kind of life had Alice given Caroline that had shaped her into someone so extraordinary? With that in mind, she became even more intrigued by Alice. Yet, Alice’s departure from the Knight residence that evening was something she never would have predicted. Otherwise, she would have spent more time with Alice and gotten to know her better.*

In the meantime, when Ethan returned to the Knight Residence, Lawrence was sitting in the living room watching the live broadcast.

It was unusual for Lawrence to tune in to a live broadcast of any show, and when he did, it was almost always related to a business channel. At that moment, he was watching a live broadcast of an interview.

When Ethan walked into the living room, he overheard the reporter on the live broadcast ask, “Mr. West, are you in Rodcaster because you plan on staying here?”

Then, he glanced at his father without saying a word. Instead, he headed toward the stairs to grab the thing for which he had returned.

On the live broadcast, Tanner replied, "That is the plan

### **Chapter 210 We Finally Meet Once More (1)**

On the live broadcast, Tanner replied, "That is the plan."

"Wait a moment," Lawrence called out to Ethan. "I asked you to invite Tanner over before. Since he is currently in Rodcaster and has stated his plan to move to the city, you should invite him to a meeting." Then, he returned his gaze to the live broadcast and expressed his satisfaction with the on-screen Tanner. "He is an exceptional business prodigy, and I even had my men investigate him. It's surprising to learn how much he valued trustworthiness and integrity. So, do whatever it takes to get him to work for us."

However, Ethan did not stop and listen to his father as he approached the stairwell. Instead of looking at his father, he replied, "Go hire him yourself." *I no longer care about anything other than finding Alice, who is currently missing.*

"Why? Isn't it better for you to go? You're both about the same age, and I think you two could strike up a conversation." Lawrence cast a questioning glance at his son. The moment he saw his son walking up the stairs, a spark of awareness shot through his mind. "Did something happen?" He knew his son well and cared about him. Even though he could only see his son from behind, he could tell something was off about him.

Ethan pursed his lips in response but didn't say anything or turn around. *I am certain someone would tattletale about my mom's wrongdoings to my dad. Still, I shouldn't blame anyone but myself because I'm the one who caused all of this. Alice is my wife, and if I had performed my husbandly duties, I should not have been completely unaware of what had happened. Naturally, she must have believed I was responsible for whatever transpired. Otherwise, she wouldn't constantly pretend she doesn't recognize and avoid me like this. It is my fault that she had such a mindset! In that case, what right do I have to point the finger at others? It's all because of me that this is happening!* Following that thought, he continued to climb the stairs in silence.

Meanwhile, Lawrence was dumbfounded by his son's behavior. He knew the son he had raised, and then he realized the gravity of the situation his son might be in. Hence, he suggested, "If anything is bothering you, we can discuss it. Maybe I can help you."

Suddenly, Ethan stopped in his tracks and replied stoically, "There's no need."

When he heard that, Lawrence stared blankly at his son's back. *What is going on? Since he is unwilling to discuss the matter, I should not press him for an answer.* Then, he changed the subject and asked, "Oh, right. Where's Alice? Why haven't I seen her around?"

When he heard his wife's name, Ethan's body visibly stiffened.

Since Lawrence had no idea what had happened the day before at the Knight Residence, he was unaware that Alice had left the home. "I want her to join the company. If you don't help me, I'll ask her to do it instead. Now that I'm getting older, I can no longer manage the company for more than a few years. Eventually, the company would have to be yours. If you're not interested, let Alice handle it." There was never a time when he felt discontent with his daughter-in-law. Despite this, he never developed any prejudice against her due to the rumors. Also, he never considered her a fool and didn't think such people existed. He believed that everyone had the potential to excel in anything they were willing to put effort into learning and doing. Therefore, he meant it when he said he wanted to put Alice in charge of his company.

Meanwhile, Britney had been supervising the chef preparing lunch in the kitchen when she overheard that. So, she quickly turned around and noticed her husband's calm expression, which indicated he was serious. *Why would he think his proposal is out of the ordinary and even considers it a matter of course? I just don't get it. What is it about Alice that everyone in the Knight Family adores? Why? She is a foolish, stupid, and completely useless, disfigured woman. What witchcraft did she use to bewitch all the men in the house?*

In the meantime, Holland was walking down the stairs when he overheard what Lawrence said. Despite constantly calling Alice a fool and stupid, Holland made no objections.

"That's not something I can decide," Ethan eventually responded as his eyes flickered. *I can't find Alice at this time, and even if I did and she agreed to return home with me, I cannot decide on her behalf, as that should be her choice.*

"Ask her for me. Don't worry; I'll ensure she's comfortable and well cared for. She is free to take on any role she pleases at the company. It's entirely her choice." Lawrence was a very open-minded man. Moreover, he had always been extremely considerate of Alice. "I can talk to her about it. I'm willing to hear what she has to say about it. She—"

In the meantime, Britney's expression darkened as she listened to the conversation. Soon, her eyes glowed with rage, and she could not resist storming out of the kitchen to interrupt her husband by asking, "Didn't you say Tanner West is an exceptional talent? You should first figure out how to hire him."

"Of course, I'd hire Tanner, but that doesn't conflict with Alice's position in the office," he said to her in a gentle voice. "Alice is a family member; I believe she is a very good kid. In the future, she might—"

"In what way? How good is she? She is an absolute joke, dumber than a bag of rocks. With that ruined face, she's even uglier than an ogre. She i

s useless! What is so good about her?" Since Ethan had left the house last night, she had been fuming the entire night. She finally exploded when she heard her husband heaping praise on Alice. Her fury burst forth as she ranted and raved at such a high volume and speed that she hardly took a breath between her tirades.

However, Ethan merely responded by glancing at his mother indifferently. He said nothing, and his expression was so blank that no one could tell what was going through his mind.

On the other hand, Lawrence was stunned by Britney's rage and stared at her in confusion. "What's the matter with you? You and Alice usually get along fine. Why-"  
" He had been so preoccupied with work that he barely spent time at home. As he only witnessed the harmonious aspects of his family, he believed that everyone got along quite well.

As she was beside herself with anger, her brain-to-mouth filter had vanished. In addition, Ethan's glance made it worse as it made her feel like she was about to go mad. "Why would I even get along with her? I only know who she is because of Caroline."

Despite his explosive temper, Holland would only yell and lecture at the boys in the family, never reprimanding his daughters-in-law. However...