

My Accidental Husband is a Billionaire

Chapter 141

Chapter 141-172

141 Clear Up

As soon as these words were said, the room fell silent.

Isla and Jake both looked over at Lewis. The whole point of calling him over was to see Keira's husband and put them on the spot.

But now, was Lewis actually going to stand up for Keira?

Isla was momentarily at a loss for words.

Erin, on the other hand, had nothing to lose and

blurted out, "Mr. Horton knows her husband? With the

way he's dressed, could he be anything other than a construction worker? Even if he's not a laborer, at best, he could be a contractor, right?"

These days, even contractors could make a lot of money.

But in Erin's mouth, it seemed like even this job was somewhat contemptible.

Lewis's gaze darkened, and just as he was about to speak, someone knocked on the door, and a man in a suit walked in. "Sorry to intrude."

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Seeing him, someone in the crowd immediately

exclaimed, "Mr. Hill?"

The man in the suit, Mr. Hill, was slightly taken aback.

"You know me?"

"Well, yes. Our company has recently been working with yours, trying to provide you with a constant temperature energy system. You might not remember me, I'm just an intern at my company," the young man

said with an awkward smile.

Someone whispered from the side, "Who's that?"

The young man said, "He's an expatriate who has returned to Crera to pursue the real estate business. I heard their family's enterprise has spread across the globe, and now he's expanding into the Crera market. He's quite impressive!"

"Really? What's someone like that doing here? Co he be looking for Mr. Horton?"

In the room, only the Horton family had the status to discuss matters with such a family.

However, Lewis frowned.

The real estate market in Crera was currently in

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decline, and Horton Group's real estate business had already completely transformed. He couldn't remember having any cooperation with the Martin

family.

As he was pondering, Mr. Hill bowed respectfully to

Scott Martin and took out a contract from the document bag he was carrying. "Boss, I've thoroughly investigated the construction site you just inspected,

and it meets all our investment standards. Here's the

contract; it was quite urgent, so I brought it over. Please sign it."

After that, he also nodded apologetically to the people around the table.

The crowd was dumbfounded.

Lewis frowned and looked toward Scott Martin, his gaze turning abruptly cold.

Under the table, Keira had just been holding his hand to prevent him from speaking, and even when she brought up her own background, she hadn't let go, seemingly seeking strength from the gesture.

Now, with everyone's attention shifting, Keira wasn't being scrutinized as closely anymore, so she relaxed

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and attempted to withdraw her hand.

But the next moment, the large hand she had been holding took control and grasped hers!

Keira tugged hard but couldn't pull her hand back.

She looked at Lewis in surprise and saw a possessive look and a hint of jealousy on his face. Was that...jealousy?

Following his gaze, Keira saw Scott.

Keira couldn't help but feel a mixture of amusement and dismay.

The appearance of Scott seemed to have triggered a sense of crisis in Lewis...

She thought for a moment and decided not to move.

Right now, everyone's attention was focused on her, who could feel the burning stares of the crowd among those gazes was one filled with incomprehensible hostility.

After signing the paper, Scott looked up and saw L staring at him.

Scott gave him a warm smile, then turned to Keira.

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"Miss Keira, I forgot to introduce myself. I'm Scott Martin."

He extended his hand toward Keira.

Keira didn't know what to say.

She could only shake hands with Scott Martin using her other hand, the one Lewis hadn't grasped, and then she quickly let go. Despite that, Lewis's expression still turned gloomy.

Scott seemed as if he hadn't noticed the tension and

once again looked at Erin. "I'm not a construction worker, just so you know. The reason I'm dressed like this is that I was busy with an inspection just now, which seems to have led to all these

misunderstandings. I apologize for that."

Erin was shocked.

Her mouth hung open wide enough to fit an entire

egg.

She awkwardly looked at Scott, and then back to Keira finding herself at a loss for words.

Charles's eyes immediately lit up. "I knew it! How could someone like Dr. South marry a bricklayer?"

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Turns out he's quite the big shot!"

"One is Dr. South, the other is a real estate tycoon. They're a perfect match, aren't they?"

"I just googled the Martin family. My God, they're kind of impressive!"

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Isla and Jake frowned, looking toward Keira in

confusion.

How could it possibly be...

How could she possibly have married such an influential figure?!

Jake felt it was impossible to take Keira away from

such a man to become his lover...

He subconsciously glanced over at Lewis.

He noticed that his esteemed uncle also had a

darkened expression; inexplicably, he felt a twinge of

satisfaction.

Yes, for someone like Keira, even if Jake couldn't have her, it seemed his uncle might not stand a chance

either...

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While he was thinking this, Isla suddenly said, "Keira, is this really your husband?"

The question made Keira give her a somewhat mocking smile. "Do you hope it's true?"

Isla was taken aback.

Keira didn't beat around the bush and flatly said, "He's not my husband."

Scott also let out a sigh. "I'm not Miss Olsen's husband. She helped me out with an umbrella in the rain yesterday, and I was returning the umbrella. And somehow Miss Isla added me on WhatsApp, then summoned me here, saying I could meet Miss Olsen, so I came..."

He explained very clearly.

Isla immediately felt relieved. "I see, it was all a misunderstanding!"

Keira looked at her reaction, finding it ludicrous.

When Scott Martin was thought to be a construction worker, they denied knowing each other, but Isla didn't believe them and led the charge in attacking Keira.

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But as soon as Scott Martin turned out to be a real estate tycoon, with just a few words, Isla believed him.

Keira said casually, "As long as you believe it, that's fine. It saves me from being tagged with another hat."

The remark laid bare Isla's intention, leaving her feeling embarrassed. She laughed it off. "My bad for the misunderstanding. But, Keira, who really is your husband? Why not bring him here for all of us to see... I'm sure everyone is curious. Just who is so fortunate and doesn't care about your status to have married someone as outstanding as you?"

She stressed the word "outstanding" with a satirical tone.

Professor Miller, upon hearing this, also looked at Keira. “Keira, bring him along next time so I can have a look and see if he’s right for you.”

Keira smiled faintly, about to nod.

But unexpectedly, she heard the deep voice of the man beside her, filled with a possessive assertiveness. “There’s no need for next time. He’s already here.”

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Chapter 142

142 Husband and Wife

Lewis’s words once again quieted the private room.

Everyone looked at him in shock.

Even Professor Miller was confused. “He’s here?

Where?”

Lewis straightened his back and watched as Professor Miller bypassed him, starting with Scott Martin. He examined each of the men sitting in their seats, but after a full circle, he found no one.

Professor Miller asked, “Keira, who on earth is it?”

Lewis was speechless.

Seeing the change in the man’s expression, Keira couldn’t help but snicker internally.

From the first time she saw Lewis, he had always been serious. This was the first time Keira had seen so many

emotions on his face.

She smiled but said nothing.

Isla frowned. "Keira, did you marry one of our classmates? Who exactly is it? Stop keeping us in

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suspense!"

At that, Lewis spoke up, "Her husband is me!"

Suddenly, there was silence in the room, and everyone's gaze abruptly shifted to the two of them.

Isla wanted to say something, but after opening her mouth and then meeting Lewis's cold face, she

swallowed her words.

Lewis raised Keira's hand, which he had been holding tightly under the table, showed it to everyone, and then specifically gave Scott a wary look. "Mr. Martin, I'm glad my wife could help you. If there's anything in the future, you can contact me."

Scott was speechless.

Lewis then looked around at everyone and signaled to Tom, who immediately smiled and said, "Mr. Horton and Miss Olsen have arranged a few bottles of fine wine to celebrate Professor Miller's birthday. They'll be served shortly. Enjoy your meal and drink, and this

meal will be on Mr. Horton's account."

The classmates were very appreciative, immediately

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raising their glasses. "Thank you, Mr. Horton. Thank you, Dr. South!"

At that moment, the atmosphere of the entire birthday banquet seemed to reach its climax.

Lewis had intended to dine with everyone, but his cell phone suddenly rang.

After he answered, whoever was on the other end said

something that made Lewis's expression change drastically, and he said, "I'll be right there."

After hanging up, he looked at Keira apologetically. "I might need to leave now."

"Go ahead," Keira said nonchalantly.

Lewis paused, glanced at the people around him, and then said again, "I'll leave the car for you, and have the driver take you home later."

He then stood up, straightened his suit, and was about to leave when he passed by Scott Martin. He suddenly said, "Mr. Martin, everyone here is Keira's college classmates and teachers. Your presence seems to keep them from relaxing completely. Why don't we leave together?"

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Scott pursed his lips but politely stood up. "Alright then."

However, as he was leaving with Lewis, he still turned

to look back at Keira. "Miss Olsen, I'll be in touch with you frequently in the future."

These words darkened Lewis's face a few shades more.

Once the two men finally left, the atmosphere in the

private room completely relaxed, and everyone acted as if they had seen off a superior. They slumped back in their chairs and let out a deep sigh of relief!

“Who would’ve thought that one day I’d get to dine with such important figures? I reckon today’s lunch is the peak of my life!”

“Now I’ll never be short of something to talk about think that people I could only see on financial chan are actually having dinner and drinks with me... My

God!”

“Alright, they’ve left, but we still have Dr. South!”

Professor Miller couldn’t help but smile. He turned to discuss an academic issue with Keira when Isla

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suddenly saidm “Keira, aren’t you being... shameless?!”

As soon as she said this, everyone immediately looked at her.

Charles frowned. “Isla, I see it now. This whole time, it was you who were picking fights. Erin was just a pawn you used. So, what is it that you want to do now that Erin has stopped talking?”

Isla didn’t expect to be called out and bit her lip in anger.

She lowered her gaze to think for a moment, then simply laughed. “I don’t want to do anything. I just think Keira has gone too far! She actually managed to persuade Mr. Horton to put on such a grand act with

her!”

Her words stunned the people around her.

Keira frowned. “Are you ever going to stop?”

Isla sneered. "Can't I talk about the things you've done yourself? Everyone in the Horton family knows Mr. Horton got married two years ago, whereas you got married after graduation. Tell me, how did the two of you manage to get married across those two years?"

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Keira frowned.

There were complicated reasons behind it, and she

hadn't clarified them.

She said indifferently, "Mr. Horton and I are indeed legally married. Whether you believe it or not is up to

you."

"Still being stubborn here! Jake, isn't the wife of our

uncle always abroad?"

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Jake had wanted to say this all along but didn't dare to

speak due to the pressure from Lewis. Now, he immediately sneered. "Indeed, Keira, I courted you four years. How come I didn't know that you were my aunt by marriage?!"

Isla sighed. "It's all because of her face. She pleased Mr Horton and got him to join her in deceiving us. Keira really didn't expect that. Your mother is a mistress, al you, already married, would rather have an affair and

be someone else's mistress...

Jake chimed in. "Probably a genetic trait in the family, right? Can't stand not being someone else's mistress?"

Their words were too harsh!

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Compared to Erin's words just now, it was an even deeper insult to Keira's character!

Even Professor Miller, who usually didn't intervene in student affairs, couldn't stand it anymore "Enough! Isla, Jake, shut your mouths!"

Isla looked at him. "Professor Miller, knowing she is Dr. South, you're biased toward her, but does someone of her questionable personal morals deserve to be a distinguished professor at the school? Aren't you afraid it'll affect the school's reputation?!"

Caught off-guard, Professor Miller stammered. "You...!"

As a cultured man, he didn't know how to argue with Isla and could only turn to Keira. "Keira, tell me, is what she saying true?"

Keira's gaze was somber. "Mr. Horton and I are indee legally married. If the school has concerns about this, can present the marriage certificate."

"You're still hardheaded even now?" Isla scoffed, then suddenly said, "Oh right, there might be something you don't know yet." New novel chapters are published on FindNovel.net

Keira frowned. "What?"

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Isla said, "In two days, it's our great-grandmother's 86th birthday celebration. The Horton family is going to host it on a grand scale. While I and my mother-in-law were preparing, I saw the guest list. Our uncle's wife will be returning on that day to make an appearance. Keira, maybe you don't know that. My uncle's wife has already returned to the country! I've even got her phone number. I can call right now to see who she really is!"

Having said that, Isla took out her mobile phone and opened the number she had recorded.

Keira glanced at it and couldn't help but laugh.

Wasn't that her own number?

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Chapter 143

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Isla had already dialed the number after saying that, a triumphant smile on her face as if to reveal the true face of the person in front of everyone.

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Of course, the number she dialed wasn't the one that

Keira usually used.

What Isla didn't know was that Keira had several

phone numbers. One was commonly used and also what her acquaintances knew.

There were also several numbers designated for

different identities.

There was one exclusively for Dr. South, one for Nora the researcher, and several more. Sometimes she

couldn't even remember which was which, so she

turned them all off.

"Contact me via email if there's anything. Don't distur

my normal life."

So, when Isla dialed the number, the response from the other end was, "Sorry, the number you have dialed

is switched off..."

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Keira raised an eyebrow.

Isla, on the other hand, put down her phone but still insisted, "Keira, what are you so proud of? I asked around already, and my aunt doesn't like to be

disturbed, which is why she turns off her phone. Since she's going to attend my great-grandmother's birthday banquet, that means my uncle is planning to make her identity public! By then, I'll see how you will deal with

it!"

Keira shrugged. "Then you don't need to worry about

it."

Seeing her unyielding demeanor, Isla suddenly

laughed, "You don't really believe, do you, that my uncle holds deep affection for her? Keira, guess who made the call just now that took my uncle away?!"

Keira was slightly startled upon hearing this.

Isla went on. "As far as I know, my aunt hasn't been in good health and had always resided in a sanatorium abroad. During her days back in the country, she has also been staying in a sanatorium, and my uncle went to see her several times. They have deep feelings for each other. Back in the day, to marry her, my uncle

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143 Aunt

went against everyone's advice. For him to come here today is a joke! A call from my aunt and he immediately left you!"

Keira's fingers tightened.

Suddenly, she remembered the day she was released from prison and hospitalized. Lewis was called away for an entire night. She also thought about last night when a phone call took him away, and he didn't accompany her to the Olsens'...

Plus just now...

No matter how busy a person's career was, they wouldn't encounter emergencies so frequently.

Unless...

This emergency was one thing or one person!

Had he run into some trouble? NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON FindNovel.net

Keira's brows knitted slightly with worry for Lewis.

But the concern on her face was misinterpreted by the others.

Isla immediately laughed. "You have nothing to say now, do you?"

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She then looked around at the others, her eyes turning slightly red. "I know, maybe you all think I've been too aggressive today, but I just don't want my aunt to lead a life interrupted by a third party like my mother did. Keira's mother is the biggest rift between my parents, and it took them a lifetime to mend. Keira, I hope you won't make any more mistakes. Have a good life with your husband, and don't let your future children become another rift between my uncle and aunt!"

Her emotionally charged words made it impossible for anyone at the table to blame her anymore.

Indeed, Isla herself was a victim, and her targeting Keira seemed somewhat justifiable.

Even Charles opened his mouth and then closed it again, not sure what to say to defend Dr. South. He eventually only managed a faltering, "I believe Dr. South isn't that kind of person."

Jake scoffed. "Facts speak louder than words! If anyone here doesn't believe what Isla says, I can send out the invitations! Then everyone can see for themselves who my aunt really is!"

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The certainty with which Isla and Jake spoke made everyone feel as if they had to believe them.

Keira, unable to carry her marriage certificate around to prove these things, simply lowered her gaze and said lightly, "Then we shall wait and see."

She had already understood this principle: sometimes, some things one said weren't necessarily believed by

others.

The birthday party ended in discord rather than joy.

The classmates left one after another, while Professor

Miller looked at Keira with concern. "Keira, are you really married to Mr. Horton?"

Keira sighed, "Professor, it's true."

Still worried, Professor Miller said, “Keira, you’re still young with a promising future. Just don’t be misled by Mr. Horton’s appearance and go astray.”

Keira’s mouth twitched, wondering if Lewis knew he was being compared to the likes of a seductress. Would he be infuriated to death?

After sending off Professor Miller. Keira turned around

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and saw Charles looking at her from a short distance. away, his expression hesitant as if he had something to say. Worry was written all over his face, “Dr. South...”

Keira said, “Just call me Keira. We’re classmates.

There’s no need to be so formal.”

Charles cleared his throat. “Well, Keira, if you need any help, just tell me, or if you have any difficulties, you can also confide in me. I’ll help clear things up among our classmates...”

Keira rubbed her forehead.

She understood what Charles meant. He had always been the responsible one among their classmates and had shown such excellent quality that Samuel had chosen him to join her company.

Charles also didn’t believe that she and Lewis were married. He was worried that she would be slandered and wanted to help her explain...

Keira sighed. “I saw that Jake gave you an invitation just now, right? Then let’s meet at the banquet.”

Charles still looked concerned. “Are you sure?”

“Yes.”

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“...Alright.”

Charles walked away, only half-convinced.

At that moment, Keira’s phone rang. She picked it up, and Samuel’s voice came through, “Boss, I was going to deal with your classmate Erin, but I found out

someone beat me to it. She’s been fired by her

company, and she won’t be able to find work in Oceanion again.”

A fierce glint flashed in Keira’s eyes.

She was never one to be bullied. How could she possibly let Erin go after being humiliated by her repeatedly at the banquet today?

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It was just a minor punishment to serve as a warning

to others.

Keira asked, “Is it possible to find out who helped?”

“There are two forces, one is the Horton family, probably Lewis’s doing. The other is an expatriate named Scott, a well-known real estate tycoon from abroad. He’s been making quite the stir since coming to Crera, but why he would help you, I have no idea.”

Keira said, “Who knows.”

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After hanging up, she noticed a new message on

WhatsApp, sent by Scott. "Miss Olsen, I really like you. Can you give me your parasite?"

Keira was confused.

A murderous intent suddenly erupted in her eyes.

What was Scott's deal? He helped her earlier but now sent a weird WhatsApp message to harass her?

Meanwhile, Scott, sitting in a luxurious car, was looking at an umbrella in his hand with a smile, telling his assistant, "This parasol marks the beginning of my fate with her. Asking her for it as a keepsake shouldn't be too much, should it?"

The assistant said, "Not at all, but Boss, are you sure you wrote the right words in your text message?"

"Of course," Scott said confidently. "I learned the Creran language well. I used handwriting input, so

there's no mistake!"

The assistant doubted his confidence.

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But text messages were quite private for people like them, and it wasn't appropriate for the assistant to

check for his boss.

Scott carefully placed the umbrella down, then looked to his assistant. "Get me an invitation to old Mrs.

Horton's birthday banquet."

Although he had left the private room, the events that had unfolded weren't hidden from him.

Miss Olsen and Lewis didn't seem to be husband and wife.

If Lewis appeared with his wife at the event, then he would need to support Miss Olsen!

“Ding.”

His phone chimed, and Scott ‘s eyes brightened, “S Miss Olsen replied to my message!”

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Chapter 144

144 Birthday Banquet

Scott glanced at WhatsApp, only to receive a message saying, “I don’t care who you are. Stop saying strange things.”

Scott was slightly taken aback and looked at his assistant in confusion. “Miss Olsen’s tone is a bit weird.

I don’t she’ll give me her parasol.”

The assistant replied, “Maybe it’s because you two aren’t very familiar with each other yet, Boss. You could send Miss Olsen more messages, and it’ll be

better when you’re more acquainted.”

Scott thought for a moment. “What should I write?”

The assistant suggested, "You could talk about everyday stuff, things like what happens around you and how you feel about things."

Scott appeared contemplative.

The car exited the garage, and Scott turned his head, suddenly spotting a pile of dog poop on the ground. He frowned slightly, took out his phone, and continued messaging Keira.

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Lewis left that Bentley for Keira, and she didn't hesitate to get in.

On the way back to the Horton mansion, her phone vibrated again. She picked it up and was surprised to find another message from Scott on WhatsApp. "I just saw a pile of dog poop in the garage, totally blew my mind!"

Keira was dumbfounded.

Her mouth twitched, and she thought this guy must have some serious issues.

With a smirk, she replied, "I suggest you go and see a neurologist."

The car soon returned to the Horton estate.

In the afternoon, Melissa and Isla got the whole Horton family busy.

Old Mrs. Horton was 86 years old this year, and doctors had declared she only had a few months. Everyone knew there would be no birthday like this next year, so they made it a grand affair.

Even from old Mrs. Horton's courtyard, one could hear

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the commotion from the main house.

Almost every one of the more than a hundred people in the Horton residence was bustling about.

By the night after next, probably every notable figure in Oceanion would be there. A lot of ingredients needed to be prepared, and nonperishable items were already being brought in by the truckload.

Old Mrs. Horton grimaced. "They're making such a big fuss over a banquet. It'd be better to show me a bit more respect. Lewis will worry about me less!"

Keira just laughed. "Maybe everyone shows respect in their own way."

Old Mrs. Horton took her hand.

"Granddaughter-in-law, do you know what I want th most for my birthday gift?"

Keira paused, then answered, "Tell me. As long as I c do it, I promise I'll get it for you."

After that, realizing what old Mrs. Horton was about to say, Keira quickly interjected. "But it can't be a

great-grandson. With just two days' notice, I can't produce one for you!"

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Old Mrs. Horton laughed. "It's alright if there's no great-grandson. You see, I actually just want you to stay by that brat's side. Can you promise me that if I'm gone, you won't let him be too lonely by himself?"

Keira was stunned.

During her time with the Horton family, she had begun to understand something.

The old master of the Horton family was indifferent

toward Lewis, probably because Lewis's mother's divorce years ago made him view Lewis as a disgrace.

He was especially biased toward the first branch of the family, treating them like close relatives.

Lewis currently held 51% of the Horton Group's shares because he was holding old Mrs. Horton's shares in trust. If anything happened to old Mrs. Horton and her shares were inherited by her children and

grandchildren, Lewis's stake in Horton Group would decrease, and the first branch would look for an

opportunity to attack...

Lewis was so outstanding, yet he was always guarded against by his biological father, plotted against by his elder brother, and abandoned by his biological mother

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when he was only seven months old.

In this family, aside from his grandmother, he truly had no one else to care about.

Keira suddenly felt a pang of pity for him.

She looked at old Mrs. Horton. The old lady's eyes were clear and bright at that moment. Her face was etched with the marks of time, and her eyes were filled with tenderness and helplessness.

It was as if she was saying that she wanted to

accompany Lewis for a few more years, but fate wasn't on her side...

Keira felt a pang in her heart and nodded vigorously. "Okay."

Old Mrs. Horton then smiled. "I'm glad. The brat told me that at this banquet, your identities will be made public! My granddaughter-in-law, you'll finally stand rightfully by his side. I'd like to see who dares to gossip

then!"

Only then did Keira understand why Isla had said that Lewis's wife would be present at the birthday banquet; it was something Lewis and old Mrs. Horton had

announced to the public.

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She couldn't help but feel amused. "Okay!"

Just as they finished their chat, the sound of footsteps approached. Isla, leading a group of people, walked in mightily. "Great-grandma, Melissa asked me to select a gown for you to wear that day. What do you think?"

Old Mrs. Horton waved her hand dismissively. "What I wear doesn't really matter; it's all about my granddaughter-in-law!"

She merrily took Keira's hand, and together they looked through a bunch of gowns, finally settling on a light blue one. "This color complements your skin tone. Others wouldn't look as good in it as you do!"

Seeing her enthusiasm, Keira nodded. "Okay."

A dark light flickered in Isla's eyes as she watched t

two of them.

But she said nothing and watched them select the dress. She then led the people away.

Halfway through, Isla suddenly stopped. She turned back to look at the gowns and finally picked out one similar in style to Keira's light blue dress. Smiling sweetly, she said, "I'll keep this one as well."

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"Yes."

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The brand manager responded respectfully.

The nanny beside Isla couldn't help asking, "Ma'am, why keep this dress? Do you plan to wear it yourself?"

Isla gave her a glare. "How could that be possible?"

Why would she wear that dress? To compete with Keira for attention?

The thought had barely crossed her mind when Isla tightened her fists.

From a young age, she knew she couldn't compare to Keira's beauty.

Keira was tall and stunningly pretty while Isla, more resembling Taylor, looked good if dressed up, but otherwise was quite average

That was why, in the Olsen family, she never allowed Keira to wear gowns.

So why would she put herself up for comparison now

Keeping the dress was only for...

The corners of Isla's mouth curled up. "My aunt has returned to the country and will be home that day. I

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suppose she hasn't prepared any gowns, so I'm helping her get one ready."

What was the simplest way to pit two women against each other? Obviously, a dress clash!

Her legendary aunt had never shown her face, and she definitely wouldn't want to be overshadowed by

Lewis's lover, would she?

By then, Isla wouldn't need to instigate anything. Her aunt would confront Keira directly!

A look of satisfaction appeared in Isla's eyes.

She quickly returned to the main house.

In the evening, when Jake got home from work, he started changing clothes and looked at her. "How are the preparations for the banquet going?"

Isla smiled. "Don't worry, everything is ready. Keira's reputation will be ruined, and she won't be able to say

face!"

Jake nodded.

Soon, two days passed by.

The time for old Mrs. Horton's birthday banquet had

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144 Birthday Banquet

finally arrived!

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Chapter 145

145 Perfect Match

The Horton family had been bustling since the morning.

When Keira woke up and stepped out, she saw Lewis unexpectedly not off to work early, but sitting on the living room sofa.

She stretched languidly and sauntered over, raising an eyebrow to ask, "Don't you need to go to the office today?"

She had just woken up. Her well-rested cheeks were glowing and shiny without any makeup. Her skin was fair, and her lips were plump and red.

In her loungewear, she was the very picture of relaxed comfort.

Lewis withdrew his gaze, glanced at the time, and said indifferently, "I have a meeting at ten, something to take care of at three in the afternoon, and I'll be back by the dinner party."

Keira nodded. "Then why aren't you leaving yet?"

Lewis cleared his throat and stood up. "Grandma

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145 Perfect Match

wants us to try on the clothes first."

Keira blinked in surprise, “Huh?”

Lewis walked over, his tall stature looming as he approached, and with a slight cough he said, “Follow

me.”

Keira trailed behind him, and they reached the dressing room where she immediately spotted the evening gown old Mrs. Horton had chosen for her. Under the light, the gown shimmered with golden threads, and at the neckline lay a gemstone necklace. The combination was quite luxurious.

Next to the gown hung a black tuxedo.

The tie was blue, and the cufflinks matched the jewelry with the gown. They were clearly designed for a couple.

Keira immediately understood why Lewis had been somewhat bashful just now. She found old Mrs. Ho to be incredibly adorable!

She was always playing little tricks in situations like these.

Keira smiled as she looked at Lewis, catching a fleeting

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145 Perfect Match

glimpse of joy on his face. Though expressionless, it was apparent he was in a good mood.

Keira stepped forward to grab the clothes. “Is your trouble sorted?”

Lewis blinked, “What?”

“The urgent issue over the phone...”

Lewis frowned slightly, and through his subtle expression, Keira realized the problem was probably still there. She was about to ask if he needed help when Lewis suddenly drew closer.

Step by step, he closed in, forcing Keira to retreat until she was backed against the closet. But he didn't stop his advance. Instead, he leaned down slowly toward

her.

Keira's eyes widened, and her heartbeat accelerated

wildly.

In the next moment, he whispered in her ear. "Miss. Olsen, shouldn't you be considering whether these two pieces of clothing match, rather than that?"

His breath against her neck tickled, making her skin flush involuntarily.

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145 Perfect Match

...She had been teased!

Keira struggled to calm her racing heart. Just as Lewis was about to look up, she suddenly smiled, grabbed his collar, and pulled down, making him bend forward and lean in closer to her again.

Keira also leaned into his ear. "Then Mr. Horton, do

you think there's anything inappropriate with these

clothes?"

Lewis had been teased right back!

His gaze fixated on the lips so close to his, momentarily dazed, then he said, "How can I tell

without trying them on?"

"Let's try them on then."

Keira let go of his collar.

They both took a step back, each exhaling slightly with relief, then picked up their respective clothes and entered the opposite dressing rooms.

The moment she closed the door, Keira leaned against the wall, her hand on her wildly beating heart, but

there was a smile on her lips

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145 Perfect Match

Two minutes later.

Keira had changed into her gown and walked out, her attention immediately captured by Lewis's appearance.

He always carried himself with such seriousness,

turning suits into uniform attire, but now, adorned in a tuxedo, his tall and handsome qualities were instantly highlighted.

At this moment, he looked like a gentleman stepping out of a European royal portrait, exuding an air of nobility.

As Keira was sizing him up, Lewis was also looking at

her.

She usually preferred comfortable clothes and seldom wore formal gowns. Even without makeup, she was already dazzling...

As they were looking at each other, old Mrs. Horton's voice rang out. "Fiona, look at them. They're truly a match made in heaven, a perfect pair! The children they'll have will definitely be good-looking!"

She was sneakily peeking from the doorway.

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145 Perfect Match

Keira didn't know what to say.

Lewis also flushed slightly, then he took off his overcoat and carried it in his hand. "I'm going to the office for a meeting first."

Keira said, "Oh, okay."

Lewis walked out. "Dear wife, see you tonight."

Keira was speechless. IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE CHAPTERS, PLEASE VISIT (Find)NOVEL.NET

What had gotten into him today? He was so eloquent!

She chuckled softly and gave a faint "Hmm" in response.

It was soon evening.

Guests started to arrive one after another, with luxur cars slowly driving into the Horton estate.

The grandeur of the Horton family manor was evident as a large area was designated for the parking lot.

Security guards were guiding at the entrance, and there were people giving directions in the parking lot.

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145 Perfect Match

Household servants were also present to greet guests at the parking lot and escort them to the main hall.

This was Keira's third visit to the main house of the

Horton family manor. Hanging from the high-ceilinged living room was a gigantic crystal chandelier and the entire room was larger than the lobby of a hotel.

Corners of the room featured sofas and a buffet, and elegantly dressed people mingled.

The first branch of the family was greeting guests at the entrance, while old Mrs. Horton sat with Keira in

the place of honor. Every guest had to greet old Mrs.

Horton.

Seeing that Keira was somewhat uncomfortable staying by her side, old Mrs. Horton allowed her to roam freely and no longer required her company.

Keira then saw Mrs. Olsen and others enter, so she took the opportunity to stand up and greet Mrs. Olse

Isla personally escorted Mrs. Olsen and Taylor inside. On seeing Keira, she lowered her gaze with a smile "Keira, where's Uncle Lewis?"

Keira didn't want to deal with her, but in front of Mrs.

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145 Perfect Match

Olsen, she still answered. "He went to work."

"The news I got says otherwise!" Isla smiled as she seemingly said casually, "I heard from the security that Uncle Lewis went to pick up my aunt, and they'll be arriving soon."

Taylor immediately asked, "Mrs. Horton is back?"

"Yes, she's been back for a few days, but because she hasn't been feeling well, she's been staying outside. Today is great-grandmother's special day; she has to come back." Isla's smiling eyes turned toward Keira. "Keira, do you think you should excuse yourself?"

This remark made Taylor furrow his brows, and he immediately scolded Keira. "Isla's right. You should stay away for a while. After all, just a few days ago, you were involved in that huge scandal with Mr. Horton! am your father. You should listen to me! I would nev harm you!"

Keira frowned. "Are you? My father?"

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Chapter 146

146 Marriage Certificate

Taylor's voice suddenly rose. "Although I have never acknowledged you as my daughter, the Olsen family has raised you. Is this the attitude you use to speak to me?!"

His words attracted the attention of the people around them, who then looked over in their direction.

Mrs. Olsen immediately frowned and said, "Mind the occasion."

Keira didn't want to argue here either, so she simply lowered her gaze and stayed silent.

Taylor just snorted coldly. "Seeing her just annoys me. Shirley, let's go to wish old Mrs. Horton a happy birthday!"

But Mrs. Olsen frowned. "With my health like this, I'd better not go in front of old Mrs. Horton and bring bad luck. You go. I have a few more words to say to Keira."

Taylor then looked at Keira warily. "Shirley isn't in good health, so don't say any nonsense here that will

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146 Marriage Certificate

make her upset. Do you hear me?"

Keira ignored him.

Taylor lost interest and, in the end, still went to old Mrs. Horton's side with Isla.

Seeing that they had finally left and that Isla hadn't noticed what was going on over here, Mrs. Olsen took a step forward and took Keira's hand, "Keira, you..."

"Ma'am, is your health getting worse again?"

Keira cut in before she could finish speaking.

Mrs. Olsen was taken aback, then coughed lightly., "It's nothing, just a little relapse."

Keira was puzzled. "Are you coughing again? Didn't I give you cough medicine? Haven't you taken it, or have you finished it?"

After that, she shook her head. "That shouldn't be the case. The bottle I gave you had a hundred pills; that's enough for three months."

Mrs. Olsen said with a smile, "I'm fine, just been

thinking a lot these past few days. Let's not talk about

1. Keira, about your relationship with Mr. Horton, it's

only a rumor, isn't it?"

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146 Marriage Certificate

Keira knew Mrs. Olsen would ask this question.

Not wanting to make Mrs. Olsen worry, she began, "Actually, he and I..." New NOVEL chapters are published on Find_Novel.net

Before she could finish her sentence, an excited voice came through. "Miss Olsen!"

Keira turned her head and saw Rebecca slowly walking

over.

She used to be in a wheelchair because she was too weak, but these past few days, her condition improved, and she could walk on her own. Today, she wore a pink dress and, upon reaching Keira, affectionately linked her arm. "I've missed you so much!"

She sounded very confident.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen followed her in resignation. Mr. Allen came up, laughing. "She can be so clingy! Just a few days without seeing Miss Olsen, and she speaks

like this."

Mrs. Allen feigned anger. "You've never been this dependent on me or your mother. If people didn't know any better, they'd think Miss Olsen was your real sister!"

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146 Marriage Certificate

Rebecca flashed a playful smile at them and continued to gaze at Keira, then whispered, "Miss Olsen, even though I was in the hospital, I've always been keeping track of you. I've heard that everyone's been whispering that there's something indecent between you and Mr. Horton, but that's definitely not true, right?"

Her clear eyes no longer bore the scars of the past and were full of concern. Keira smiled. "Yeah, those are just rumors. My relationship with Mr. Horton..."

Before she finished, Rebecca interjected. "Your relationship with him must be completely innocent. Of that, I'm absolutely sure! I've met Mr. Horton; he's so cold. How could he be good enough for you? You would never be interested in him. But I heard you got married. What a pity. Otherwise, I'd introduce my brother to you! It's time that old man got married!"

Keira's lips twitched as she found herself at a loss for

words.

Why was it so difficult to reveal her relationship with

Lewis?

146 Marriage Certificate

Before she could speak again, Mrs. Allen was already angry. "How can you talk about your brother like that? It's only because he's not here. Otherwise, let's see if you dare to be so disrespectful!"

Rebecca stuck out her tongue and whispered to Keira, "My brother heard about old Mrs. Horton's 86th birthday and wanted to come since our family is working with the Horton family now! But my dad is working on some photograph, and he says it'll be restored in the next couple of days, so he insisted that my brother wait until the photograph is fixed before coming over."

Keira laughed and asked, "Restoring an old photograph?"

Rebecca nodded. "Yeah, apparently it's one from twenty or thirty years ago... Dad, what's that photo you're having my brother restore, exactly?"

Mr. Allen smiled as he looked at Keira and Mrs. Olsen, "That photo has some connection to Mrs. Olsen. Back in Clance, I met Lady South a few times, and we happened to take a group picture once."

Hearing this, Mrs. Olsen's eyes lit up, "My mother?"

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146 Marriage Certificate

Once that photo is restored, you must show it to me!"

Mr. Allen was taken aback. "Don't you have any photos of Lady South at your place?"

Mrs. Olsen shook her head and sighed, "Before I came to Oceanion, there was a sudden fire at home that

burned all our photos..."

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Her gaze had a touch of nostalgia, "Over the years, my health has been deteriorating, and I've often been ill. It's been more than twenty years now; I've long forgotten what my mother looked like..."

Upon hearing this, Mr. Allen sighed and asked, "I heard about it back then and felt so sorry for you. But how did Lady South pass away? She was only in her forties, wasn't she? In the prime of her life..."

That's when Keira realized Mrs. Olsen hadn't been in

touch with Clance for so many years because her mother had passed away.

She pricked up her ears just to see Mrs. Olsen muster a weak smile. "Mother died in an accident."

She didn't seem to want to elaborate.

Recognizing her reluctance, Mr. Allen immediately

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146 Marriage Certificate

stopped prying and said, "Once the photo is restored, I'll be sure to show it to both you and Miss Olsen!"

Mrs. Olsen paused slightly, then nodded.

Keira, however, was a bit puzzled.

Why would Mr. Allen want to show the photo to her, out of all things?

But she didn't ask further because she was indeed very curious about the kind of person who could beget someone of Mrs. Olsen's stature... she wondered what sort of person Lady South had been.

With that topic concluded, Mr. and Mrs. Allen saw that the crowd around old Mrs. Horton had dispersed, so they said, "Rebecca, let's go and greet the old lady first."

It was a matter of etiquette.

Although Rebecca was reluctant to leave Keira, she had no choice but to follow Mr. and Mrs. Allen.

As the two walked away, people passed by Keira and Mrs. Olsen, discussing as they went.

"I heard that Mr. Horton was finally bringing out that well-protected wife of his for everyone to see today!"

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146 Marriage Certificate

“I’m really curious about who Mrs. Horton is...”

“Did you hear? Lately, it seems Mr. Horton has kept a mistress. It looks like pictures were taken, and the servants at the Horton family manor all know about it. Mrs. Horton must have come back on purpose after finding out about it...”

After the two moved on, Mrs. Olsen looked worriedly at Keira, “Keira, I’m not feeling well; how about you

take me home?”

Keira couldn’t help but laugh and cry at the same time.

She knew this was an excuse Mrs. Olsen had come up with to help her avoid this gathering.

Supporting Mrs. Olsen by the arm, Keira said, “Mrs. Olsen, let me take you to see something.”

“What is it?”

“My marriage certificate.”

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Chapter 147

147 Mrs. Horton Is Here

Mrs. Olsen paused slightly, puzzled.”

She didn’t understand why Keira wanted her to look at the marriage certificate.

Still, she followed Keira to the adjoining lounge. READ LATEST CHAPTERS AT
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Keira, dressed in a gown, had only a cellphone in her hand-her bag and Old Mrs. Horton's belongings were in the room next door.

She knew Mrs. Olsen would be there today and didn't want her to worry.

After going through so much, she knew that no matter what she said, these people wouldn't believe her, so

she simply brought the marriage certificate to ease the worried Mrs. Olsen's mind.

As the two of them were about to enter the lounge, commotion suddenly erupted at the entrance.

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Keira and Mrs. Olsen couldn't help but turn their heads to look, and there was Lewis, dressed in a tuxedo and striding in like a top celebrity, heading straight for old

Mrs. Horton.

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147 Mrs. Horton is Here

Those around who were offering birthday wishes

stepped aside, allowing Lewis to stand in front of old

Mrs. Horton.

Old Mrs. Horton's face was filled with smiles as she extended her hand.

Lewis, however, didn't step forward but instead bowed deeply and said earnestly, "Grandma, I wish you a happy birthday, good health, and a long and prosperous life!"

He didn't, like others, prattle on with birthday platitudes. His tersely chosen words expressed the sincerest of blessings.

Old Mrs. Horton's eyes reddened slightly, and she immediately beckoned to him. "You brat, why so formal? For you to be happy in life and to love your wife deeply, growing old together-that's my greatest wish."

Lewis's face was tense, but Keira could see from his eyes that he was restraining his emotions. He said hoarsely, "Grandma, rest assured, I will."

"Good! Good!" Old Mrs. Horton's smile at that moment was the most sincere of the evening.

11:35

147 Mrs. Horton Is Here

Because Lewis's wife was mentioned, someone stepped forward with a smile and asked, "From what Old Mrs. Horton and Mr. Horton are implying, will Mrs. Horton be making an appearance tonight?"

Upon hearing this, Lewis unconsciously searched the banquet hall for Keira.

But at that moment, Keira and Mrs. Olsen had turned a corner, and he couldn't find her, so he could only stop searching and nod at the one who had spoken.

People around immediately began to tease with laughter.

"Mr. Horton is finally willing to bring out the wife he has hidden for two years. We are curious to know what kind of person she is, to command such devotion..."

"From the look of old Mrs. Horton's beaming smile, she must be splendid!"

Old Mrs. Horton loved to hear these words and nodded in agreement, "Yes, yes, my granddaughter-in-law is beautiful, capable, gracious, and proper. I like her very much!"

"A harmonious relationship between Mr. Horton and

11:05

147 Mrs. Horton Is Here

his wife must be your greatest hope, Mrs. Horton!"

"Isn't it? That brat always has a stern face, and I used to worry about scaring my granddaughter-in-law, but now their relationship is so good!"

Old Mrs. Horton had been perfunctorily responding to those around her, but she now took interest.

Seeing this, everyone immediately gathered around her, starting to praise her grandson and granddaughter-in-law, and old Mrs. Horton's face visibly filled with more smiles.

Lewis, seeing this, smiled a little. He wanted to see where Keira was, but his phone suddenly rang.

He glanced at it and answered. Tom's voice came from the other end, "Boss, Miss Davis has arrived."

Lewis frowned. "Who told you to bring her here?"

"Boss, it's not my fault. She insisted on coming. She said she must come for old Mrs. Horton's birthday celebration. Her situation is special, and I couldn't stop

her..."

As Tom spoke, his voice got quieter, evidently very guilty. "Do you really want to make your marriage to

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147 Mrs. Horton Is Here

Miss Olsen public today, or should we postpone..."

Lewis immediately responded in a stern voice. "Why should we postpone?"

Tom coughed. "Isn't it because we're worried that Miss Davis can't handle this shock? Then Miss Olsen will just have to bear the brunt again, at worst getting called a homewrecker or a mistress a few more times..."

"Keep your schemes to yourself. Keira doesn't need you to speak for her!"

Lewis lowered his gaze, hiding the fatigue in his eyes. He pressed his hand to his forehead, a flash of

determination crossing his eyes, and spoke in a deep voice, "It's actually good timing that she has come, just in time to see that I'm indeed married, and dispel those inappropriate thoughts she might have."

Tom chuckled. "Alright then, boss!"

Lewis then asked, "Where is she?"

Tom replied, "She came in a hospital gown and has just been taken by Isla to change into a dress!"

11:30

147 Mrs. Horton Is Here

After Lewis finished his birthday speech, Keira turned the corner at the end of the hallway with Mrs. Olsen

and headed toward the rest area on the first floor.

Right after turning the corner, they saw Jalen.

He had a bit of a sophomore air about him and evidently preferred solitude. He immediately approached upon seeing her and said, "Dr. South, I need to talk to you for a moment."

Then, he glanced around, lowered his voice, and asked, "Tell me the truth. Is there something more between you and my cousin?"

Keira was perplexed.

She raised an eyebrow. "What do you mean?"

Jalen said, "Do you think the Horton family could really keep a secret? Lately, the company has been abuzz with talk that you've gotten together with my cousin! Are you really together?"

Keira twitched the corner of her mouth. "Yeah, really."

Jalen's attitude changed immediately, and he was almost sighing. "How could you do this? You... Being highly intelligent, shouldn't you marry someone

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147 Mrs. Horton Is Here

equally smart? You know it's not right, so how could you..."

He wanted to reprimand Keira, but the harsher words he couldn't bring himself to say.

Keira saw his conflict and knew that he was concerned

about her. She was about to tell Jalen the truth about

her relationship with Lewis, but unexpectedly, Jalen

lowered his voice.

"I've already found out who Mrs. Horton is!"

Keira paused, raising an eyebrow. "Who is she?"

"Her name is Madeleine Davis, and she's been abroad all these years receiving medical treatment. My cousin spent a lot of time abroad with her too. She returned to the country a while back, and her condition has reportedly stabilized, so she can make public appearances now. I just saw her being personally escorted in by Tom. I'd heard that my cousin was planning to formally introduce his wife to everyone today..."

Jalen's speech halted as he looked at Keira. "Well, although his wife has health issues, Lewis has been faithful to her for two years without divorcing, which

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147 Mrs. Horton Is Here

means they do have feelings for each other. You

shouldn't... My cousin may be quite handsome and many women like him, but he's not right for you... really...

"Be rational, don't do anything that will make you lose respect in everyone's eyes. Sometimes, gracefully stepping back can also be a form of generosity and magnanimity. That makes sense, doesn't it, Dr. South?"

Keira didn't know what to say.

Seeing her silence, Jalen thought his words had convinced her, so he asked, "Where are you going?"

Keira replied, "I'm planning to show Mrs. Olsen my marriage certificate."

Jalen said, "...Right, you're married too. We should each just live our lives well then. Come on, I want to see who your husband is."

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Chapter 148

148 Lounge

So, there was one more person who wanted to see Keira's marriage certificate.

Holding Mrs. Olsen's arm, Keira soon arrived at the lounge with Jalen.

Jalen was still muttering, "Has your husband arrived? If he has, let's show ourselves together later and dispel

those rumors..."

Mrs. Olsen also nodded. "That's what Keira means."

Keira ignored their words and pushed open the door of the lounge...

Then she realized it wouldn't budge.

The door to the lounge was locked from the inside.

This lounge was specially prepared for old Mrs. Horton, but the old lady was in the front hall, so who

could be in there?

Just as she was thinking, she heard a “click” as the door opened, and Isla, dressed in a pink gown, walked out.

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148 Lounge

Upon seeing Keira and Mrs. Olsen, she raised her brows. “Mom, Keira, what are you doing here?”

Keira raised her brows, and Mrs. Olsen explained, “Keira’s bag is inside, so we came to get it...”

“Then you might have to wait a moment.”

Isla’s smile was especially brilliant as she looked at Keira and slowly said, “Mrs. Horton is inside changing her dress!”

Keira was slightly stunned, “Who?”

Isla’s smile grew even more brilliant, “Mr. Horton’s wife, Mrs. Horton, of course! To personally brought her here and even asked me to prepare a gown for her. Didn’t I tell you already? Tonight, Mr. Horton will reveal who his wife is...”

Tom personally brought her here...

Keira frowned slightly.

Seeing this, Mrs. Olsen frowned. “Then let Keira go in and take her bag.”

Isla deliberately put on an apologetic look. “Mom, this room is the exclusive lounge for great-grandmother; I only just found out. Only Horton family members can

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148 Lounge

enter this lounge to rest. Besides, my aunt isn't well and can't withstand draughts, and she's still not done changing her clothes, so we shouldn't disturb the hostess, right?"

She deliberately emphasized the word "hostess," and then looked at Keira, her lips curling into a smug smile. "So everyone will have to wait a bit. I'm sure you

wouldn't mind, would you, Keira?"

Then she walked over and took Mrs. Olsen's arm, "Mom, in this house Mr. Horton is the one in charge, so strictly speaking, my aunt is the real hostess of this house. I can't even go against her orders. If we wait a little, Keira surely won't mind, right?"

Keira looked at her arrogant demeanor and could only find it ridiculous. "Are you sure the one inside is the

real Mrs. Horton?"

"Of course."

Isla said confidently. "How could I possibly be uncertain about this? Mr. Horton has been married for

two years, and the person he's always talked about to the outside world is my aunt the entire Horton family

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148 Lounge

knows this! It's only one person who refuses to believe

it, right? She's still dreaming about soaring up from the branches to become a phoenix!"

"Isla!"

Mrs. Olsen scolded her. "Mind your language!"

Isla just sneered, "Mom, Keira is still an Olsen after all; I'm just worried she's going to cause another embarrassing scene today, dragging down the reputation of the Olsen family. Besides, haven't you always taught us since we were young, to take what we can but not to covet what isn't ours?"

Mrs. Olsen immediately frowned and said sadly, "So you do remember what I've said."

But how had Isla turned into this utterly unrecognizable person she was today?

Yet Isla didn't understand the meaning behind her

words.

As the group talked, there was some movement from within the room, and soon after, the door swung open, revealing a slender girl dressed in a blue gown.

Keira looked at her.

148 Lounge

She saw a girl with delicate features, the epitome of understated charm. Her complexion was an abnormal shade of pale, and she was thin and frail. At that moment, she stood in a state of panic. She glanced about, her expression one of bewilderment.

She wanted to say something to the gathering of people before her, but she seemed too afraid to speak, especially with everyone's gaze fixed upon her, causing her to stand there sheepishly, afraid to move.

There was something about her that made one can't help but feel pity.

Jalen immediately leaned over to Keira and whispered, just loud enough for the two of them to hear, "That's

Madeleine Davis!"

Isla then called out, "Auntie, have you changed into your dress?"

Madeleine seemed unsure of how to respond to these words, so she just nodded dumbly before timidly tugging at her dress as if trying to cover the exposed skin.

Her voice was soft and timid, "This dress, is it really okay?"

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148 Lounge

As soon as she said this, their gaze fell on the gown she was wearing.

The light blue dress only made her sickly pale skin appear even whiter, yet her overly thin and scrawny figure failed to fill out the gown, creating a comical sense as if a child was wearing an adult's clothes.

And looking at the dress...

Mrs. Olsen suddenly frowned and turned to look at

Keira.

Not only were their dresses of a similar color, but the styles were almost identical!

Isla immediately tried to reassure her. "It looks very nice!"

Madeleine timidly pointed to Keira. "Actually, she looks better in it... Should I change into another one?"

Upon hearing this, Isla laughed, casting a defiant look at Keira. "Keira, what a coincidence, you and my aunt are dressed alike. But she's the hostess of today's event. Don't you think it would be respectful to change your dress?"

It's a basic etiquette for attending a banquet.

148 Lounge

Normally, everyone would enquire in advance about what the hostess would wear to avoid such an

embarrassing situation.

This was precisely what Mrs. Olsen had intended to

say just now...

But she didn't know how to voice it without hurting Keira's pride.

Keira showed no sign of feeling humiliated. Instead, she scoffed, "Two days ago, when Grandma was picking out this dress for me, you were there. So, did you do this on purpose?"

Isla wasn't afraid of being exposed and said flatly, "I

just thought the dress is more fitting for the hostess of the Horton family."

She stared straight at Keira. Keira, are you trying to outshine the Horton family's hostess?"

Keira's expression darkened.

Mrs. Olsen took a deep breath and then said decisively, "Keira, I'm not feeling well. Weren't you here to pick up a bag? Grab it and let's leave; you can take me home. first."

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148 Lounge

For the first time, she commanded Keira in a forceful tone.

Keira was slightly taken aback and looked at her in surprise, "Mrs. Olsen..."

"Keira, if you still acknowledge me as your elder, then listen to me and leave with me," Mrs. Olsen grabbed her hand. "Keira, I can't stand by and watch you being humiliated here."

Keira clenched her jaw and sighed. "Mrs. Olsen, how about we take a look at the marriage certificate before deciding anything?"

Mrs. Olsen didn't understand why she kept asking her to look at the marriage certificate, but she could only say, "...Alright." New NOVEL chapters are published on FindNovel.net

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Ch.148

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Chapter 149

149 She's Mrs. Horton!

Keira walked past Isla and approached Madeleine. Just as she was about to enter the room, Madeleine

suddenly asked, "Who are you?"

Her voice was faint, and she appeared fragile as if posing no threat.

Keira frowned slightly but said nothing.

Isla then said, "Auntie, this is Keira. Didn't Great-grandma fall ill and mistake her for you? That's why Mr. Horton has been letting her stay at the house... Now there are all kinds of rumors going around, saying that Keira is my uncle's mistress..."

"Isla!" Mrs. Olsen warned her, interrupting what Isla was about to say next.

Isla pouted but didn't continue; however, the meaning behind her words was clear.

Ignoring her, Keira kept her gaze on Madeleine and asked directly, "Miss Davis, right? Are you truly Mrs. Horton?"

She found Madeleine somewhat inscrutable.

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149 She's Mrs. Horton!

Her question was both a probe and an opportunity for her to clarify things.

Isla immediately scoffed. "Keira, you really outdo your mother in attendance. You're so arrogant before the real deal. Your mom wouldn't dare to pass gas in front of my mom; if you're going to be someone's mistress, at least learn from your mother's attitudes, right?"

Mrs. Olsen's complexion changed drastically, her voice trembling, "Isla!"

She couldn't understand why her daughter was being so sharp-tongued and repulsive!

But Isla seemed completely unaware of her mistake, and retorted, "What's wrong? Did I say something incorrect? What right does she have to question Auntie's identity? She's so arrogant... Mom, you always tell me to shut up, but why don't you tell her to shut up?"

Mrs. Olsen gasped for air and clutched her chest, her body trembling.

Keira, however, paid them no heed and kept her eyes on Madeleine, "Are you going to talk?"

Madeleine looked natrified hu their auarreling Cha

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149 She's Mrs. Horton!

gaped with innocent, doe eyes, bewildered and panicked by everything in front of her. She then replied weakly, "I- please don't be angry... I'm not in good health. I won't fight you for anything... As long as Lewis keeps taking care of me, that's enough... I also want to thank you, for helping take care of Grandma during this time..."

She bowed her head, her fingers idly intertwining. "Lewis is too busy taking care of me and has no time for Grandma. Having you help us stay with grandma, I'm happy, and Lewis is happy too..." The source of this content is FindNovel.net

Immediately, Keira clenched her fists and took a step forward, "So then, answer my question, are you Mrs. Horton?"

She was truly getting impatient.

Madeleine looked delicate and weak, but her words

were causing a great deal of confusion!

None of her words explicitly stated whether she was Mrs. Horton or not, but every sentence implicitly spoke from the perspective of Mrs. Horton.

She didn't like such ambiguities.

Frowning Keira saw that Madeleine looked frightened

3/8

149 She's Mrs. Horton!

+27

by her demeanor and quickly hid behind Isla, glancing at her in a panic. "I-I won't fight with you for him... Please, don't be angry, stop this..."

As soon as these words came out, Isla immediately stood in front of her, righteously accusing Keira. "What are you doing? I know you're powerful, often resolving issues through physical means outside, but this is my aunt! She's already very frail. If you dare touch a single hair on her, let's see if Mr. Horton will let you off!"

Keira frowned, "I didn't lay a hand on her..."

Madeleine then hastily cried out. "She didn't lay a hand on me, no, she didn't..."

Isla scoffed. "That's because you escaped before she could act, right? Keira, I really didn't expect you to become so brazen! In front of my mom and all these people, you even dared to threaten Mrs. Horton! You kept pressing her. What did you want her to say? Did you want her to hand over Uncle Lewis to you? How shameless can you be, to bully a sick person like this?!"

Keira felt a surge of anger welling up within her.

She stepped forward. "I was just trying to get things

149 She's Mrs. Horton!

clear. From start to finish, it's been you doing all the talking. I want her to tell me herself, whether or not she's actually Mrs. Horton!"

+27

Isla scoffed again and turned to look at Madeleine. "Auntie, don't be scared! Assert your status and stature

as the legal wife. This is the Horton residence, not some place where a mistress can cause trouble at will!"

Madeleine immediately grabbed her dress nervously, bowing her head, "Miss Keira, thank you..."

Isla showed a look of frustration. "Why would you thank her? She stole your husband's and your grandma's affection. How can you be so weak and incompetent... No wonder Uncle Lewis has been so openly messing around outside!"

Madeleine stuttered, "Don't talk nonsense. Without evidence, as long as Lewis doesn't abandon me, it's fine."

Isla said, "...If you keep this up, it won't be long before he does abandon you!"

"Slap!"

Mrs. Olsen couldn't stand it any longer and slapped

513

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149 She's Mrs. Horton!

Isla across the face. "I told you to shut up! Stop causing trouble here!"

Isla's head was jerked to the side from the slap. She

Was

stunned, then glared at Mrs. Olsen and shouted, "Why should I shut up? Keira is clearly the one who's in the wrong this time!"

"Mom, in your eyes, is everything I do wrong? I was just trying to defend my aunt's dignity! I wanted Keira to realize her mistake!"

Isla fixed a sharp gaze on Mrs. Olsen, "You're going to stop me? Is Keira so perfect in your eyes? Even if she becomes someone's mistress, a homewrecker, you'll still favor her?! Have you ever considered my feelings? With her doing such things in the Horton family, how can I stand my ground in the Horton household?!"

With righteous indignation, Isla's questioning shook Mrs. Olsen to her core, "You... don't pretend your motives are so noble... you're just targeting Keira!"

“Yes, I am targeting her, so what? If she hadn’t done anything wrong, would I be able to target her? This time I completely occupy the moral high ground. What have I done wrong?!”

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149 She’s Mrs. Horton!

Isla pressed aggressively. “Should we call everyone else to have a look?”

Mrs. Olsen clutched her chest and stepped back.

“Ma’am!”

Keira took a step forward, reaching out to support her.

But unexpectedly, Mrs. Olsen pushed her away in the next moment.

Keira looked at Mrs. Olsen in astonishment, only to see her eyes red, her whole demeanor seeming on the verge of collapse. “It’s my fault. My neglect has made the two of you turn out this way!”

She looked at Keira with disappointment. “I always thought you were a good child, but today, Keira, you really let me down!”

Mrs. Olsen’s voice was choked with sobs, mixed with the disappointment in her eyes...

All of this pained Keira, and she felt as if her heart was being viciously gripped by an invisible hand.

She clenched her fists tightly, turned around sharply into the resting room, picked up her bag and strode

out. Then feeling wronged she took out her marriage

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149 She’s Mrs. Horton!

certificate from inside and handed it to Mrs. Olsen.

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Terrible

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Chapter 150

150 Disappointment

Keira knew that no matter what she said, these people wouldn't believe her.

Just like the class reunion a few days ago...

She didn't plan to make empty claims. Instead, she took out evidence, hoping to convince Mrs. Olsen of her innocence.

She looked at Mrs. Olsen and slowly said, "Ma'am, Mr. Horton and I truly are..."

Before she could finish, a hand suddenly reached out from the side and snatched her marriage certificate from Mrs. Olsen's hand.

Isla's shrill voice interrupted her. "Do you think that just by producing a marriage certificate, you can prove your claim? Keira, do you take everyone for blind fools?"

Without even looking at the document, she attempted to tear it apart, but her manicured nails prevented her from exerting any strength. Frustrated, she threw it violently onto the floor and repeatedly ground it

11-36

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150 Disappointment

under her high heels.

Keira's pupils contracted, and she immediately grabbed Isla's arm, her other hand swinging down at her!

"Smack!"

The loud slap echoed in the hallway. Unlike the slap Mrs. Olsen had delivered before, this time a visible handprint welled up on Isla's face.

With a fierce look in her eyes, Keira stared at her. "Isla, I could call the police right now and accuse you of destroying national documents, and you would end up in jail."

At these words, Isla's fingers tightened, but a glance at Mrs. Olsen bolstered her confidence. "Go ahead, call

the police, and why not summon some reporters too? Let everyone see whether it is you, the adulteress and homewrecker who should be denounced and vilified,

or whether I, the defender of justice, should be

blamed!"

Keira said forcefully, "I've said it before, I am not the

'other woman', Lewis and I are..."

"Smack."

1

150 Disappointment

Suddenly, something brushed across her face.

Keira was stopped mid-sentence, and she froze in place, and in disbelief. She slowly turned her head to

look at the one who had struck her-Mrs. Olsen.

Mrs. Olsen's eyes were red, her body trembling slightly as she stared at Keira, "Keira, if you still listen to me, leave this place with me now!"

Keira's eyes widened in astonishment.

Actually, it didn't hurt at all...

Mrs. Olsen hadn't had the heart to hit hard, and her cheek had only been grazed.

Having been beaten by Poppy from a young age, this slap was indeed the lightest she had ever received in

her life...

Yet Keira had never felt as heartbroken as she did at

this moment, the pain so severe that for an instant she struggled to breathe.

Clenching her fists tightly, she stared in shock at Mrs. Olsen and after a long moment found her voice again, "...You don't believe me either?"

Mrs. Olsen hadn't expected to strike her either. She

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150 Disappointment

looked down at her trembling fingers and let out a bitter smile upon hearing Keira's words.

She had always believed in Keira's character. As a child, Keira would rather starve and rummage through garbage bins for food than casually take a cake left out on the table, even if she was nearly dying of hunger...

Back then, Mrs. Olsen had admired Keira immensely.

And gradually, she took her to heart.

But she had never expected her to do something like
this...

Mrs. Olsen had already made inquiries and learned that Lewis got married two years ago, but Keira had only registered her marriage this year. She simply couldn't imagine the two being husband and wife.

And the photographs that Isla showed her last time weren't edited; they were real...

In those photos, the intimacy and the looks in the eyes of Keira and Lewis clearly showed they had feelings for one another...

So how could she possibly believe Keira?

Mrs. Olsen closed her eyes, feeling dizzy from anger.

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150 Disappointment

Overcome with a sense of powerlessness, in the end,

all she could say to Keira was, "Leave..."

Keira was stunned. "Mrs. Olsen, it's not what you think, Mr. Horton and I..."

Isla felt immense satisfaction upon witnessing this
scene.

Keira was too capable of fighting back, making Isla always feel powerless in front of her.

But there was one person whom Keira would never retaliate against, and that was Mrs. Olsen!

She said sarcastically, "Didn't you hear what my mom said? She wants you to leave. She never wants to see someone as despicable as you ever again! You and your mother are both shameless homewreckers who

shouldn't be seen in daylight!"

Keira continued to look at Mrs. Olsen, "Mrs. Olsen..."

Isla stepped forward, placing herself between her and Mrs. Olsen. "Are you leaving or not? Are you staying here on purpose to upset my mom to death so your own mother can take her place? What exactly are you plotting?!"

11:26

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150 Disappointment

As soon as these words fell, Mrs. Olsen went limp, and she was about to collapse to the ground!

"Shirley!"

Taylor quickly approached and steadied Mrs. Olsen's shaky body. He looked around in shock and asked, "What happened?"

Isla immediately said, "My mom can't stand the shame of Keira being here as my uncle's mistress and

homewrecker and told her to leave, but she refused,

and it upset my mom!"

Upon hearing this, Taylor immediately glared at Keira. "You ungrateful creature! How well has Shirley treated you since you were little? Have you no conscience?!"

Keira looked at them, momentarily not knowing what

to say.

She suddenly let out a low laugh, finding it all rather meaningless.

Not a single person was patient enough to listen to her explanations...

She cast down her eyes, her expression indifferent. "Mrs. Olsen, take good care of yourself. There's no

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150 Disappointment

need to get angry because of me.”

After these words, she turned and walked away.

Mrs. Olsen leaned on Taylor, watching Keira leave, wanting to reach out and call her back, but not knowing what to say...

Isla pointed toward the lounge and said, “Dad, Mom, why don’t you go inside and rest for a bit...”

Taylor helped Mrs. Olsen into the room.

After a while, Mrs. Olsen finally regained her breath. Taylor scolded her angrily. “Shirley, why are you getting angry over such an ungrateful daughter? She’s not worth your efforts! Her mother had no shame and schemed against me to have her. She has Poppy Hill’s blood flowing in her veins. She’s selfish and without a moral bottom line...”

Mrs. Olsen’s gaze was empty, her heart filled with disappointment.

“You’re always strict with Isla, and you always tell me that Keira is better than her. Look at her now. Keira’s moral bottom line is far behind Isla’s! No matter what, Isla has never reduced herself to being a mistress!

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< 150 Disappointment

Taylor held Mrs. Olsen’s hand. “Shirley, promise me, don’t worry about Keira anymore. From now on, stay away from her, and don’t upset yourself anymore, alright?”

Mrs. Olsen painfully closed her eyes. The most update novels are published on Findnovel.net

Had this child, Keira, truly gone astray?

She clenched her fists tightly, finding it hard to believe, yet the truth was before her eyes...

Seeing she didn't respond, Taylor simply said, "Are you feeling better now? If you are, then let's go. We've made our presence known today, and that should be enough for the Horton family."

Mrs. Olsen, trembling and unsteady, stood up, and with the support of Taylor, stepped out of the lounge.

By then, the outside had quieted down. Everyone had gone to the front hall.

As the two of them stepped out, they saw a marriage certificate lying lonely on the ground; Mrs. Olsen paused, then took a step forward and picked it up...

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Chapter 151

151 Hold Your Hand

The marriage certificate even had footprints on it,
dirty and grimy.

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Mrs. Olsen took out a handkerchief to wipe it, her eyes
downcast. "No matter what, Isla shouldn't have damaged Keira's marriage certificate."

Taylor scoffed. "She shouldn't have resorted to physical
violence either! With that barbaric and uncouth
temperament of Keira, why are you still worried about

her?”

Mrs. Olsen ignored this remark. After cleaning the marriage certificate, she prepared to open it and take a look.

However, the marriage certificate was snatched away by Taylor. “What good will it do? Didn’t her husband already visit our house last time? That laborer let his wife be someone else’s mistress and homewrecker. He’s such a useless man! Stop looking at it to avoid getting angry all over again!”

Mrs. Olsen’s jaw tensed, and she finally said, “Before we leave, let’s return the marriage certificate to

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151 Hold Your Hand

Keira...”

“... Alright, alright. Shirley, you’re just too kind-hearted!”

As they conversed, they walked toward the hall.

Keira didn’t return to the front hall, Instead, she went to the back garden.

This year’s winter seemed particularly cold. The chilly wind pierced through her thin dress, quickly making her feel as if even her bones were chilled. Yet, these sensations couldn’t compare to the coldness in her chest.

She didn’t blame Mrs. Olsen for the misunderstanding, nor did she feel qualified to blame her.

Mrs. Olsen was the sole source of warmth in her childhood life.

It was Mrs. Olsen who taught her self-respect, self-love, and to live life not by others’ definitions;

It was Mrs. Olsen who helped her with the enrollment paperwork when Keira started elementary school, giving her the chance to receive nine years of

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151 Hold Your Hand

compulsory education.

The first doll she ever received as a child was a gift from Mrs. Olsen, even though it was later secretly torn up by Isla.

The first dress she received was also from Mrs. Olsen,

telling her that a girl's beauty isn't for pleasing men, but for pleasing herself, even though that dress was later stripped off by Poppy and given to Isla.

Likewise, it was Mrs. Olsen who helped her break free from Poppy's control in middle school, and Mrs. Olsen provided her with identification for the college entrance exams, without which she probably couldn't have attended university...

If not for Mrs. Olsen, she might have died in infancy, perished from the beatings of her childhood, or lost her life in the mountainous areas where she was nearly sold off. Even if she had survived by some stroke of luck, she would have been no better than a living corpse.

She held an uncontrollable admiration for Mrs. Olsen.

That was why she felt so exceedingly sad when Mrs. Olsen asked her to leave just a moment ago.

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151 Hold Your Hand

She stood by the man-made lake, silently gazing at the

lake's surface. Oceanion was foggy today. It blurred

her vision and seemed to obscure her future.

Just at this darkest, coldest moment, a warm coat was suddenly draped over her shoulders.

Keira turned around blankly, only to see Lewis had approached at some point. The night had softened the sharpness he exhibited during the day, adding a gentle touch to his demeanor.

He was looking at her intently, his voice low and gentle. "Why are you out here alone? Aren't you cold?"

Keira's nose tingled.

Seeing him at that moment filled her heart with an indescribable sourness, moistening the rims of her

eyes.

She blinked rapidly, trying hard to hold back the

tears...

But then he suddenly embraced her.

The warmth from his body seeped through their thin clothes and into hers, gradually awakening her frozen body...

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151 Hold Your Hand

She didn't know when it started, but it seemed that every time she was sad and hurting, this man would always appear just in time.

Keira's mood finally began to settle, and she pushed him away. "Shouldn't we head back now?"

"Well," Lewis's lips curved into a smile. "Grandma is sending people everywhere looking for you. She can't wait to announce our marital status."

He took Keira's hand and suddenly looked down at her. "Miss Olsen, you understand what it means to announce our relationship, right?"

His gaze was serious and persistent, making Keira's heart race. She knew what it meant but deliberately asked, "What does it mean?"

Lewis didn't poke through her thoughts and simply said, "The marital status of the CEO of Horton Group publicly listed company, needs to be stable, or it will affect the whole company. So... once the relationship is announced, we are husband and wife for life."

Keira was about to retort that, coincidentally, her company was also about to go public...

But it neamed as if the man know what she was going

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151 Hold Your Hand

to say, his voice suddenly deep and magnetic. He cut

her off before she could speak, stating each word clearly. "Miss Olsen, you have seen the state of the Horton family. The future is full of uncertainties, and it's possible that I may be ousted by the first branch of the family or even driven out of Horton Group. So, are you willing to spend a lifetime with me?"

Keira was stunned. NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON FindNovel .NET

His words were realistic, laced with hints of

uncertainty and cautiousness as if he wasn't sure she would agree.

Keira cocked her head, "If you really fall into hard times in the future, getting kicked out with nothing to your name, you can live off my money."

At her words, Lewis was momentarily taken aback, then he couldn't help but laugh.

Apart from the Horton Group, he had many backup plans... The things he had just said were a reminder of the unknown road ahead for Keira, but he didn't expect her reply to be this.

She always caught him by surprise.

From the first meeting to their subsequent

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151 Hold Your Hand

encounters, he didn't know when he began to like her... Perhaps it was her mischievous way of approaching him with different identities, maybe it was her defiant look when

threatened by Jake, or possibly it was her eternally confident smile, or even the inexplicable familiarity he felt the first time he saw

her...

He remembered the first time he went to the Olsen

family for Jake's engagement. Upon entering, he noticed a girl standing in a corner, quietly fixing her gaze on him.

Her eyes were clear, filled only with curiosity and appraisal.

She believed she was unnoticed in the shadows, yet

she didn't know that even the shadows couldn't hide her stunning charm and radiance...

That must have been what they call love at first sight, and eventually, love that deepens over time.

Everything was just right.

Lewis looked down with tenderness, whispering softly, "Alright, then you'll have to make a good living. I tend to spend quite a bit."

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719

151 Hold Your Hand

..No problem."

After answering his question, Keira realized that she

didn't know when Lewis had taken her hand, and their fingers were interlocked.

She paused for a moment.

Always independent, she wasn't opposed to the idea of having someone to share her life with, as there had been many who courted her.

But she never felt she needed a man to rely on.

Yet now, the thought of having him by her side seemed quite nice.

A phrase suddenly came to mind. "Hold your hand and grow old with you."

The two of them walked toward the front hall.

Their steps were firm, their eyes smiled at each other, and together they stepped into the back door of the banquet hall.

At the same time, Mrs. Olsen and Taylor also entered the front hall, looking everywhere for her.

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Chapter 152

152 Arrangement

Keira followed Lewis into the back door of the

banquet hall. Just as she was about to head to the main hall, suddenly a servant rushed over from the side.

She was carrying several glasses of red wine and didn't see the path clearly. She was about to collide with Keira.

Keira instinctively extended her arm to block her, but in the next moment, she was yanked fiercely around the waist, and Lewis shielded her with his body. "Crash!"

The wine glasses hit his back and scattered on the floor.

And the red wine stained his white shirt.

"Mr. Horton, Miss Olsen, I'm so sorry, so sorry..." the servant apologized, clearly flustered.

Yet Keira was looking at Lewis.

In past incidents, she always braced herself, but just now, she had felt what it was like to be protected.

152 Arrangement

Lewis carefully checked the girl in his arms, and seeing she was unharmed, he relaxed. Frowning, he felt the wetness on his own skin and said to the servant, "Be careful. Don't bump into the guests."

"Yes, yes..."

The servant crouched down to clean up.

Lewis then said to Keira, "I'll go upstairs to change my clothes. Stay with Grandma for the time being."

He certainly couldn't appear in such a disheveled state publicly with Keira.

"Okay."

Keira watched Lewis ascend the stairs before she herself entered the main hall.

After entering through the back door, the first area was a lounge.

At the moment, it was surrounded by a group of high school classmates invited by Jake. They were chatting away and were almost the same group of people from the last class reunion.

Erin, who had been fired from her company and couldn't find a job, looked even more sullen than

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152 Arrangement

before. She was talking in a sarcastic tone. "I just saw Mrs. Horton. This proves that Keira was indeed lying last time. She's definitely Mr. Horton's mistress! How shameless!"

Charles was defending Keira. "There must be some misunderstanding..."

"What misunderstanding could there be?" Erin sneered. "That day, it was clear what kind of

relationship Mr. Horton had with her. Otherwise, why would he call her his woman? I really want to see later when Mr. Horton and Mrs. Horton make their

appearance, what you will have to say then!"

Charles was speechless.

Keira didn't walk over but looked toward where Old Mrs. Horton was seated, noticing the old lady wasn't there. She must have gone to the restroom.

She stood still, planning to wait for old Mrs. Horton to return.

Suddenly there was a commotion at the entrance. Keira turned her head to look and saw Poppy somehow making her way inside.

She wore plain clothes. which made her stand out

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152 Arrangement

among the splendidly dressed crowd, and quickly drew

the attention of others. They began to whisper among themselves, "Who is that?"

Keira frowned, knowing Poppy must have come looking for her.

Just as she was about to go over and lead her away, Isla had already appeared by her side. "Aunt Hill, are you here to find Keira?" she said loudly, drawing the immediate attention of everyone around.

Smiling, Poppy said, "No, I've come to find the hostess of the Horton family..."

Isla's gaze swept past Keira and settled on Madeleine, who was beside her. She deliberately raised her voice.

"That would be my aunt, currently the hostess of the Horton family. What do you need her for?"

Poppy immediately approached Madeleine, nodding and bowing with an ingratiating smile. After glancing around, her eyes flicked, and she started shouting loudly. "Mrs. Horton, I'm Keira's mother... My daughter has slept with Mr. Horton. She can't just get away with it for free, right? I'm here today to demand an

explanation..."

11:36

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152 Arrangement

Madeleine seemed to be frightened by her behavior, and she stepped back abruptly like a startled deer.

But how could Poppy possibly let her go? She grabbed hold of her wrist. "Mrs. Horton, don't leave! Let's have a good talk about how you and Keira should get along

in the future..."

Madeleine was panic-stricken, with fearful tears welling up in her eyes as if she had been terrified.

Isla stepped forward with a frown. "Let go! If you don't let go, I'll call security!"

Upon hearing this, Poppy immediately sat down on the ground. "I don't care. I can't just let my daughter get taken advantage of for nothing, Mrs. Horton. You and my daughter are now sisters, living together in the Horton house from now on. You must get along peacefully..."

Madeleine seemed to have been scared out of her wits, unable to utter a word.

Isla exclaimed angrily, "Keira is already married to someone else!"

Yet Poppy slapped the floor. "Exactly, my daughter is married and now she's living in the Horton residence

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152 Arrangement

in such an unclear and ambiguous way. What does this mean? You must give me an explanation!”

Isla, in a righteous manner, said, “What right does a mistress have to demand an explanation?”

Poppy had come here today to disgust Keira and affirm her identity as a mistress on behalf of Isla, so upon hearing this, she immediately raised her voice. “What about being a mistress? Mistresses are people too. The law doesn’t say you can’t be a mistress! Can’t you learn from Mrs. Olsen, who took me and my daughter in the Olsen residence and got along with me peacefully...”

Keira stood not far away, listening to these outrageous and unbelievable words. Her eyes flashed with mockery!

Poppy had definitely been invited by Isla.

When at the Olsen residence, Poppy demanded Keira always give way to Isla, which she thought was due to Poppy’s feeling of guilt, and she had put up with it.

gone

But why did Poppy hate Keira so much? She had so far as to do something like this, wanting to tarnish Keira’s reputation.

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152 Arrangement

Keira thought, “Is she really my mother?”

Isla immediately looked toward her. “Keira, I didn’t expect you to shamelessly cling to the Horton house. Is that what you intended?”

With that, she turned all the attention toward Keira. The crowd then noticed her presence and immediately began to point and comment.

“Oh my God, that’s so shameless. I’ve never seen such

an arrogant mistress. She’s talking about being sisters as if we’re in the 18th century.”

“Didn’t you hear what Isla said? Keira’s mother’s a mistress, and now here she is serving as someone else’s lover-like mother, like daughter!”

“I heard that this mistress was provoking Mrs. Horton backstage just now. She’s just bullying Mrs. Horton because she doesn’t have a powerful maternal family to back her up! I really don’t know how the Olsen family raised such an illegitimate daughter!”

“It’s simply speechless and laughable!”

In the midst of the argument, Rebecca burst out

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152 Arrangement

angrily, “Stop talking nonsense! Miss Keira couldn’t possibly do such things. She lives in the Horton house because old Mrs. Horton likes her. It has nothing to do with Mr. Horton; her relationship with him is pure and innocent!”

Keira remained calm and composed.

These accusations from others couldn’t possibly hurt her.

She didn’t bother to refute them because she already knew that this crowd would never believe her words.

Lewis wanted to make it public, and he must have prepared in advance.

Just as she thought this, a sound came and Keira, along with everyone else, turned their heads to see a curtain slowly dropping in the center of the hall...

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Chapter 153

153 A Plan within a Plan

Keira was slightly startled.

The people around were also confused, discussing among themselves. "What's this? What's going on?" Keira took the opportunity to observe the crowd.

Everyone looked bewildered, not understanding what this meant.

In the crowd, only two people remained calm, their eyes even betraying a hint of excitement. This chapter is updated by (Find)novel.net

It was Jake and Isla.

What were the two of them up to?

Just as Keira had this thought, the curtain fell, and with a "click," the projector was turned on, and a photo was projected onto the screen!

Keira's pupils constricted.

The photo was the one that had been surreptitiously taken of her and Lewis previously.

Both were dressed normally, only they were lying on the sofa, heads close together, looking from afar like

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153 A Plan within a Plan

they were kissing...

The photo was actually quite innocent, showing nothing explicit, but their gazes seemed to melt together, and being so close made Keira suddenly

think of that night... She felt her cheeks flush, then she frowned.

The scene then exploded into an uproar!

Rebecca couldn't believe it as she turned her head to look at Keira.

Erin stepped out from among the classmates, mocking them with a laugh. "Keep making excuses. Just now you were still saying that there was nothing between Keira and Mr. Horton, weren't you? Not talking now, are you?"

Rebecca stammered, "...It must be edited, yes, there must be a misunderstanding Miss Keira couldn't possibly be this kind of person!"

Although she didn't know how to explain it, she firmly believed in Keira.

A slight smile tugged at the corners of Keira's lips.

Erin scoffed, "Edited photos all have traces. This

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screen is so big, and the photo spreads so naturally.

Anyone who isn't blind can see it's real. How could you stand there and lie through your teeth?"

The people around started to talk.

"Right, and her own mother came out to say so. Now there are photos as evidence too, proving that this affair is real..."

"Some people are really shameless, fawning over dementia-stricken old Mrs. Horton, thinking they can enter the elite by becoming a rich lady?"

"Oh my God, isn't this too sensational? Is Mr. Horton really treating his wife fairly with such actions?"

“Haven’t you heard? This Keira is married too, both are engaging in extramarital affairs...”

Amidst the accusations of the crowd, Mrs. Olsen and Taylor also stepped forward.

Seeing the content on the screen, Mrs. Olsen’s pupils shrank, and she instinctively looked toward Isla, shouting urgently, “Take it down now!”

It seemed that no one from the Horton family had

153 A Plan within a Plan

considered minimizing the damage. Instead, it was

Mrs. Olsen, whose reminder brought everyone back to

their senses.

A butler wanted to take action but was stopped by Jake. “Many reporters have snuck in. It’s already too

late to take it down. I think the best course of action is

to have Uncle give everyone a reasonable explanation!”

Upon hearing this, the executives from the Horton Group who were following Jake started to speak.

“Yes, yes, what is going on, Mr. Horton? His image affects the company; how can he be so reckless?!”

“Wasn’t it this young girl who started her internship at the company some time ago? How did she end up entering our home with such ease?”

“It’s over. Some busybody has already sent out the situation here, and the heat is rising now!”

“Where’s the PR department? Hurry up and contact them. This matter concerns the entire Horton Group’s shares. We must not allow it to impact us too greatly! Otherwise, when the market opens tomorrow, the

stock price is sure to plummet!”

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153 A Plan within a Plan

“We can’t control the heat. I don’t know what’s

happening, but it seems like someone is secretly pushing it, and the heat has soared!”

Π

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Today was old Mrs. Horton’s birthday celebration, which was grand and imposing. It wasn’t only attended by relatives and friends but also regular business partners. Most of the Horton Group’s executives were here as well.

At this moment, everyone has gathered together, discussing the issue eagerly.

While the Horton Group’s executives were discussing, Poppy had already approached Keira, grabbed her hand, and looked at Madeleine. “Mrs. Horton, do you see? This is the evidence that my daughter slept with Mr. Horton! Now you can’t refute it, can you? You must give her an explanation today!”

Madeleine’s eyes became teary, and she looked around in a panic and at a loss.

Isla angrily questioned Keira “Keira, this is the eighty-sixth birthday celebration of our great-grandmother; don’t go too far! She has been so

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153 A Plan within a Plan

good to you. If you have any conscience, take your mom and leave immediately!”

Jake also said, “Right, now that the matter has blown up this much, it’s better if you leave quickly! Stop

embarrassing yourself here! And stop causing trouble for my uncle!”

But Poppy strained her neck and shouted, “Why should you drive us away?”

She turned her gaze to Mrs. Olsen and Taylor, malice flashing in her eyes, and headed straight for them. “Mrs. Olsen, please help! Back then, you kindly took me and Keira in. You can persuade Mrs. Horton now... After all, Keira was raised by you. You can’t just watch her being wronged...”

Her words made everyone turn toward Mrs. Olsen.

The heirs of wealthy families all had one or two mistresses outside.

Their legitimate wives at home surely looked down on them, and Mrs. Olsen's actions were clearly incomprehensible to them, even instigating hostility.

If every family allowed mistresses with children to enter their doors how could they ensure their own

678

153 A Plan within a Plan

interests?

Therefore, they accused her in unison.

"That's her, the one who let the mistress into the

house. I've never seen such a foolish woman!"

"Isn't she too weak? I heard her husband disagreed at first, but she became soft-hearted upon seeing the mistress pregnant with a child... What a fake saint!"

"Mrs. Olsen, the kind of person I hate the most is you. You pretend to be magnanimous by accepting people in. What era is this? Are you pretending to be

virtuous?"

"Haven't you heard? Keira was raised by her. If she

turns out like this, it shows she didn't educate her well- from the start. She's using the ancient ways of spoiling Keira by indulgence in the modern world!"

"Such deep scheming. I heard she's from Clance.

People there are best at these kinds of struggles, right? How disgusting!"

The accusations turned Mrs. Olsen's face white, and she staggered as if she might collapse.

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153 A Plan within a Plan

“Shirley!”

Taylor held her in a hurry.

Keira, seeing this, stepped forward anxiously, wanting to check on her condition...

But she was pushed away by Taylor. “Stay away from Shirley! If it weren’t for you, how could Shirley possibly be insulted like this?”

Keira clenched her fists.

Just then, Lewis, having changed his clothes, finally came downstairs!

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Chapter 154

154 Husband and Wife

Lewis had changed into a new suit of the same style and as he descended the stairs slowly. There was a

palpable sense of oppression that pervaded the entire banquet hall.

His gaze was intent, and after reaching the bottom of the stairs, he first looked toward the screen before surveying the surroundings.

He quickly spotted Keira and strode over to her.

But to his surprise, he was intercepted by Poppy.

She rushed in front of Lewis and clung to his lower leg. "Mr. Horton, I am Keira's mother. You've slept with her, so you must give her an explanation. You can't just leave things unresolved!"

Lewis frowned. He wanted to kick her away, but when he remembered that this woman was, after all, Keira's mother, he still showed some restraint and merely shook her off before turning his gaze to Tom.

With a wave of Tom's hand, two bodyguards in black immediately rushed over and grabbed Poppy.

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154 Husband and Wife

Poppy sat on the ground, slapping her thighs and crying., "Come and see, someone is going to murder me! Mr. Horton slept with my daughter and refuses to take responsibility..."

The next moment, a rag was viciously stuffed into her mouth by Tom!

Poppy couldn't speak a word anymore and only could make muffled whining sounds.

Tom then picked at his ear. "Finally quiet. Your wailing was really annoying!"

This sequence of actions swiftly took care of the noisiest person at the scene.

Yet Lewis was stopped again by Jake, “Uncle Lewis, with so many executives here, shouldn’t you give us an explanation about what’s on the screen?”

Lewis’s gaze sharpened as he looked toward him.

Jake swallowed nervously, no longer daring to speak.

Jake’s father, Oliver started talking. “Lewis, as the person in charge of Horton Group, you should set an example. How could you be so reckless and even allow evidence to be captured...”

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154 Husband and Wife

He sighed. “Today, many reporters are here to cover the grand occasion of your grandmother’s birthday banquet. Even if you can silence us, you can’t silence them. So now, we need a practical plan!”

Lewis remained composed but didn’t rush to explain. Instead, he looked at his brother, “What kind of plan should we come up with?”

Oliver didn’t speak.

But someone among the executives behind him spoke up. “Mr. Horton, we want to know. Is the photo real?”

Lewis glanced at the photo again, and his expression remained indifferent, “It’s real.”

As soon as he said that, the people around immediately started buzzing with conversation.

“Mr. Horton isn’t even trying to hide it? It’s actually real!”

“Yeah, in such a situation, no matter what, he shouldn’t have admitted it! Now that he has admitted it, what

will he do next?"

"Is Mr. Horton willing to risk everything for this femme fatale? He's even disregarding Mrs. Horton's feelings!"

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154 Husband and Wife

Speaking of Mrs. Horton, everyone instinctively looked toward Madeleine.

But they saw her continue to step back and then looked at Lewis with eyes full of sorrow.

Lewis, however, didn't look at her and only focused on the executive. "Anything else?"

"Mr. Horton, we've heard that Miss Olsen is married?"

"Correct."

Lewis nodded again.,

The executive was taken aback. He had hoped that Lewis would argue for the sake of his reputation, maybe by saying he was unaware she was married...

The executive said awkwardly, "Did Miss Olsen seduce you? Was that why you couldn't control yourself for a moment?"

Lewis lowered his gaze. "No, Miss Olsen and I are in love with each other."

After those words, the room erupted in an uproar that could blow the roof off. Everyone stared at him in

disbelief.

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154 Husband and Wife

"My God! Mr. Horton is openly admitting to cheating!"

“Keira sure is beautiful. She has completely enchanted Mr. Horton! She’s really something!”

“What a pair of adulterous scum! They have no shame at all!”

Even the executive who had asked the question was at a loss for words for a moment.

Oliver frowned. “Lewis, have you lost your mind? You’re married, how can you stoop so low with a married woman?! Every action you take represents the image of the company. You can’t act recklessly and do whatever you please! Kick that mistress out right now, or else you may not be able to hold onto your CEO’s position!”

At these words, Keira, who had been standing aside, raised her eyebrows.

She thought to herself how that curtain had mysteriously revealed their presence, so it was the first branch of the family’s doing, aiming to ruin

Lewis’s reputation and pull him down from the CEO’s

position!

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154 Husband and Wife

She found it laughable and couldn’t help but curl her lips into a mocking smile.

Isla said, “Keira, what are you laughing at? Do you think you’ve stolen my uncle from my aunt? Don’t you have any sense of decency? I advise you to leave

quickly! Go live a good life with your husband and stop trying to break up my uncle and aunt!”

The people around them were all talking.

“Exactly, I’ve never seen such an arrogant mistress. Even if Mr. Horton is impressive, the way he’s handled this situation is utterly contemptible!”

“I used to think Mr. Horton was deeply devoted to his wife, staying away from other women for so many years, but it was all a facade! It was all an act, right?”

“Oh my, what an eye-opener today! I’ve seen many mistresses before, but never one who could bewitch

someone to this extent!”

“This Keira is a disaster! A calamity!”

“Keira, if you truly love Mr. Horton, then have the decency to step back. Are you so selfish that for your so-called mutual love, you would drag Mr. Horton

doum from his nodocto12”

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154 Husband and Wife

The executives surrounding Lewis were giving him a hard time.

The group of rich ladies surrounding Keira were also accusing her.

Keira frowned, ready to retort with a cold laugh when her wrist was suddenly grabbed by Mrs. Olsen.

Mrs. Olsen was trembling slightly as she stared at Keira. “Keira, I’m asking you one last time, will you leave with me or not?”

Her voice was trembling, her eyes resolute.

Seeing her like this, Keira felt inexplicably distressed. “Mrs. Olsen, I won’t go.”

Mrs. Olsen gripped her wrist even tighter, fixing her gaze on her.

After a long moment, she saw the determination in Keira’s eyes and let out a bitter smile.

She took the marriage certificate from Taylor’s hand and handed it to Keira. “Keira, if you don’t leave with me today, I’ll never see you again.” This chapter is updated by FindNovel(.)net

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154 Husband and Wife

Leaving those words behind, she pressed the marriage certificate into Keira’s hand and turned to leave

resolutely.

But just as she turned, Lewis’s deep, clear voice slowly filled the entire hall.

“You want an explanation from me? I think it’s you who owes me an explanation.

“My wife and I had our photos displayed so publicly. Haven’t you violated our right to privacy as a couple?”

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Chapter 155

155 Schemes

As Lewis spoke, everyone was stunned.

Mrs. Olsen paused mid-step, then spun around, looking at Keira with disbelief etched on her face.

She was utterly astonished, her eyes filled with incredulity.

Her mouth opened and closed as if to say something, but she was unable to utter a word. Suddenly, she seemed to comprehend something, and her gaze fixed intently on the marriage certificate in Keira's hands.

Keira tightened her grip on it.

She took another step forward and handed the marriage certificate to Mrs. Olsen.

At the same time, others were also questioning Lewis's words.

Isla gasped in shock, "How is this possible? Uncle, Mrs. Horton is clearly here. How can you say you and Keira are husband and wife?"

She looked at Madeleine, only to see her face ashen and filled with disbelief!

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155 Schemes

+32

Gripping her skirt tightly, Madeleine looked at Lewis in confusion. "Lewis, what did you just say? You're joking, right?"

Her reaction elicited sympathy from the crowd

"Look at Mrs. Horton. She obviously had no clue..."

"What's Mr. Horton up to? Could he really be dumping his wife for that vixen?"

"Oh my God, Mrs. Horton is so pitiful!"

"Does a woman with no family background deserve to be bullied? But what ca

Mrs. Horton do? With the

Horton family's extensive wealth, changing wives must be like changing clothes, right?"

"Mrs. Horton looks absolutely stunned..."

Oliver frowned and immediately said, "Lewis, what do

you mean by this? Do you want to divorce your wife and marry Keira? If so, you must follow the formal legal process. You cannot treat her like this while your marriage still stands! The Horton family values won't allow such actions!"

At his words, the Horton family patriarch, Nathan, also stepped forward.

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155 Schemes

+32

The well-groomed gentleman was in his sixties and was brimming with vitality. He was dressed in a sharp suit and appeared more like a middle-aged man

because of his good upkeep.

He frowned at Lewis. "You scoundrel! The Horton

family has never engaged in infidelity. Are you now going to abandon your lawfully wedded wife for this

married woman?"

But Lewis's lips curled with a hint of irony. He glanced at Oliver before retorting, "The Horton men never engage in infidelity?"

Outsiders may not know, but the Hortons were well aware that not only had Oliver had affairs, but he also had an illegitimate daughter he doted on. For her, Oliver had many quarrels with Melissa and even contemplated divorce so that the illegitimate daughter could enter the Horton family with dignity.

This was precisely the root of Jake's deep-seated hatred for illegitimate children.

Yet Oliver appeared unfazed, "Yes, Lewis, it's the

Horton family's discipline. Men are not allowed to have affairs."

3/8

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155 Schemes

That self-righteous demeanor only intensified Lewis's sense of mockery.

This was his "dear" older brother.

Oliver bullied Lewis when the latter was too young to fight back and conspired with human traffickers to sell Lewis when he was nine. He had repeatedly tried to

have Lewis killed with hired assassins over the years!

Nathan blindly trusted and defended him, always insisting that Lewis's suspicions were baseless and

always siding with the first branch of the family against

Lewis.

But Lewis had long since given up hope on these relatives, so he showed no emotion.

Lewis said slowly, "Who said I was unfaithful?"

This startled Oliver, who then sneered. "What do you mean by that? You just publicly acknowledged your romance with Miss Olsen, and now you're denying it?"

But Lewis looked directly at Madeleine, "Miss Davis, have you told everyone that we're married?"

People immediately turned their gaze toward Madeleine.

< 155 Schemes

Keira also glanced over.

From the very beginning, this seemingly fragile and harmless woman had been acting like Mrs. Horton, subjecting her to public insults. Keira didn't know the relationship between Madeleine and Lewis, but she had always believed in Lewis.

Isla also raised her eyebrows, speaking in confusion. "Auntie, aren't you and Uncle married?"

Madeleine clasped her fingers tightly, "I... Lewis, what do you mean? For all these years, I've been your wife in name... You promised me that you would marry me!"

In name only wife...

Before the crowd could react, Jake suddenly grasped the truth. "I get it! Uncle, you're not actually married, right? Grandpa said that being married was a condition for the CEO of Horton Group, but you have been fooling us all along!"

Oliver also understood something. "Lewis, the marital status of the CEO of Horton Group is tied to the entire group's reputation. How could you concoct such an outrageous lie for your own sake!"

Nothan said angrily "I mandated that the CEO of

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155 Schemes

Horton Group must be married to prevent family instability from tarnishing Horton Group's reputation and causing scandals! Lewis, are you married or not?!"

Lewis looked at them.

There was no legal requirement that the group's CEO had to be married. The old man had made this demand

back then merely to stop him from taking the position.

So he had conjured up a wife in name only but had never acknowledged that it was Madeleine. It was just everyone else's speculation.

He had always been too lazy to clarify.

But now it was different...

Through the crowd, Lewis's gaze found Keira, and he said, "Didn't I just say it? Miss Olsen and I are married.

We're husband and wife!"

The room fell into another silence.

Isla was the first to scream in disbelief. "Impossible! Keira got her marriage certificate just last month! She had a shotgun marriage with some little punk. How could she be married to you?!"

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155 Schemes

He nodded. "Right, Uncle, you previously lied to us

saying you were married two years ago, and now

you're saying you're married to Keira... You wouldn't be stepping into Keira's marriage trying to cover up for yourself, would you? This must be another lie!"

His eyes blazed with fury, and he hated Lewis.

How could Keira become his aunt? How would she

then be able to become his woman?

He refused to believe it!

Oliver sighed. "Lewis, with all these lies, we really don't know whether to believe you anymore. If the journalists here report this, won't others think the Horton Group is a company of charlatans?"

Seeing an opportunity, Nathan asserted. "Lewis, your marriage situation is so unstable and confusing. I suggest we call a board meeting to remove you from your CEO's position to explain things to Horton Group's employees and to everyone!"

Finally, the words were spoken.

Lewis stared at his aging father and chuckled coldly. "Who said my marriage situation is unstable?"

718

155 Schemes

As those words were uttered, the picture on that curtain suddenly changed to a bright red marriage certificate!

The marriage certificate was his and Keira's, dated two

years ago!

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Chapter 156

156 A Slap in the Face

Once the marriage certificate photo was revealed, the scene erupted into an uproar.

Lewis scanned the crowd with a contemptuous smile. "Surely none of you are still questioning the

authenticity of this marriage certificate, are you? Do I need to take each of you to the courthouse to verify

it?"

Everyone present was dumbfounded.

Isla's pupils shrank violently as she looked at Keira in disbelief.

How could this be... How could it be?!

Wasn't Keira only recently married? How could it be from two years ago?

But she knew the marriage certificate must be real.

With so many reporters present, Lewis wouldn't have forged a document...

Jake's entire face had turned deathly pale.

Keira was indeed married to his uncle... She had been

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156 A Slap in the Face

his aunt all along!

Against others, Jake could contend or use some

forceful measures, but it was Jake's nature to fear

Lewis!

Oliver and Nathan's faces darkened, and both were somewhat disappointed.

They exchanged a glance, their complexions looking

extremely ugly.

They had thought that they could use this event to topple Lewis, but they hadn't expected things turn out

to be like this!

Seeing the marriage certificate, Keira arched an eyebrow.

She suddenly understood why Lewis was late! He had been fishing!

The curtain was originally under the control of the first branch of the family; it was meant to display private photos, but now it showed the marriage certificate, indicating Lewis had known it all along.

But Lewis took advantage of the situation, slapping the first branch's face!

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156 A Slap in the Face

This huge blunder must have caused those who

followed the first branch to waver.

As she mused, Mrs. Olsen was also staring at the marriage certificate in shock!!

Mrs. Olsen had never expected such an outcome and looked at Keira with an indescribable expression. "When you kept asking me to look at the marriage certificate, was this what you meant?"

Keira lowered her gaze, obviously hurt.

This was the first time in her life that Mrs. Olsen hadn't

believed her...

Keira nodded, "Yes."

"I..."

Mrs. Olsen attempted to explain something, but then suddenly found herself unable to speak.

She hadn't anticipated this.

Facing Keira, a sense of guilt surged in her chest.

Several times, Keira tried to explain, but she and Isla interrupted Keira. Keira handed the marriage certificate to her to see, but she didn't look...

19/10

156 A Slap in the Face

As she shared a speechless moment with Keira, a shocked outcry burst from the nearby classmates' group, "How is this possible? Keira, an illegitimate daughter, actually married Mr. Horton?!"

It was Erin's sharp voice.

Her face was one of shock, and she could no longer maintain her composure. Trembling, she pointed to the screen. "This must be fake! How could Keira be

worthy of this marriage?!"

The students around her looked at her as if she were a

fool.

It seemed that being fired from the company and unable to find a job in Oceanion hadn't taught her any

lesson...

Keira's eyes chilled as she was about to speak, but Tom already took a step forward, "Miss Olsen... oh, no, Mrs. Horton is the hostess of the Horton family. How can you insult her like this? Do you look down on the Horton family?"

Erin was stunned, swallowing hard.

The black-clothed bodyguards following Tom were all

tall and hulky. Any one of them individually was

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156 A Slap in the Face

enough to strike terror in one's heart.

It was only then that she seemed to realize just what kind of person she had offended.

She collapsed on the ground in an instant, her eyes darting to Lewis. "Mr. Horton, I-I'm sorry. I'll never dare again..."

Lewis didn't speak.

However, Tom understood his boss's intent and

laughed, "Don't you know whom you've offended?"

That statement made Erin turn sharply toward Keira.

Resentment flashed in her eyes.

Back in college, Keira kept to herself and wasn't as sociable with her classmates as Erin... But now....

Their statuses were worlds apart!

In the face of absolute strength, Erin had to bow h head. "Keira, I slandered you, I'm sorry! Please let m off! I swear I'll never gossip about you again. Please allow me to find a job; I don't want to leave

Oceanion..."

Keira lowered her gaze, for she was never one for

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156 A Slap in the Face

saintly compassion, and said indifferently, "When one

errs, a price must be paid. Tom, I don't wish to see her at the banquet any longer."

"Yes, Mrs. Horton."

A wave of Tom's hand summoned a bodyguard, who grabbed Erin by the arm and dragged her out.

Although Charles and other classmates felt it was a bit cruel, they remembered the things Erin had done to

Keira and remained silent.

Isla clenched her fists tightly.

At this moment, Keira was absolutely stealing the show!

Keira was actually the hostess of the Horton family... Didn't that mean she would be above Isla in the futu

Isla had worked hard to marry Jake, but Keira simply turned around and became Lewis's wife...

Suddenly, Isla said, "Keira, Erin was just being a busybody and said a few words. Why go so far? If this gets out, it'll only make the hostess of the Horton family seem petty for bickering over such trifles!"

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6/10

156 A Slap in the Face

"Is that so?"

Keira's gaze grew sharp as she challenged Isla. "So you think anyone can insult the hostess of the Horton family without paying any price? In your eyes, is the dignity of the Horton family so unimportant?"

Isla wanted to retort, but Lewis said indifferently, "Is this how you speak to your elders? If you're resentful and dare to backtalk, you should face family discipline!"

Isla was speechless.

She and Jake looked at Keira sharply, only now realizing that she was no longer that illegitimate daughter. She now had someone backing her up!

It wasn't long before Erin was gagged and dragged out.

The entire banquet hall fell silent.

After a moment, Nathan suddenly said, "Why has old Mrs. Horton taken so long in the restroom? Someone should go find her quickly; today is her birthday banquet..."

As soon as these words came out, someone was about to fetch her, but Lewis suddenly spoke again. "There's

7/10

156 A Slap in the Face

no rush. Let's deal with the matters at hand first

before letting Grandma come out, to avoid any agitation from this commotion."

Nathan frowned. "What else is there to take care of?

Hasn't everything been clarified? Since it was a misunderstanding, clearing it up is enough."

No sooner had he finished than the butler appeared at the door with two policemen, "We received a report of illegal activity here!"

Nathan frowned immediately. "No one here called the police..."

"I did," came the calm reply.

Lewis continued. "My wife and I had our private photos suddenly made public. Someone violated our right to privacy!"

At this revelation, Isla and Jake's expressions changed dramatically!

They glanced at each other, nervously clutching the fabric of their clothes.

When they planned the scandal, they were only thinking of dragging Lewis's reputation through the

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mud without considering that he would take it to the lengths of involving the police!

Oliver immediately took a step forward. "It's a misunderstanding, all a misunderstanding. It must have been a servant who accidentally triggered it. Lewis, such things are without evidence. There's no need for the police to have come all this way for nothing, right?"

Isla instantly breathed a sigh of relief.

Indeed... they had avoided the cameras when orchestrating the affair. As long as they denied everything, they would be fine!

But the next moment, they heard Lewis say coolly, "Who says I don't have evidence?"

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Chapter 157

157 Isla Is Arrested

Isla looked at him in disbelief.

But then she realized something.

The marriage certificate was displayed on the screen,

which meant Lewis had known about their misdeeds

all along!

Just as this thought crossed her mind, Tom suddenly took out a remote control and pressed a button, and immediately, a video appeared on the screen.

The crowd could see it clearly. It was footage from two surveillance cameras.

The first showed Isla sneaking into the video room and copying photos from a USB drive onto the computer.

The second was of two maids at home, one projecting the photos in the background and the other secretly pressing the remote control...

The evidence was irrefutable!

Isla became flustered as she turned to look at Jake. He was aware of the whole affair, even having taken part in it with her, but now Jake stepped back, avoiding eye

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contact with her.

In a panic, Isla cried out subconsciously, "Jake..."

Jake instinctively glanced at Oliver.

His father was frowning and staring fiercely at him with disappointment in his eyes as if to say, "You can't even handle this trivial matter. You're useless!"

Jake clenched his fists tightly and suddenly rushed in front of Isla.

Isla thought he was going to protect her, her face lighting up with hope, but the next moment...

"Slap!"

yo

Jake slapped her hard across the face. "Isla, I never thought you would be this kind of person! I know and Keira don't get along. She's your illegitimate sis and you've hated her since childhood, but how could you do such a thing at Great-grandma's birthday banquet?!"

Isla was dumbfounded.

She held her cheek, looking incredulously at Jake at this moment.

157 Isla Is Arrested

Poppy, who had been restrained, had calmed down after realizing she couldn't free herself. Her hands

were tied behind her, and a cloth was stuffed in her

mouth.

When she saw what happened, she immediately stood up. She let out an angry cry and started thrashing around, knocking aside the bodyguards and then slamming head-first into Jake's stomach.

Jake was knocked back several steps with a dull pain in his abdomen.

Poppy, like a mother hen protecting her chicks, stared angrily at Jake. Although she didn't speak, everyone could see that she was furious!

It seemed if Jake dared to lay another hand on Isla, she was ready to fight him to the death!

The sight left the other guests stunned.

They whispered among themselves.

"What's going on here?"

"Isn't she Keira's mom? Why is she protecting Isla like this?" THIS CHAPTER IS UPDATE BY FindNovel.net

"Right you'd think she was Isla's own mother!"

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157 Isla Is Arrested

The whispers from the crowd brought Poppy back to her senses. She then looked at Isla, realizing she'd overreacted, and turned her gaze to Keira.

Isla lowered the hand holding her cheek, but she understood that Jake was now unreliable.

She clenched her fists tightly and looked at Poppy, who stood protectively in front of her, with a flash of disdain in her eyes.

This foolish woman always caused unnecessary trouble at times like this. She had knocked Jake aside. Was he really the root of the issue?

She composed herself, and immediately, her face took on a tearful expression. She lowered her head. "It

wasn't on purpose. Keira told me she just got her marriage certificate this year, so I had no idea her husband was my uncle! I just thought their relations wasn't right..."

She covered her cheek. "I didn't mean anything by it, I just felt it was unfair to my aunt... My mom is soft and kind, and it was because of this that she was replaced by a mistress who brought an illegitimate daughter

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into our home... I just wanted one less person in this world like my mom, so I used the power of the public to restrain them..."

Her sobbing made the audience frown.

One by one, they turned to look at Keira.

Indeed, Keira was the illegitimate daughter and the

child of the mistress Poppy.

Wasn't it natural for Isla to resent her?

But this was the Horton family party, and even if everyone sympathized with Isla, they didn't dare to say anything...

After all, the recent example of Mr. Horton chasing Erin out and making her unable to live in Oceanion anymore was still fresh in everyone's mind.

As everyone was in a daze, Lewis had already turned to the police, completely ignoring what Isla said. He said, "She has infringed upon the image rights of my wife and me. Please handle it according to the law."

The two police officers immediately approached Isla. "Miss, please come with us to the police station for investigation!"

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157 Isla Is Arrested

Poppy, anxious, wanted to rush over, but was grabbed by a bodyguard.

Isla hadn't expected that her weeping plea would be ineffective and immediately looked toward her only savior-Mrs. Olsen.

Suddenly, she rushed to Mrs. Olsen, grabbed her arm, and cried out, "Mom, help me! I only did it because I felt you were being treated too unfairly. I really didn't know she was married... and also, also... yes, I'm pregnant! I can't go to the police station! I can't be taken away!"

Mrs. Olsen looked at her daughter.

She wanted to say something, but with the marriage certificate still in hand, and remembering that she had mistakenly slapped Keira earlier that day, she found herself unable to ask Isla to let go....

Keira saw the dilemma she was in and felt a sharp twinge in her heart.

Mrs. Olsen was always known for her fairness and impartiality, but Isla was after all her biological daughter...

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157 Isla Is Arrested

suddenly tried to say something, "I..."

Before she could finish, Lewis beat her to it. "Keira, even if you don't pursue the matter, I will! The Horton Group needs an explanation!"

This didn't give Mrs. Olsen or Keira a chance to speak.

After he said this, Lewis nodded to the police.

The two police officers immediately grabbed Isla's arms. "Miss, please cooperate with our investigation!"

Infringing upon image rights, particularly of this nature which hadn't caused any notable reputation or financial damage, wouldn't result in a severe

punishment after trial. At most, it would involve an apology and several days of detention.

But as Jake's wife and a young lady from a prestigious family in Oceanion, being taken away in such a public venue with photographers nearby...

Isla would be humiliated!

This was a severe blow to the first branch of the family!

Mrs. Olsen understood this too and, knowing that the punishment wouldn't be too harsh considering Isla

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157 Isla Is Arrested

was pregnant-perhaps not even detention-decided

not to say anything.

Isla had made too many mistakes. It was time for her

to face some consequences.

After Isla was taken away, only the first branch was left disheveled and disgraced.

Yet the banquet hall gradually returned to normal.

Mrs. Olsen looked at Keira, hesitated, and then finally managed to say, "I, Keira, I'm sorry..."

She had finally spoken those words.

Just as Keira was about to offer her some words of comfort, Taylor burst out in anger. "Shirley, you don't need to apologize to her! I think she's doing this on purpose, trying to make you feel guilty! Otherwise why didn't she tell us about her marriage earlier if happened two years ago?"

With his arm around Mrs. Olsen, Taylor glared at Kei "What are your intentions in keeping this from us? Do you need Shirley to apologize before you're satisfied? And just now, don't think I don't know that you and Mr. Horton were putting on an act! I believe you

deliberately set this trap for Isla, didn't you? In

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your heart, do you even consider me your father?"

Keira immediately frowned and looked at Taylor

calmly.

She only cared about the attitude of Mrs. Olsen; the words of the rest of the Olsen family didn't matter to

her.

She just quietly looked at Taylor and said, "But you're not my father."

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Chapter 158

158 Truth

At these words, Taylor was stunned.

Mrs. Olsen was also taken aback.

She had already sent Aunt South to administer a DNA test for Keira and Taylor, and the results should be available by tomorrow.

However, when Keira suddenly said this, she didn't harbor any more doubts. "Why do you say that?"

Just as Keira was about to respond, Taylor already frowned and sneered coldly. "You refuse to acknowledge me as your father, and I have never acknowledged you as my daughter either! From now on, stay away from the Olsen family and never set foot in the Olsen residence again!"

Having said this, he held Mrs. Olsen by the arm. "Shirley, let's go!"

Mrs. Olsen still wanted to clarify matters, but upon

seeing Taylor and thinking that the results would come out soon, she refrained from speaking and simply

returned the marriage certificate to Keira.

1/10

158 Truth

"Keira, I hope you find happiness."

Keira's gaze softened. "I will, Ma'am."

She personally escorted Mrs. Olsen and Taylor to the door, watching as Taylor helped Mrs. Olsen into the car, and prepared to re-enter the house.

As she turned around, she caught sight of a tall man at a distance, raising his glass to her.

It was Scott.

He then pointed to his cell phone.

Puzzled, Keira took out her phone, and upon opening it, she saw a message from Scott. "So it turns out you really are Lewis Horton's wife, but I still want your parasite. Is that okay?"

Keira's gaze instantly sharpened, and she glared at him before turning away.

Scott was dumbfounded

He helplessly looked at his assistant beside him and sighed. "I know Miss Olsen is married, but can't I keep an umbrella as a memento? Why did she glare at me?"

The assistant pondered for a moment. "Women in

2/10

158 Truth

Crera are generally conservative. She's probably worried about Mr. Lewis getting the wrong

Scott quietly sighed, "I see..."

idea."

Keira didn't dwell on this interlude. When she

re-entered the banquet, old Mrs. Horton's birthday celebration had finally begun.

The old Mrs. Horton, who had gone to the washroom, finally made her way to the living room, receiving everyone's greetings.

After seeing her, Keira realized that Lewis must have sent someone to take the old lady away since she wasn't present earlier. Otherwise, she'd have been in the front hall, witnessing the first branch of the family's scheming, which would've upset the old lady.

At this moment, she was completely unaware of all this, her laughter bright and joyful.

Rebecca came over and linked arms with Keira, "Miss

Keira, I knew you couldn't be the other woman! But I didn't expect that you would be Mrs. Horton!"

Keira smiled back at her. NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON FindNovel.net

In today's situation, only one person believed in her

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158 Truth

from the beginning to the end, and that was Rebecca.

Keira patted Rebecca's hand with gratitude. "Are you that happy?"

Rebecca nodded. "Yes, my brother just sent me a

message. He's coming the day after tomorrow. It seems like the photo of my father will be restored by then."

Keira nodded, about to say more, but she suddenly caught a glimpse of Lewis and a gaunt woman stepping out onto the adjacent balcony.

The gaunt woman was wearing a gown of the same color as hers; it was Madeleine!

Keira's eyes darkened.

After a moment's thought, she still decided to approach them.

On the balcony,

Madeleine appeared on the verge of collapse. She trembling as if she might fall at any moment. She stared at Lewis in disbelief. "Lewis, what is all this about? You promised you would marry me! How could you marry someone else?!"

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158 Truth

Lewis tensed his jaw, about to speak dispassionately when suddenly Madeleine swayed and slumped to the side, fainting.

Lewis's expression shifted, and he quickly caught her, striding toward the exit. "To the hospital."

Following close behind him, Tom immediately said,

“Yes!”

Keira emerged from the corner, her gaze fixed on them.

Suddenly, Madeleine, held in Lewis’s arms, opened her eyes and glanced at her.

That look was full of provocation.

Keira understood her message. “What does it matter if Lewis marries you? Whenever I fall ill, he will be by my

side!”

Keira frowned slightly.

She followed behind the two and saw Lewis put Madeleine in the car, yet he didn’t get in himself and merely said to Tom, “Take her back to the hospital.”

Keira noticed Madeleine stiffen.

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158 Truth

Her mood suddenly improved.

When the car left, Fiona came over. Keira approached Lewis and asked, “Mr. Horton, do you have something you need to explain to me? Did you promise to marry her?”

Lewis pursed his lips. “I said it when I was a kid.”

A kid...

Keira was slightly startled, suddenly remembering her own childhood. That big brother had promised to come and marry her...

It was that promise that helped her survive, and it had been her naive obsession to live on.

During every moment of abuse by Poppy, when she felt life was unbearable, the thought that there was a big brother in the world who had promised to marry her and take her away allowed her to escape such a life...

Although as she grew up, the big brother never appeared, and she understood that the words of a child didn't count, the promise of "coming back to take

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158 Truth

me away" indeed accompanied her through childhood.

She suddenly asked, "Should one be responsible for what was said in childhood?"

Lewis looked down. "I had intended to be responsible, but now it's not possible."

Keira was taken aback, "Why?"

Lewis glanced at her.

His parents' discord made him never believe in love, therefore he never intended to marry in this lifetime.

At that time, he thought he could register with some

random woman and make her Mrs. Horton in title.

But after he met Keira, everything seemed different...

Even though how they registered was still unclear, Lewis suddenly felt grateful he didn't take marriage lightly.

He didn't answer the question. Instead, he took Keira's hand. "Let's go find Grandma."

"Okay."

The two turned around and re-entered the banquet

hall.

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158 Truth

The banquet soon ended.

Rebecca sat in the car on the way home, still feeling anxious for Keira. She prattled on as she clung to Mrs. Allen's arm. "That Miss Davis, you can tell she's not a good person. Mr. Horton won't carry on with both of them at the same time, would he? If he mistreats Miss

Keira, I must have my brother teach him a lesson!"

After saying that, she heard no response from Mrs. Allen, only to realize that Mrs. Allen was staring out of

the window.

Outside the gate of the Horton residence, a figure was standing there.

With her hands on her hips, Poppy was cursing

furiously. "Keira, you were brought up by the Olsens, and now you've caused Isla to end up in jail, you ungrateful wretch! You're heartless! Come out here! I'm your mother! You can't do this to me!"

She tried to enter, but the security guards firmly stopped her, adamantly not allowing her in.

The surrounding guests didn't seem to care about this and, simply left.

Mr Allan suddenly said "Stan the car"

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158 Truth

The driver immediately stopped the car on the side of

the road.

The entry and exit road of the Horton residence was very wide, accommodating four lanes.

They parked the car on the side without affecting the departure of the luxury cars behind them.

Mr. Allen looked at Mrs. Allen, puzzled.

He saw Mrs. Allen exit the car, and he quickly calmed Rebecca down before following Mrs. Allen.

He asked, "What's wrong?"

Mrs. Allen frowned and said, "I suddenly feel like your intuition was right. What kind of mother treats her own child like this? Don't say anything yet; I'm going to confront her."

Mr. Allen was startled, then he saw Mrs. Allen sneak behind Poppy and suddenly asked, "Actually, Isla is your daughter, isn't she?"

At these words, Poppy instantly stiffened, and she turned around in disbelief!

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Chapter 159

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Mrs. Allen carefully watched Poppy's expression.

Poppy quickly presented herself as a fierce figure. "Who are you to spout such nonsense? Miss Isla is the daughter of the Olsen family. How could she possibly be my daughter?!"

Yet, Mrs. Allen sensitively caught a flash of panic in her eyes.

She stepped forward and said, "You're so protective of Isla but so hateful toward Keira. What kind of mother would act like this toward her biological daughter?"

A fierce look flashed through Poppy's eyes, and then she lifted her head with a cold laugh. "What's wrong with hating her? It was so difficult to get pregnant, and when I did, it turned out not to be a boy, which ruined my chance of gaining status through my child! A losing proposition, I was generous not to drown her right then and there. I was kind enough to raise her! As for Miss Isla, Taylor loves her so much, and only by currying favor with Miss Isla can I have a good life in the Olsen family! What do you know, meddling in our

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159 Divorce?

affairs!"

That attitude was the epitome of a woman who favored sons over daughters and was selfish to the

core.

Mrs. Allen narrowed her eyes. "Is that so?"

"What else?" Poppy sneered. "If I could have given birth to a child like Miss Isla, who Taylor fondly adores, what a blessing that would be!"

After saying that, she disdainfully glanced at Mrs.

Allen. "Why am I even telling you this? Keira Olsen, you catastrophe! Come out here! I am your birth mother!..."

She continued cursing toward the doorway.

Mrs. Allen turned around and walked toward the car

with Mr. Allen.

Mr. Allen frowned. "It sounds like what she said makes sense."

"Indeed, it does."

Mr. Allen sighed. "Am I overthinking?"

"On the contrary, I think your speculation is even

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more accurate,” said Mrs. Allen.

Mr. Allen was startled. “Why?”

Mrs. Allen looked at Poppy. “She acts really convincingly, but have you ever seen a shrew speak so logically? And patiently explaining so much to us?”

When a woman explains too much, there’s only one thing it may indicate.”

“What is it?”

“She’s covering something up.”

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Mrs. Allen smiled. “I used to think it was all your wild imagination, but now I feel that your conjecture is mostly true!”

When Keira returned to the living room after seeing off guests with Lewis at the door, she found the atmosphere inside the banquet hall a bit odd.

Old Mrs. Horton was currently in confrontation with

Nathan.

The old lady’s eyes widened. “I don’t care, I recognize only this granddaughter-in-law, no one else!”

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Upon seeing them walk over, she turned to Lewis. “Brat, you’ve arrived just in time! Your dad is going to

be the death of me!”

Keira looked at Lewis and, as expected, saw his brow furrow as he gave Nathan a cold look.

Then, she noticed Nathan’s disdainful glance at her, followed by a command. “Lewis, I want you to divorce her immediately!”

Lewis frowned. "Why?"

"Why?" Nathan laughed coldly. "Do you even know who this woman beside you is? She's not even as good as Isla but just an illegitimate daughter of the Olsen family! How can someone like that become the hostess of the Horton family?!"

Oliver also chimed in. "Lewis, Dad isn't trying to make things difficult for you. Didn't you hear how everyone was discussing your wife just now?"

Keira lowered her gaze and clenched her jaw.

But the man beside her took her hand and said in a deep voice, "I didn't hear it."

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Oliver choked for a moment, then spoke up, "That's because you have long been in a high position, and those people don't dare to be presumptuous in front of

you,

but what they say behind your back is really nasty! Jake, come and repeat to your uncle what you've

heard."

Jake immediately stepped forward, his eyes fixed on Keira as he relayed the unpleasant words

"They say, 'The Olsen Family's illegitimate daughter is truly capable. Who knows by what means she's managed to marry into the Horton Family!'

"And that you've been so charmed by her, marrying her is even worse than marrying some commoner with a clean background. It's so embarrassing!

"Furthermore, 'If the Horton family's future matriarch is an illegitimate daughter, how would they even host events in the future? Do they expect to elevate an illegitimate daughter above everyone else?'"

"And there are even more disgusting things being said, things I simply can't bring myself to repeat. In short, everyone is laughing at you, Uncle!"

Jake's expression was icy as his gaze swept over Keira,

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a flash of madness sparked by unrequited desire and destruction flickering in his eyes, along with an indescribable wicked flame.

He looked at Keira and slowly said, "Uncle, Keira is

indeed a natural beauty. I even courted her for four years in college, but all that time, she hid from me the fact that she was an illegitimate daughter! After finding out, I immediately chose to let go, because I'm well aware that families like ours cannot possibly take an illegitimate daughter as a wife! How embarrassing would that be if it got out? It's just like now, with you, Uncle, being pointed at and talked about...."

Before he could finish, Lewis suddenly interjected, "When they were pointing and gossiping, what were you doing?"

Jake was dumbfounded. "What?"

Lewis, with a frosty gaze, stared at him. "The Horton family's matriarch is insulted, and you have no reaction? Is this how you uphold the dignity of the Horton family?"

Jake immediately swallowed.

Oliver took a step forward. "Lewis, you can't say that.

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Today is the Horton family's birthday feast, after all. Do you really want to cause trouble at old Mrs. Horton's party?"

"Is discussing the Horton family's matriarch behind her back their idea of manners?"

Lewis looked straight at Jake. "If you're too cowardly to defend the Horton family's honor, then give me a list of those who've been gossiping, and I'll go find them one by one."

Jake was stunned; how could he possibly produce such

a list?!

Doing so would offend the rich second-generation cliques of Oceanion!

Seeing him too frightened to speak, Keira glanced at him.

It was this disdainful glance that triggered a sudden collapse in Jake's mentality, and he blurted out, "Uncle, is she really worth it? You may not know, but although you've been married for two years, these past two years, Keira has been leading me on at college, even almost agreeing to my confession of love! She's such a flirtatious woman and is toying with people all the

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time! If it weren't for the fact that she's an illegitimate daughter, I would have almost ended up with her!"

"Bang!"

Lewis kicked him away without hesitation.

Jake went soaring through the air from the kick, then crashed heavily to the ground, in so much pain that he couldn't even pick himself up.

Oliver's eyes darkened. "Lewis, what are you doing? We're just talking. How can you get violent?!"

"Oliver, he disrespected his elder. If you didn't teach him well, then it's up to me!" Lewis's gaze was icy as he stared unyielding at Jake. "If I ever hear you disrespecting your aunt again, don't blame me for enforcing family discipline!"

Jake shuddered under the reprimand.

Oliver, shaking with anger, pointed at him, his finger trembling. "Lewis, you, you've gone too far! Dad..."

"Snap!"

Nathan was enraged and commanded, "Lewis Horton, you only have two choices today! Either divorce this illegitimate daughter or resign as CEO of Horton

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Group!"

Upon hearing this, Lewis let out a cold laugh.

Just then, the butler entered carefully, "Sir, Mr. and Mrs. Allen from the Allen family have come back... They said they have something to discuss with you and

Miss... I mean, Mrs. Horton."

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Chapter 160

160 Another Slap in the Face

Lewis waved his hand dismissively, letting the butler exit first. "Please ask them to wait."

"Yes."

After the butler quietly left, Lewis finally turned to Nathan, asking coldly, "On what grounds?"

"On what grounds?" Nathan exuded a sense of authority. "With her status, she'll only bring shame to the Horton Group! Do you know that if the reporters spread the word tomorrow that your wife is an illegitimate daughter, how much our shares will plummet?!"

Oliver also said, "Lewis, since you have taken the role of CEO of the Horton Group, you must take on the corresponding responsibilities, including your

marriage! How could a woman of such status be worthy of you?!"

Seeing this, Melissa turned her gaze directly to Keira, "Miss Olsen, if you really care about Lewis, you should conscientiously divorce him!"

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Keira pressed her lips together, offering no response.

She wasn't foolish and certainly understood that these

people were just seizing the opportunity to make trouble. Even if today Lewis announced that Madeleine was his wife, they would probably criticize Madeleine for her humble origins, deeming her unworthy of

Lewis.

Yet, her own status was indeed the "issue."

She turned her head to look at Lewis, trying to pull her hand out of his...

With a twinge of guilt indeed forming in her heart...

The “illegitimate daughter” label had imprisoned her for over twenty years, and she didn’t want the same

shackles to bind Lewis...

Lost in thought, the strong, dry hand suddenly gripped hers tightly. Lewis’s voice then resolutely rang out. “Are there any legal stipulations that a corporation’s legal person, or a chairman, cannot marry an illegitimate daughter as a wife?”

His words made everyone speechless.

Nathan retorted angrily, “Do we need rules for that?”

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It’s an unspoken consensus! You...”

“Since there are no stipulations...” Lewis cut him off directly. “If you wish to remove me from the

chairman’s position, then go through the proper

procedure, call a board meeting, and let everyone vote!”

“Your control of fifty-one percent of the shares makes the vote decision basically whatever you say! I think you’re just running a dictatorial regime in the company!”

An infuriated Nathan picked up a teacup and hurled it

at Lewis.

“Crash!”

The teacup smashed to pieces in front of Lewis, shards scattering everywhere.

Just as Nathan was about to speak, a walking stick suddenly struck out!

“Who allowed you to use violence?!”

Old Mrs. Horton, wielding her walking stick, struck at Nathan. “How dare you lay a hand on Lewis and his wife? You’re a disobedient son! Are you trying to kill

11:39

3/9

me?"

160 Another Slap in the Face

With a frown, Nathan looked at old Mrs. Horton,

showing a helpless expression, "Mom, I..."

"Don't call me mom! If you don't recognize your grandson's wife, then I don't recognize you as a son!"

Old Mrs. Horton lost her temper. "You even dare to hit your grandson's wife. What kind of grandfather-in-law are you? Which family's grandfather-in-law dares to strike their granddaughter-in-law?"

Dodging her blows, Nathan argued, "Mom, don't talk nonsense; everything I said is for the best interest of the company. His choice of a wife is good for nothing, and bringing it up only brings disgrace upon the Horton Group! Now he's already caused such a negative impact on the company, yet he still clings to the chairman's seat. He's just being selfish! Even if I let it go today, there are still so many executives in the Horton Group! With so many reporters at today's banquet, the articles will soon come out, and the Horton family will become the biggest joke in

Oceanion. Let's see how he'll explain himself to those executives tomorrow!!"

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160 Another Slap in the Face

At those words, Oliver had already pulled out his phone, opened the financial news channel's feed, and heaved a silent sigh. "Dad, we don't need tomorrow. The buzz has already started."

Old Mrs. Horton paused her actions, while Nathan immediately turned to look at his phone.

However, he saw headlines like #CEO of Horton Group's wife is an illegitimate daughter# and #Mistress causes a scene at Old Mrs. Horton's birthday banquet# that were eye-catching and had topped the trending searches.

Among them, the clickbait topic #Shocking: Lewis's wife is actually her# was ranked first!

With a sneer, Nathan said, "Lewis, look at this, this is your doing! Tonight's trending should've been about your grandmother's birthday celebration, but it turned into this! God knows how they're mocking you inside! What's so good about this illegitimate daughter? You must give the Horton Group an explanation today!"

Oliver also sighed. "Lewis, this matter concerns the entire company's future operations. You can't act on a whim, nor can you neglect the company. Even if you

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don't give us an explanation today, you'll have to give one to those directors in the company tomorrow,

you..."

Before he could finish, Keira suddenly said, "Did you see the title of the top trending search?"

This remark made everyone pause slightly.

Nathan immediately frowned, "Such lack of manners. We are in the middle of a conversation, and there you go interrupting. What business is it of a woman's?"

As soon as he finished speaking, the cane struck again. "I am also a woman. Are you going to tell me to shut up, too?!"

Nathan was speechless.

There was simply no reasoning with old Mrs. Horto

Oliver then said. "Of course, I saw it. The heat of the

top trending search title is so much higher than the others. Without even opening it, I know what it's saying, what it's criticizing..."

These trending searches had risen so quickly, naturally, because he had just paid someone to boost them!

8/9

160 Another Slap in the Face

The first trending search title gained heat the fastest, so he spent five hundred thousand on promoting its popularity!

Using the identity of Keira, the illegitimate daughter, to suppress Lewis...

But Keira smiled. "Then take a look inside..."

Oliver said with a sneer, "To see how others are criticizing Horton Group?"

While saying that, he clicked on the title.

The next moment, he was stunned.

The content in the trending search title actually read, "Explosive! You'll never guess who Lewis's wife is-it turns out to be Dr. South! Yes, Dr. South, the person is at the forefront of cutting-edge technology in the new energy industry! Horton Group's move is simply awesome, a powerful alliance! Once Horton Group's stocks start trading tomorrow, they're probably going to see a surge!"

Below was a row of praises.

Oliver was dumbfounded. What was happening?!

Keira's lips curved up in a smile.

11:39

7/0

160 Another Slap in the Face

No matter what the channel's hot search news was, she, as "Ms. S," knew it better than anyone else. Just a while ago, she had found out about someone paying for trending searches.

Therefore, she immediately contacted "Josh Josh, asking him to post that tweet.

She had intended to retweet it herself from her

account to combat the scandal of being the illegitimate daughter using Dr. South's reputation...

But who would have thought, after Josh Josh made his post, Oliver mistook it as derogatory and paid five hundred thousand for its popularity, shooting it up to the top spot in the trending searches!

Keira teased him. "Oliver, thanks for the heat you provided."

Oliver was dumbfounded.

He was so angry he nearly had a heart attack.

Lewis and Keira exchanged glances, a smile forming on their lips.

Lewis said lightly, "Dad, Oliver, whether Horton

Group's stocks will rise or fall tomorrow, let's just wait

11:30

13/43

160 Another Slap in the Face

and see!"

He took Keira's hand. "Mr. and Mrs. Allen are still

outside waiting for us. We bid you farewell."

The two of them joined hands and turned around, leaving the living room together.

Once outside, they shared a smile before turning to

look at Mr. and Mrs. Allen, who had come back.

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Chapter 161

161 Restored Photo

The night had deepened.

The moon was large tonight, hanging low in the sky.

After Keira stepped outside, a chill hit her, but she only felt exhilarated. The malice from being called an illegitimate daughter gradually dissipated without her noticing.

She looked ahead at Mr. and Mrs. Allen and

approached them. "What's the matter? Is there an issue with Rebecca?"

"No," Mrs. Allen said, "As we were leaving, we saw... that Poppy Hill woman creating a scene at the gate of the Horton family. We thought it would be better to intervene."

Keira was startled, then promptly replied, "Right, okay."

The Allens had returned after leaving, and she thought they had some important matter to discuss, but it turned out to be just that.

As she was pondering this, Mrs. Allen spoke again. "We just called Frankie, asking him to bring the repaired

1/8

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161 Restored Photo

photo over quickly. Do you have time tomorrow

evening? We would like to invite you for dinner and show you the photo.”

Keira was taken aback.

It was the second time tonight that Mrs. Allen had brought up that photo, asking her to see it...

Although she didn't understand the reason, she knew Mrs. Allen meant her no harm, and she nodded right away. "I'm available."

"Good, then Miss Keira, see you tomorrow evening."

Mrs. Allen patted her hand and then turned to drag Mr. Allen out with her.

Mr. Allen asked quietly, "Why don't you tell her your suspicion?"

"Without proof, what's there to say? If the guess is wrong, wouldn't that just upset Keira needlessly? Frankie will arrive tomorrow, and we can talk about it when we have the photo in hand in the evening. It's better than anything. There's no harm in waiting another day."

Mr. Allen laughed. "Okay, whatever you say."

11:40

161 Restored Photo

Their low murmurs drifted faintly, making it hard for Keira to catch what they were saying. She didn't know what they were talking about, but seeing them huddle together and whisper with laughter somehow gave off a sense of serene happiness.

Keira thought of how Taylor always carefully held Mrs. Olsen in his arms, going to great lengths to please her, all of which seemed too deliberate and servile.

Their relationship wasn't harmonious like that of Mr. and Mrs. Allen.

In fact, from a young age, everyone could see that Taylor cherished Mrs. Olsen, treating her like a delicate treasure, yet Mrs. Olsen was rather aloof and didn't seem to care as much about him.

Everyone said it was because of Keira and Poppy's existence that made Taylor feel guilty in front of Mrs. Olsen...

Keira shook her head, feeling that she might be overthinking.

The Olsen family's interactions were indeed quite strange. This chapter is updated by FindNovel.net

Mr Olson was proud yet she was able to tolerate the

11:40

161 Restored Photo

presence of Taylor's illegitimate daughter and mistress. Taylor disliked Keira, feeling that her presence affected his relationship with Mrs. Olsen.

But Mrs. Olsen could be very gentle with Keira...

Keira was somewhat confused about the dynamics of their marriage.

"What are you thinking about?" Lewis's deep voice came from beside her.

Keira then said, "What do you think we'll be like when we're old?"

At that moment, Mr. and Mrs. Allen had already walked to their car. Mr. Allen opened the door and raised his hand to shield the top of Mrs. Allen's head as she got in, seemingly worried she would bump her head.

Mrs. Allen turned back and gave him a slight smile.

Lewis saw their interaction, a trace of envy flickering in his eyes, "We'll probably be like Mr. and Mrs. Allen then."

Keira was about to say that Lewis didn't have the good temper of Mr. Allen, but before she could speak, she

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161 Restored Photo

heard him say, "A son and a daughter will be perfect. How many children would you like to have?"

Keira was perplexed.

That was a quick jump.

She coughed and quickly changed the subject. "Let's go and take Grandma back first"

Lewis nodded.

The two returned to the banquet hall.

Nannies busied themselves around, cleaning up after the party, and the bustling cacophony suddenly quieted down, making the hall seem spacious.

Keira, however, preferred the silence that followed when the music had ended and the guests had dispersed.

She and Lewis approached old Mrs. Horton, and Keira held onto old Mrs. Horton's arm, "Grandma, let's go

home."

"Okay."

Old Mrs. Horton affectionately patted her hand, then glared fiercely at Nathan.

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< 181 Restored Photo

With a cold face, Nathan said, "Mom, don't look at me like that. Your granddaughter-in-law comes from the wrong background and is an illegitimate daughter. Even if she escapes today, if she does anything in the future that shames the Horton family, I'll show absolutely no mercy!"

After these words, he snorted and turned to go upstairs.

Old Mrs. Horton, furious, pointed at him from behind and cursed. "You disrespectful son! You're so biased toward your eldest son, so I'll be on my youngest grandson's side! Hmph!"

Having said this in a petulant, childlike manner, she grabbed Keira's hand. "Moreover, marrying my granddaughter-in-law is like a blessing from our ancestors. My granddaughter-in-law would never bring shame to the Horton family! Lewis, tell me. Isn't that right?"

Lewis laughed as he glanced at Keira. "Yes."

As the three of them left the living room and walked toward the back courtyard, they heard the sound of a car horn from up front, followed by Fiona saying, "Miss

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161 Restored Photo

Isla has been brought back."

That was within their expectations.

Isla was pregnant, and the police couldn't possibly detain her. They would only give her a verbal warning and a fine, then ask her to apologize to Keira and Lewis. With that, the matter would be over.

Keira didn't care, but when she lay down at night and took out her phone, she found that Isla had sent her many insulting messages.

She must be pregnant and emotional and added to the huge embarrassment of the night, she was somewhat on the edge.

In the messages, she cursed Keira.

"Keira, you illegitimate daughter, you were born a bitch! What makes you think you can marry my uncle?! You did it on purpose, didn't you, trying to be better

than me?!

"Let me tell you, it's impossible! You'll never surpass me in this life! You are an illegitimate daughter, and you can never become the hostess of the Horton family! The household management rights of the Horton family are still in my hands!

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161 Restored Photo

"Do you really think that by marrying my uncle, you can become someone else? No matter how capable you are, you can't change your origins, or the original sin in your blood!

“And, you haven’t gotten pregnant after two years of marriage! I see it as the punishment for your low bloodline! I’ll soon be able to give birth to the genuine heir of the Horton family! You’ll never compare to me!”

Keira didn’t know what to say.

Looking at the phone messages with the glaring words “illegitimate daughter,” she clenched her jaw and typed back. “Are you sure that the child in your belly has the surname Horton?”

The response promptly ceased, and there was no reply for a long time.

Keira lowered her eyes, suddenly feeling that those two words had affected her mood...

The night passed without incident, and time moved swiftly to the next day.

When Keira woke up, she picked up her phone to find a message from Rebecca. “Miss Keira, my brother has

ronnirad the photo and he’s on his uru to nonnion

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now. Come find us when you wake up! Dad and Mom say they have a surprise for you to see!”

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Chapter 162

162 Photo?

Keira saw the message and replied, "Driving from Clance should take at least six hours, right? What time will your brother arrive?"

Rebecca's message came back quickly, "Around noon! After my brother got the photo this morning, he sent it to our parents. They were so excited when they saw it and said they needed to talk to you in person."

Keira was slightly startled.

With the advancement of mobile networks, much communication happened over the phone now, and personal contact had lessened.

What could they possibly need to discuss in person?

And it seemed the photo was related to Lady South...

Lady South was Mrs. Olsen's mother...

This matter must be very important!

Keira responded to the message. "Okay."

But just as she finished getting ready and stepped out, she heard a piece of news that surprised her.

11:40

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“To the horse ranch?”

Keira was slightly taken aback.

Standing before her, Melissa said with a smirk, “Yes, there’s a business meeting taking place at the horse ranch today. Lewis, as the head of the Horton family, is definitely going to attend, and as his wife, you should be there with him.”

After that, Melissa cheerfully took Isla’s hand. “Of course, Jake and Isla will also be there. Isla, you can ride horses, can’t you?”

Isla nodded with a smile. “Of course, I used to go horseback riding with Dad as a child, and I even raised a little pony... Keira has seen it too. I was scared to ride

back then, so it was Keira who led the horse around

the ranch for me.”

Keira’s expression darkened

Horse riding has always been a trend among the wealthy elites.

When Isla was seven years old, she finally got her own little pony. Wearing her riding outfit, she looked handsome and adorable as she circled her pony, every

nour and then avoidedly reaching out to touch it

11:40

2/3

And little Keira could only help by holding the leash.

Isla would ride and berate her at the same time. “Hurry up, run faster! You’re so slow. Did you not eat breakfast this morning?”

Keira really hadn’t eaten breakfast.

Since waking up, seven-year-old Keira had to serve Isla, carrying her schoolbag behind her, with Poppy never allotting her time for breakfast.

Her most hated activity was Isla's horseback riding lesson every Saturday.

Isla felt like a little princess, while Keira herself was...

Just as these thoughts crossed her mind, Isla spoke again. "Keira, today we'll go together. I'll need your help getting on the horse. You have no idea how uncomfortable it's been getting on a horse these past years without being at the Olsen family."

Upon hearing this, Keira clenched her fists abruptly.

Melissa already asked, "Can Keira still help you mount the horse?"

Isla nodded. "Yeah, when I first learned to ride and couldn't get on it was Keira who knelt down and

11:40

162 Photo?

served as my mounting block..."

Keira turned sharply toward her, a sharp look flashing in her eyes.

That was her humiliating past.

It wasn't out of her own will that she knelt down. It was Poppy pushing down on her head, letting Isla trample on her pride time and time again, grinding the

defiance in her bones underfoot...

She tensed her jaw, about to speak, but Isla had already lowered her head. "When I think about it, I was young and naive back then, Keira, I hope you won't mind it..."

Keira scoffed.

Young?

Indeed, Isla was young then, but she had been a bad apple right from the start!

She was very aware of what Poppy's sore spot was and understood precisely how to make Keira's life more difficult.

Just like now, while Isla was apologizing, her eyes seemed poisoned with hatred for Keira, which was

why she would say such things.

Keira looked at her sharply. "You misspoke, didn't you?"

Isla bowed her head immediately. "Keira, I'm sorry, I shouldn't have poked at your childhood pain. It wasn't

intentional. It just reminded me of when we were

kids..."

Melissa immediately said, "Keira, Isla didn't do it on purpose. Don't be so aggressive! Besides, as a child, you were an illegitimate daughter, so wasn't it natural for her to despise and bully you?"

These words made old Mrs. Horton smack the table hard. "From now on, in this family, I forbid anyone from uttering the words 'illegitimate daughter' again! My granddaughter-in-law isn't an illegitimate daughter!"

Melissa pouted. "The state doesn't care what I say. Does the Horton family no longer have freedom of speech? Or does it mean that Lewis's wife is so

precious that we ordinary people can't even utter the words 'illegitimate daughter'?"

This left old Mrs. Horton at a loss for words.

11:40

But Keira suddenly laughed. "Sister-in-law, I didn't mean to stop you from using those three words."

Melissa scoffed. "Then when you said Isla misspoke, wasn't it because she mentioned your childhood? Isn't

that the same as not allowing her to say it?"

Isla immediately said, "Keira, I've apologized. and it

wasn't intentional. You..."

“Slap!”

Suddenly, Keira raised her hand and landed a forceful slap on Isla’s face, leaving the latter immediately covering her face in shock.

Melissa was the first to react, her voice rising sharply. “Keira, what are you doing? The Horton residence isn’t a place where you can act recklessly!”

Isla, too, teared up. “Keira, was it necessary to hit me just because I said something wrong? You...”

Keira scoffed. “You said something wrong? Every sentence you’ve spoken is wrong. Isla, the Horton family values manners above all. Calling me by my name so directly, is this how you show respect to your elders?!”

11:00

Isla was suddenly speechless at her words.

Keira then turned to Melissa. “Sister-in-law, it’s fine for you to defend your daughter-in-law, but even I, the ‘illegitimate daughter, know not to call elders by their names. As a lady of your standing, you should be clearer about that, right? So, as the elder, I was right to discipline the youngster to give her a lesson, to prevent her from making mistakes in front of outsiders. You shouldn’t take issue with that, should

you?”

Melissa was left speechless as well.

Keira sneered again and looked at Isla. “What were you trying to say? Say it again, correctly!”

Isla was so furious that her chest heaved, but Keira had the upper hand. Although reluctant, Isla could only say spitefully through gritted teeth, “...Auntie Keira, at the riding club today, please help me onto the horse again!”

After she finished, a deep voice came from upstairs. “Since you know she’s your auntie, you should

understand even more that there is no reason for a senior member of the family to help a junior onto a

11:40

729

horse!”

Lewis looked somberly at Isla, a hint of menace

flashing in his eyes.

Isla stepped back in fright.

Only then did Lewis turn to Keira. “You don’t have to go to the event if you don’t want to.”

Melissa immediately said, “That wouldn’t be good, would it? You only revealed her identity last night, and if she’s absent from such an important event today, those who don’t know any better might think Mrs. Horton isn’t presentable, which could embarrass you!”

Lewis said sternly, “Apparently, my brother’s NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON FindNovel.net

reputation depends on my sister-in-law. That’s your business. At least, my reputation doesn’t depend on my

wife!”

He looked again at Keira. “Do you want to go?”

Keira was about to speak when her phone vibrated.

Opening it, she discovered a message from Rebecca. “How infuriating! After my brother arrived in

Oceanion, he didn’t come home. Instead, he said that a bunch of young masters from Clance had come, and

11:40

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162 Photo

he went to the riding club! He also said he arranged to meet you in the evening, and it would be the same if he returned later tonight, which is too much!”

Keira narrowed her eyes.

She hadn’t expected Frankie Allen to attend this gathering at the riding club.

She thought of the photo the Allens had mentioned several times, and taking into account Rebecca's message that insisted she must see that photo...

Keira suddenly curled her lips into a smile. "Then let's

go."

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Chapter 163

163 Similar to the Photo

Isla's eyes immediately flashed with a hint of gloom!

She lowered her gaze to hide the excitement within and exchanged a look with Melissa, both of their eyes glittering with shrewdness.

What was something that poor ordinary people couldn't even come into contact with, but for the upper class, it was as commonplace as household meals?

Of course, it was the equestrian club!

Equestrian lessons were prohibitively expensive, and an average family simply couldn't afford them. Moreover, a batch of foals was worth hundreds of

thousands. Even after purchasing, there were still costs of keeping them in a ranch, with the minimum annual expense being in the region of two hundred thousand or more.

Ordinary middle-class families simply couldn't afford

Therefore, only those who were wealthy and powerful

11-40

could afford horseback riding lessons!

Today, they had to make Keira lose face at the equestrian club, giving Nathan an excuse to pull Lewis down from the position of family head!

For today's gathering, which consisted of a group of young people, Melissa and Oliver wouldn't attend. She patted Isla's hand and gave her a warning look.

Isla clenched her fists, thinking of Melissa's disdainful and warning look when they left the house that morning, and felt waves of shame and anger!

What Melissa said was still ringing in her ears. "Marrying you was the worst thing that had happened to Jake! You were taken away by the police last night, making the first branch of the family lose all its face! If you don't regain our honor today and give Lewis and his wife a piece of our mind, I'll have Jake divorce you!"

Isla bit her lip and followed Jake toward the direction of the parking lot.

Jake was indifferent to her all the way, his gaze firmly fixed on Keira, who was walking ahead, his expression inscrutable.

After the group arrived at the parking lot. Isla was

11:40

163 Similar to the Photo

about to go to the car she shared with Jake when a bodyguard stopped her. "Mr. Horton has asked you to

see him."

Isla was surprised and walked over to Keira and Lewis, clueless.

Today, Keira was dressed in a white equestrian outfit, looking poised and graceful. The white attire

accentuated her tall, slender figure, making her look vibrant and commanding.

Lewis, on the other hand, hadn't changed his clothes and was still in a black suit. His cool demeanor and firm contours added a certain charisma to him.

Isla clenched her fists, her face smiling. "Uncle, did you need something from me?"

Lewis's narrow eyes fixed on her, the darkness of his gaze harboring feelings that were difficult for Isla to decipher, making her feel intensely uncomfortable.

Then, she heard Lewis speak. "Since you have been disrespectful to your seniors on several occasions, it's time I taught you some manners. Now, open the car door for your aunt."

Isla's pupils constricted sharply at these words!

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163 Similar to the Photo

She looked incredulously at Lewis but saw no hint of jest on the man's face.

Turning to look at Keira, she saw an expression of surprise as well.

Her last hope was to seek help from Jake, but he only frowned and remained silent.

Isla clenched her fists.

A surge of intense humiliation welled up inside her.

How could this be....

Ever since they were young, Keira had always been her little slave. If she told Keira to go east, Keira wouldn't dare go west... Keira had no dignity in front of her and had to keep her head lowered.

Isla was always high above, firmly pressing down on her.

How dare that woman climb over her head now?!

Isla wanted nothing more than to tear Keira's face apart, eat her flesh, and suck her blood!

But she dared not...

She could only forcefully suppress all her humiliation,

11:41

163 Similar to the Photo

bow her head, walk to the side of the car, and barely squeeze out a few words through gritted teeth. "Aunt Keira, please get in."

Keira, with her gaze lowered, went straight into the car [READ LATEST CHAPTERS AT FindNovel\(.\)NET](#)

and sat down.

Isla finally closed the door for her.

The car slowly started, leaving the angry Isla behind. Only then did Keira turn to look at Lewis and say, "Thank you."

She knew that when Isla spoke just now, Lewis must have heard her from upstairs, and that was why he had deliberately humiliated Isla a moment ago-to restore Keira's dignity.

Her gaze dropped as she said slowly, "Actually, she just learned to ride a horse and had me lead the horse for her. Once she could gallop, she didn't need me anymore."

After all, she couldn't run as fast as the horse...

She smiled, "I was quite envious of her riding at that time. Later..."

Before she could finish, Lewis took her hand, his tone

11:41

filled with indulgence. "If you think horse riding is fun, then I'll teach you today."

Keira blinked, swallowing the rest of her words, and just curled her lips into a slight smile, "Okay."

Lewis looked at her. "What's past is past. Whatever you envied her for before, I'll give to you from now on."

Keira nodded earnestly.

They soon arrived at the equestrian field.

The Horton family had their own private parking area, and once they parked the car, Lewis and Keira got out.

They walked toward the changing room.

One needed to change into proper riding attire for horseback riding. Keira had already changed at the Horton's, so she didn't need to switch clothes.

But Lewis needed to change.

So she simply loitered around the changing room area.

Isla and Jake had gotten out of the car and disappeared somewhere. Isla probably feared losing

11:41

face in front of so many people if Lewis, acting as an

elder, forced her to serve Keira again.

Which was just fine.

At least it intimidated her.

While Keira was lost in her thoughts, two people came by, chatting with each other.

“Have you heard? Some people from Clance will come today, and one of them isn’t someone to be messed

with!”

“We can’t mess with any of the young masters from Clance.”

“This one’s different... It’s said to be from that family!”

The other person immediately lowered his voice. “The Olsen family from Clance?”

“Shh... keep it down. Even the Horton family in Oceanion will have to tread carefully around that person, right? Who knows why they’re coming today, but we need to serve them with caution! Not just Lewis, we mustn’t provoke that person either.”

“I’m not stupid. I’d rather offend the Horton family than that person...”

11:41

7/9

As they spoke, they walked past Keira.

Keira watched them go, pensive. Among those coming from Clance they mentioned, Frankie must be one of

them, right?

Just as she thought about this, she saw Frankie emerge from the changing room.

Wearing gold-rimmed glasses and clad in black riding gear, he looked trim and tall. Upon seeing Keira, Frankie seemed slightly surprised and approached her.

“Miss Olsen, what a coincidence.”

The last time they had met, they’d had an awkward moment due to Frankie mistaking Isla for her, but after a few days, that awkwardness had dissipated.

Keira had a good relationship with Frankie’s parents, and she was straightforward with Frankie. “Mrs. Allen asked me to come to your place tonight to see a photo you brought. What photo is it? Does it have something to do with me?”

Frankie thought of the face in the photos that resembled Keira and smiled, “Yes, it does.”

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Chapter 164

164 Look Alike

“It does?”

Keira’s curiosity was piqued. “How so?”

Frankie thought of his parents’ concern and said, “This

isn’t a matter that can be explained in a few words. It seems to involve issues from the older generation. My father knows more about it, so it’s better for you to discuss it with him in person. I heard from Rebecca that you have an appointment to meet him tonight. After the event, shall we go see my parents together?”

“All right.”

Keira wasn’t in a hurry.

Frankie looked at her and asked, “I heard you are Mrs. Horton?”

Keira raised her eyebrows. “So?”

Frankie suddenly stepped forward, closing the distance between them, and whispered, “I’m not here alone this time. Several young masters from Clance came along for fun. Each of their families has the power to equal or even surpass the Horton family.

21:42

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How about I introduce you to them later?”

Frankie’s eyes darkened slightly.

Last night, Rebecca dragged him into a long chat, saying that even though Lewis had publicly acknowledged Keira as his wife, there were still some unpleasant murmurs at the party.

They scoffed at Keira's humble beginnings, saying an illegitimate daughter simply wasn't a match for the Horton family.

They even said they didn't want to socialize with such an illegitimate daughter in future lady's gatherings...

Rebecca was quite worried about Keira, which was why she insisted on him coming to help her.

The group of young masters from Clance brought by Frankie today were his own connections. After introducing them to Keira, she should-at the very least-receive better treatment in the Horton family...

Just as he thought about this, he heard Keira say indifferently, "That won't be necessary."

Frankie was slightly taken aback.

Keira then said, "Thanks for your kindness, but it

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seem's Mr. Horton doesn't want to interact too much with people from Clance."

Frankie frowned with concerns in his eyes behind his gold-rimmed glasses. "That's his personal bias, Miss Olsen. You should understand that in business, there are no regional distinctions, let alone the fact that the most powerful families and enterprises in Crera are in Clance. If Lewis continues to be obstinate, he'll sooner

or later be pulled down by the shareholders of Horton Group! As his wife, if you can help him secure relations in Clance, the Horton family will surely recognize you."

Keira knew Frankie meant well, but she still smiled and said, "There's really no need for that, thank you."

Seeing her composed and serene demeanor, free from any impatience, Frankie felt she didn't understand the struggles of the elite. He started to explain carefully. "As far as I know, the first branch of your family has already started making contacts in Clance, intending to open up the market there and use it to criticize Lewis. Today, this group of rich heirs from Clance suddenly show up in Oceanion, and it seems to be the handiwork of the first branch... I heard it might be through the connections of Mrs. Olsen..."

11:43

3/10

Keira was momentarily taken aback. "What?"

Frankie sighed in resignation. "How can you be so indifferent to the affairs of the Horton family? How many times has Isla made mistakes? She has posed for unearned merits and even has a criminal record. Why does the first branch still tolerate her? Do you really think it's just because she's pregnant?"

He glanced around to make sure no one was approaching before continuing. "Mrs. Olsen herself made a visit, and the Horton family accepted Isla because Mrs. Olsen has very powerful connections. This horse racing event was an agreement reached between Mrs. Olsen and the Horton family! The condition for Jake to marry Isla was for Mrs. Olsen to introduce the first branch to her connections in

Clance."

Keira paused for a moment.

Back when Mrs. Olsen personally visited the Horton residence despite being unwell, Keira was there too. She wasn't aware of the specifics of the subsequent conversation between Mrs. Olsen and Melissa, but the next day, Isla and Jake were married, and Isla moved into the Horton residence.

11:41

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So, it was Mrs. Olsen who had orchestrated this horse race gathering. Was it to introduce Jake to that group of young masters from Clance?

Her jaw tensed as she began to worry for Lewis.

At the same time, a bitter sadness that she couldn't

quite understand or articulate began to rise in her

chest...

Although Mrs. Olsen didn't overtly interfere in the conflict between the first branch and Lewis, this move

clearly showed she had taken the side of the first branch to help Isla.

After all...

Isla was her biological daughter, and back then, Keira's relationship with Lewis hadn't been made public.

It was understandable for Mrs. Olsen to help the first branch.

Her downcast look misled Frankie, who thought she was finally beginning to worry, so he reassured her. "Don't worry. With the relationship between Rebecca and you, the Allen family will be your connection in

Clance."

11:41

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164 LOOK ATRO

Keira couldn't help but smile. "You're getting it the wrong way. I don't..."

Before she could say the words "need it," Lewis walked over, having changed his clothes.

He immediately spotted Frankie and Keira.

Keira wore a white riding outfit today, while Frankie was dressed in blue riding attire. The two of them stood together, and they made a perfect match of talent and beauty.

There was still a touch of warmth on Frankie's face.

A sudden sense of crisis welled up in Lewis's chest, prompting him to hurry over to Keira's side, grab her hand from behind, and cast a wary look toward Frankie as he declared his territory. Mr. Allen, you're talking to my wife. Is there something you need?"

Frankie was perplexed.

He frowned. "It's nothing serious, just..."

"If it's nothing serious, then don't delay our horse riding," Lewis said coldly, before turning to Keira. "Didn't you find horse riding interesting? Let me teach you."

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104 LOUG

Keira raised an eyebrow. "Okay."

Holding hands, the couple prepared to leave, leaving Frankie standing there in disarray!

This couple actually still had the mind to go learn horse riding?!

Were they here to ride horses today?!

Frankie felt like such a busybody.

No!

Frankie didn't believe he was a busybody.

Frankie grimaced inwardly and couldn't help but mutter to himself before shouting out, "You're leaving just like that?"

Lewis paused for a moment and looked back at him, "Otherwise?"

Frankie frowned. "I can introduce you to some people from Clance who have come here."

Lewis's gaze was chilly, "That won't be necessary."

“Why must you be so stubborn!” Frankie was genuinely a bit angry now. “The Davis family is a different story, and the other people have nothing to do with you. If

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104 Look Alike

you keep this up, how are you going to hold on to your position as Chairman!”

Lewis’s expression remained indifferent, exuding strong, inexplicable confidence. “Whether or not I can hold onto my position won’t affect our two families’ partnership.”

Frankie thought, “That’s not what I meant!”

“I see,” Lewis Horton replied, still as frosty as ever, showing no warmth. “Is there anything else, Mr. Allen?”

Seeing his aloof manner, Frankie sighed inwardly.

He understood that Lewis was very sensitive about his mother’s relatives.

Had anyone been in his shoes, who wouldn’t harbor negative feelings toward a birth mother after being out of the womb to accelerate a divorce three months in advance and barely surviving the ordeal?

As he watched the pair head toward a more secluded corner, he could only remind aloud, “Miss Olsen, don’t forget our appointment to look at the photograph tonight.”

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164 Look Alike

Lewis stopped in his tracks, his brows lightly furrowed. “What photograph?”

Keira explained lightly, “Mrs. Allen mentioned there’s a photograph related to me; I’m going to have a look.”

Lewis then looked displeasedly at Frankie. “Will he be there too?”

Keira, somewhat puzzled, said, “Yes.”

Lewis said, “Can’t we see it now?”

“We can...”

Frankie smiled.

He slowly took out his phone and opened the photograph he had taken.

In the photograph, a twenty-years-younger Mr. All stood next to a woman who was in her forties yet well-maintained.

That woman bore a lot of resemblance to Keira!

11:42

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Chapter 165

165 Horse Riding

Frankie looked at the photo in his hand.

When he restored this photo in Clance, he had thought Mr. Allen was a bit exaggerating.

But once the restoration succeeded, he was astonished.

The woman in the photo was definitely related to Keira by blood!

There were plenty of beautiful women, but it was rare to see someone whose features, though individually may not be the most outstanding, when put together, became so dazzlingly attractive.

As Keira followed Lewis back, she stepped forward to take a closer look, only to see Frankie lifting his phone as if to show them something, but just as they were about to see, he put away the phone. "It's possible, but my dad has something to say to Miss Olsen in person. Mr. Horton, do you not want Miss Olsen to go?"

Upon hearing this, Keira pursed her lips tightly.

Rebecca was a simple and kind girl, whom she liked

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165 Horse Riding

very much.

The two had actually been in frequent contact recently, but the resistance Lewis had just shown toward the Allen family made her hesitate...

Did it mean she would have to stay away from the Allen family in the future because of him?

She might not be able to do that.

Keira had never been led by love alone; she wouldn't choose between friends and her husband!

Just as she thought about this, she saw Lewis frown

and immediately turn to her. "That's Keira's decision to make. I won't interfere."

Keira smiled satisfactorily.

Lewis looked back at Frankie. "Mr. Allen, there's no need to try to affect our relationship."

Frankie was shocked.

That wasn't what he meant at all! He just felt that someone like Keira shouldn't be confined to the inner house; she had her own vast world to belong to.

He wanted to explain, but Lewis had already taken

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165 Horse Riding

Keira's hand and left, leaving Frankie speechless.

It was as if he was some kind of villain!

Frankie felt slightly suffocated and believed that Lewis's last remark was definitely intentional.

Keira, however, didn't think too much of it and just followed Lewis to the equestrian center.

She quietly observed Lewis.

He was dressed in a black, tailored top that outlined his lean, strong waist. His lower half was clad in matching riding pants tucked into boots, which accentuated his height and leg length, giving him a less reserved and more dashing air than usual.

It was as though the next moment, he would be off conquering the world on horseback, galloping through the rivers and lakes!

He was kind of handsome,

Keira quickly diverted her gaze.

Right now, most of the people coming to the equestrian center for the gathering were chatting in

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165 Horse Riding

the resting area, with only a few individuals on the grounds.

As Lewis and Keira walked over, someone was already

waiting there with a mighty and imposing horse, its coat touched with a faint hint of gold, resembling a regal creature watching disdainfully over the staff. Its eyes seemed to carry an untamed spirit.

Lewis said, "This is my horse, Chasing Wind."

Keira paused for a moment.

She actually recognized this horse...

It was a famous Akhal-Teke from Oceanion, one with a very bad temper when it first arrived. It was Keira who

tamed it before it was sold.

The buyer was actually Lewis?

Chasing Wind immediately lowered its head as Keira and Lewis approached, and upon seeing them, the horse's eyes showed surprise.

Lewis patted its head and looked at Keira. "Chasing Wind has a bad temper, dare you ride him?"

At those words, Chasing Wind let out agitated breaths through its nostrils, as if to say, "With the big fiend

13:01

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165 Horse Riding

here, why would I dare to lose my temper?!"

Keira glanced at Chasing Wind, making it shudder.

A crafty light flashed in her eyes, followed by a gentle smile. "If you're here, what's there for me to fear?"

Those words indeed made Lewis smile with delight. The displeasure he felt upon encountering the Allen family, who was related to his birth mother., instantly disappeared.

Keira approached Chasing Wind, and just as she was about to mount the horse, her waist was suddenly grasped by a large hand, and then Lewis effortlessly lifted her up.

Keira was initially surprised and then realized what was happening. She parted her legs in the air and neatly perched atop the horse, after which Lewis grasped her ankles and placed her feet on the stirrups.

The riding attire was thick, yet the heat from Lewis's palm seemed to penetrate the fabric, scorching her skin and making her ears flush a bit.

Lewis's deep voice wafted over. "I'll lead the horse for you. Don't be afraid."

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165 Horse Riding

Keira paused for a moment, then the corners of her lips curved into a smile. "Okay."

Even Chasing Wind's horsey eyes were astounded.

"The great fiend is scared of me?"

It felt like it was back to those dark days, tormented by the great fiend...

Yet, that cold and domineering CEO didn't notice its distress at all. At the moment, he was speaking softly. "This horse is in a rather good mood today, so I'll walk

a bit faster; don't be scared."

Keira was very cooperative. "Don't go too fast. What if

I fall off?"

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"Don't worry, I'll catch you."

"Okay."

Chasing Wind was shocked!

The great fiend who never needed a saddle and seemed to grow on horseback was now afraid of falling off?

It was as if it had seen a ghost!

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165 Horse Riding

While the two were indulging in their sweet and affectionate moments, a group of rich heirs from Oceanion was slowly approaching, surrounding the young masters from Clance.

In the midst of the crowd, one figure stood out prominently.

He wore a showy white riding outfit and a black hat, with his hands on his hips and his handsome face alight with unbridled arrogance.

It was none other than today's protagonist-Ellis

Olsen.

Isla and Jake were on the periphery of the crowd, whispering to each other.

Isla said, "My mom said that the Olsen family is one of

The Five Nobles of Clance. With a vast estate and a

large business empire, it has powerful backing... Jake, as long as we make him happy today, that's all that

matters."

Jake nodded and replied, "I didn't expect your mom to actually get him to come. I specifically inquired about

him. Ella adores horse riding in that others like racing

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165 Horse Riding

cars. The person he admires the most is someone who is skilled in equestrianism."

Isla didn't have this information and was a bit anxious.

“It’s a pity that I’m pregnant and can’t ride horses today.”

Jake sighed. “That’s true. The timing of this child isn’t good.”

They had finally managed to invite someone important from Clance through Mrs. Olsen, and now Isla was pregnant and couldn’t engage in the dangerous activity of horse riding.

Jake frowned. “If I run better than him, he might not be happy, and here I was thinking you’re good at riding and could impress him!”

Isla bit her lip. She glanced over at the riding field and suddenly laughed. “Jake, even though I can’t show off by riding today, there are others who can embarrass themselves.”

As she said that, Jake followed her gaze and also saw Keira.

It seemed they had had their fill of walking the track, and at this moment as Keira was about to dismount.

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165 Horse Riding

Lewis immediately reached out and caught her in his arms!

The sun shone on them, a handsome man and a beautiful woman, making Jake feel nothing but anger.

He clenched his fists tightly, only to hear Ellis inquire. “Huh, isn’t that Lewis? The woman he’s holding, is that his wife? Why use arms to assist her down from the horse? Can’t she ride?”

Isla's eyes flickered, and she promptly walked over and said with a smile, "That's my younger sister, Keira. She hasn't learned horse riding."

Ellis immediately scoffed. "If she hasn't learned to ride, what's she doing at the riding field? This place is for horse racing, not for their romantic escapades!"

As he spoke those words, Keira and Lewis were already hand in hand approaching them.

As the distance closed, Ellis gradually took a good look at Keira's face and was momentarily taken aback. The link to the origin of this information rests in FindNovel.net

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Chapter 166

166 Cousin

Ellis frowned, giving Keira a second look.

Why did this woman look somewhat familiar?

She seemed to bear a resemblance to his third uncle...

With this thought in mind, he turned to Isla. "My third uncle mentioned that your mom is an old friend of his, asking me to look after your Olsen family for a while.

Surely your family isn't so poor that you haven't even taken equestrian lessons, right? How can there be a

sister who doesn't know how to ride horses?"

Isla immediately lowered her head, adopting a look of

shame.

Without a word from her, of course, there was a little lackey to speak up for her. "Mr. Olsen, that's not Miss Olsen's biological sister. Her mother is a mistress; that girl is the Olsen family's illegitimate daughter. Of

course, she wasn't treated well from her childhood and never learned horseback riding."

This statement displeased Ellis.

When his third uncle mentioned Jodie South, he did so

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< 166 Cousin

with nostalgia and even made Ellis promise to help by checking if Jodie was doing well, and that Ellis should pay her a visit as a junior should.

If her husband had an illegitimate daughter, how could she possibly be living well?

Ellis snorted with derision. "An illegitimate daughter attending our banquet? Isla, your mother has really spoiled her too much!"

Isla forced a bitter smile and put on a helpless act. "Mr. Olsen, she's no longer the Olsen family's illegitimate daughter now. She's the wife of Uncle Lewis..."

Ellis was shocked. "What? You're saying Lewis married an illegitimate daughter?!"

Isla nodded...

But Ellis just sneered. "Ha, that hypocrite. I didn't expect he'd have such a day!"

Jake caught the implications in his words and immediately asked, "Mr. Olsen, you know my uncle?"

"Of course, I know him. We were classmates abroad!" Ellis said with a sneer, "Back then, I thought he looked decent enough and considered introducing him to a

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166 Cousin

cousin at home who hadn't married yet. But this
e rejected me..."

"Let's go!"

Ellis led everyone forward, "Let's go see for ourselves. He rejected several of my
cousins. I want to see what kind of wife he ended up marrying! Lewis!"

Keira saw this group approaching from afar, so she prepared to dismount.

After all, as the owner of the equestrian club, she and Lewis should go and greet them.

But she didn't expect that just as she got close to Lewis, she saw someone who
resembled a pompous peacock charge over, amorous eyes full of arrogance. He put his
hands on his hips and said, "Lewis, you

rejected my little sister, and you end up marrying a

woman who can't even ride a horse? You really have no taste!"

Lewis frowned. "Ellis, if you've got nothing nice to say, you can shut up."

Yet, from his response, Keira quickly assessed the relationship between the two men.

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166 Cousin

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There was scolding and irritation in Lewis's voice; the
other man must be his nemesis.

She immediately classified Ellis as an enemy.

Why would Ellis listen to Lewis?

He walked straight up to Keira, examining her from top to bottom deliberately in a
frivolous manner. "Lewis, your wife sure is pretty, but you shouldn't be so shallow,
judging by her looks alone."

The frown on Lewis's face was so deep it looked like it could kill a fly.

Indeed, he and Ellis were classmates, and their auras had always clashed while they were abroad.

Ellis loved socializing and parties, and each time he invited Lewis, Lewis never attended, eventually making Ellis take a dislike to him.

But even so, Ellis had always been relatively polite to him.

Today, those words seemed intentionally provocative.

Lewis narrowed his eyes and glanced at Isla standing beside him, instantly understanding that Ellis had come here to target Keira on Isla's behalf. He said

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166 Cousin

sternly, "Ellis, if you disrespect my wife again, don't blame me for being rude!"

"Oh dear, I'm so scared!"

With feigned fear, Ellis laughed. "But you know me, I've always respected the strong. As classmates, I suppose I should show some respect for your wife. How about this, why doesn't your wife race me around the track?"

Lewis immediately said, "I'll race you. She can't ride a horse."

Ellis exaggerated his response. "You can't be serious? Someone doesn't know how to ride in this day and age? Isla, your family really hasn't treated the

illegitimate daughter well, have you? Not even giving her riding lessons? Bringing her here to the equestrian club, isn't that a disgrace?"

Upon hearing this, Isla immediately responded, "Mr. Olsen, it was my father's decision..."

The young gentlemen from Clance immediately started to chime in. "Isn't she your father's illegitimate daughter? He doesn't even like her?"

Someone quickly explained, "Mr. Taylor Olsen loves his wife dearly. He's famously devoted to his wife. It was

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166 Cousin

Keira's mother who tricked him, and then shamelessly clung to the Olsen family, refusing to leave after having

her..."

A cold glint flashed in Ellis's eyes.

Being friends with Lewis, he certainly wasn't a simple

character.

He was just more flamboyant in his actions.

If his third uncle wanted to protect Mrs. Olsen's dignity, then the existence of this illegitimate daughter must certainly be a disgrace to Mrs. Olsen. Today, he'd help vent some anger then!

Thinking this, he glanced at the people beside him.

They immediately understood his intention and started to point and whisper about Keira/

"No wonder she hasn't had riding lessons. She's just a pitiful girl, unloved by her father and mother. The Olsen family did well enough just to feed her and raise her..."

"I heard that back when Isla was learning to ride horses, Keira was serving her, even kneeling down to be a step for her to mount the horse!"

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166 Cousin

"Mr. Horton, your taste is really questionable, marrying such a wife. She's utterly worthless..."

Ellis glanced at Keira, who, regardless of what everyone said, showed no change in expression. He

thought this illegitimate daughter really had some

nerve.

At least this composed demeanor was something Isla didn't possess.

He scoffed and said, "What's there to be scared of if you haven't learned? Miss Olsen, right? Just run one lap with me. If you grit your teeth and endure it, I promise no one will speak about you again! Do you

dare?"

Upon these words, everyone burst into laughter.

"Mr. Olsen, stop teasing her! She was already so scared she could only be led by a rope and walk slowly. How can you make her run? She'd be terrified out of her

wits!"

"Not knowing how to ride is very dangerous, and the horses here are all tall and powerful. If she falls while running, it could be fatal!" Follow current novels on (Find)novel.net

"Ruthan Mr Horton will be Haunstated he'll be a

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166 Cousin

widower!"

"Don't say that. I bet Miss Olsen is so scared right now that her legs have gone weak, and her face has turned

white..."

Lewis's expression was extremely unpleasant.

In Oceanion, out of respect for him, people would not dare to speak so offensively.

But these people from Clance seemed rather

unrestrained.

He clenched his fists, about to teach this group a

lesson, when his wrist was suddenly grasped by a soft

hand.

Lewis was slightly taken aback, only to see Keira stepping out from his side, “Then let’s run that lap.”

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Chapter 167

167 Horse Trainer

Keira’s offhand remark made Lewis frown and blurt out involuntarily, “No way!”

Ellis hadn’t expected Keira to agree. All he wanted was to humiliate her with a few words and use her to mock Lewis, to thoroughly slap their faces in public.

So when Keira agreed, he was momentarily stunned.

Then, hearing Lewis's words, he immediately laughed. "Why not, Lewis? Could it be that you don't have confidence in your own wife? It's just horse racing,

isn't it?"

Lewis's sharp gaze instantly turned toward Ellis, and he said angrily, "Don't you know the dangers for a novice in horse racing?"

Ellis pursed his lips. Although he had a nasty temperament, he hadn't actually wanted to cause a fatal accident, so he quickly retorted, "Tsk, if you can't handle it, then don't participate! She wants to join in everything without the ability, but she should just stay home and be a trophy wife. Don't come out and disgust us!"

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The group of rich heirs behind him immediately echoed one after another:

"Exactly, Mr. Horton. You treat an illegitimate daughter

like a treasure. If she's so precious, she shouldn't be brought out to embarrass herself!"

"Of all people, Lewis Horton is infatuated with a

woman, to the point of being blinded, who would have thought..."

"Hey, illegitimate daughter, if I were you, I'd just be his canary and not leave home to embarrass him!"

Amidst the mockery of the crowd, Isla and Jake exchanged glances, excitement gleaming in their eyes.

This time, Keira had made a huge fool of herself!

Once back home, Nathan would certainly seize this point to push for their divorce again.

How could the Horton family have such a disgraceful hostess?!

Isla took the opportunity to speak. "Mr. Olsen, please be reasonable. My aunt has never seen such a scene..."

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Ellis snickered. "It's so disappointing to have something that can't even make a public appearance!"

After saying that, his gaze turned back to the racetrack, and upon spotting Chasing Wind, his eyes immediately lit up. He then said to Lewis, "I've long heard there's a horse in Oceanion named Chasing Wind, and seeing it today, it truly is outstanding.

Lewis, a hero deserves a splendid horse. With you, the horse is just a tool to amuse a beauty. How about this, since your wife dares not race with me, why don't you sell the horse to me? Name your price!"

Ellis had long been drooling over Chasing Wind.

Fine horses were hard to come by, especially one with a wild temper that only obeyed its master. It was a genuine treasure for any horse enthusiast.

Seeing Chasing Wind leisurely strolling in the racetrack with Lewis had nearly infuriated him.

In his view, a horse like Chasing Wind deserved respect!

Lewis replied coldly, "Not for sale."

Ellis pressed on, "Yet you let this illegitimate daughter to anail it? When we were in school hour did I not

11:42

realize you had become so lovesick?"

He frowned. "Moreover, I heard that when Chasing Wind was sent to Oceanion, no one could tame it; it nearly starved to death alive! It was Oceanion's most skilled horse trainer who subdued it in the end. Are you really honoring the trainer's efforts by doing this?"

Someone behind him asked, "Which horse trainer?"

Ellis explained, "In recent years, a horse trainer appeared in Oceanion. Rumor has it she's a woman who can tame any horse. Many untamable wild horses would rather die of starvation than submit, but this

trainer really understands them. The horses she has tamed still retain their wild nature; she's quite

remarkable!”

“A woman? Taming horses? Is that true?”

Ellis snickered, “Of course, it’s true. Chasing Wind was tamed by that person. Just look at its condition now...”

Leaving behind those words, he was so transfixed that he entered the horse ring and walked up to Chasing

Wind.

His passion for horses had reached an obsessive level, and he exclaimed in astonishment “Look at that shiny

1/4

coat and all those muscles. It’s just standing there, yet I can imagine how the muscle lines would flow when it’s running at full speed... Do you know what the most incredible thing about that horse trainer is? The wild horses she tames hardly ever get hurt...”

Ellis said, “I really want to meet her!”

Jake said hastily, “Then, Mr. Olsen, stay a few more days. I’ll invite her over, so you two can meet.”

Ellis immediately scoffed. “Clance is so far from Oceanion; I’m staying a few days for sure. But you don’t need to call anyone. If I get any news of that horse trainer, I’ll personally pay her a visit...”

Someone beside them laughed. “Mr. Olsen, it’s just a horse trainer. Is it worth it?”

Ellis lifted his chin right away. “How is it not worth it? So many strong men can’t tame that valuable horse, yet she can. She’s truly a heroine among women!”

After saying that, he deliberately looked toward Keira. “Unlike some people who have never ridden a horse. She still needs someone to hold the reins when riding a horse. How pretentious!”

Keira the horse trainer herself was just called

11

678

pretentious...

She figured it out.

Ellis wasn't displeased with her identity; he disliked her

as a person.

Thinking about it carefully, she knew what was going on. It must be because of something Isla had said...

While she was pondering, Lewis had already stepped forward. "Ellis, if you have the guts, race me on horseback. What kind of man constantly targets

women?!"

Ellis chuckled. "I wouldn't compete with you. I couldn't beat you abroad, so I'm not stupid enough to humiliate myself here." UPDATE FROM FindNovel .NET

After saying that, he approached Chasing Wind, subconsciously wanting to pat its head.

But he didn't expect that in the next moment, Chasing Wind suddenly lifted its front hoof, let out a neigh, and aimed a kick at Ellis's groin!

Ellis was terrified and immediately took two steps back, stabilizing himself just in time.

The others didn't believe this was happening, and one

11:42

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167 Horse Trainer

muscular man shouted, "Hey, is this horse that wild? I'll

give it a try!"

He grabbed the reins and mounted the horse.

He was Ellis's exclusive riding coach, usually the best at taming horses, but Chasing Wind was different from ordinary wild horses. As soon as the man mounted, it immediately started bucking in place.

Not even two minutes had passed before it threw him

off!

“What a fiery horse,” praised the coach.

The people around them immediately gathered to watch the horse.

After throwing off the rider, Chasing Wind instantly raised its head and spun in place. It was an arrogant pose.

Others wanted to step forward and try, but the coach stopped them. “This horse isn’t to be trifled with. I just provoked it, and now it’s in a state of agitation. It could be dangerous to approach.”

Everyone immediately started to back away.

Keira was enjoying the commotion; just as she was

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167 Horse Trainer

about to take a step back, a sudden force from behind pushed her forward, sending her straight in front of Chasing Wind!

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Chapter 168

168 Ridm

168 Riding a Horse

“Keira!” a

Lewis wanted to go to her rescue, but his arm was grabbed by Jake. “Uncle, don’t go over there; it’s dangerous!”

Lewis instinctively tried to break free from the grip, but he was surrounded by people, which prevented him from moving freely. He could only punch Jake hard

in the chest.

Then he tried to push through the crowd...

At the forefront of the crowd were Ellis and his coach.

Seeing Keira rushing over, Ellis’s pupils shrank, and he immediately cursed. “What an idiot!”

He wanted to step forward to rescue her, but the coach stopped him. “This horse is too fierce and wil you can’t go near it. It’s too dangerous!”

Ellis frowned tightly and couldn’t help but swear angrily. “What is this illegitimate daughter doing? Has she lost her mind? Didn’t she hear a word we just said? We told her not to get close...”

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1/9

“Lewis, did you marry a wife who has no brain?”

Lewis had already broken free from the crowd and

arrived in front of Ellis. Hearing this, he didn't have time to argue and rushed into the middle of the horse

ring.

His heart was almost in his throat.

At that moment, he couldn't help but feel an intense

regret.

Why hadn't he held on tight to Keira's hand just now? He had let her get pushed to the front of Chasing Wind by the crowd...

Since being purchased, Chasing Wind had remained untamed. It took Lewis several days and nights to get it to acknowledge him as its master, and over the years, Chasing Wind had injured numerous staff members...

No one, man or woman, dared to get too close to it.

Keira was...

Just as Lewis was about to rush in to rescue her, the next moment, he was stunned by the scene before

him.

2/9

But he saw Chasing Wind, which had been raging, spinning on the spot, and neighing nonstop, suddenly shivered when Keira approached. It then became quiet, lowered its proudly held head, and even rubbed its horse face against Keira's shoulder.

The crowd was perplexed.

Why did it feel like there was a hint of ingratiating on the part of the horse?

Keira extended her hand to stroke the horse's head,

and the horse immediately calmed down. The fierceness and restlessness that had just been there

seemed to vanish in an instant.

It even started wagging its tail like a dog.

The crowd was dumbfounded.

There was a silence all around.

After a short pause, Ellis said excitedly, "Lewis, your horse is practically psychic! Does it know this woman is your wife, and so it's also gentle with her?!"

Those behind him seemed to realize something, and they began to praise Chasing Wind.

"This horse is truly amazing it understands so much!"

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"Almost like a thinking human..."

"My goodness, I actually witnessed worldly sophistication in a horse!"

"No wonder Mr. Olsen likes this horse so much; I

suddenly like it too... Such unabashed favoritism is just incredible!"

Seeing that the discussion among the crowd was heading off-track, Isla started to worry. She hurriedly steered the conversation back. "Uncle, it looks like you've been bringing Keira here often! We had no idea... But that makes sense; you've been married for two years now and have been keeping it a secret from us, especially Keira. My mom has been kept in the dark..."

Intentionally phrasing it this way, she indeed misled

Ellis.

Who knew what means this illegitimate daughter, used to marry Lewis? Wouldn't she then be able to strut around the Olsen family as she pleased? She must have

added more trouble for Mrs. Olsen.

Thinking of the ardor given by his unalo

As much as Ellis admired Chasing Wind at that moment, that's how much disdain he had for Keira

Olsen!

He said, "Keira Olsen, since you're often brought here by Lewis, I suppose your equestrian skills should be passable. Come on, let's all run a lap together for fun!"

With a wave of his hand, someone led a horse over.

The young gentlemen around him each mounted their

horses.

Ellis also chose a chestnut horse and mounted it.

Sitting on the horse, he looked imposing and condescendingly said to Keira. "Hurry up and mount, Keira. You can at least mount a horse, can't you?"

The others laughed.

"No way, right? Isn't that the first thing you learn in a riding lesson?"

"Just now I saw Mr. Horton carry her down, so it seems she really can't mount a horse..."

"It might also be that she's too scared. That move by Chasing Wind probably scared the wits out of her..."

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Amidst the discussion, Isla walked up to Lewis. "Uncle

Lewis, I think you should apologize to Mr. Olsen and not let Keira run the race. What if something really happened?"

This made everyone's gaze fall back on Lewis once

more.

However, Lewis kept his eyes fixed on the woman in the middle of the horse arena...

Everyone thought Chasing Wind was being polite to Keira because of Lewis, but only Lewis knew that this was their first time at the equestrian center and Chasing Wind's temperament wouldn't allow it to be so

docile in front of her just because she had ridden it for a lap earlier.

Chasing Wind had never been so submissive even in front of him!

Tying this with what Ellis had just mentioned, that in the entire Oceanion, only one horse trainer had ever

tamed this horse...

So...

Deep down, Lewis had a vague guess!

Indeed, the next moment, he saw Keira flash him a smile and said, "Then let's run a lap."

"Let's go!"

The young gentlemen around her immediately kicked their horses, and the animals began running around

the arena.

Among these figures were girls...

After all, equestrian lessons might now be considered their regular courses, and furthermore, those rich heirs who really disliked horseback riding wouldn't Follow current NOVELS on (Find)NOVEL.NET

come to today's equestrian meetup.

Ellis looked at Keira and laughed arrogantly. "Get on the horse!"

Keira once again stroked Chasing Wind's head.

Chasing Wind was incredibly tall, and the stirrups were fitted for Lewis's height. It was a bit difficult for Keira to step up, and just as she was about to grab hold of the saddle behind Chasing Wind and swing herself onto the horse, a tall figure suddenly approached.

Lewis came in front of her, his hands braced together.

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Then he bent down slightly, his features like a painting. His voice was low and magnetic. "Let me help you get on."

Keira looked into his dark eyes and smiled faintly.

She stepped on the back of Lewis's hands and as he lifted her with force, she used the momentum to leap onto the horse, then firmly planted her feet in the stirrups and tightened the reins!

This fluid movement dazzled Lewis.

Ellis sneered, "All flash and no substance. What's the use of these fancy moves? If you've got the skills, then

run!"

The others laughed as well.

"For girls, looking good is enough. Mr. Olsen, you don't seriously think she can compete with us in speed, do you?"

"If she can ride around smoothly, that's all that matters! She's an illegitimate daughter who has never taken a riding lesson. How could she possibly outrun you?"

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Among the low murmur of the crowd, Keira suddenly raised her eyebrows at Lewis, then shifted her gaze back. She lightly patted Chasing Wind and said, "Go!"

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Terrible

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Chapter 169

169 Bully

Hearing Keira's clear voice, Chasing Wind began to trot at a leisurely pace.

Keira wasn't trying to show off her skills, nor did she intend to flaunt anything. She just wanted to complete a lap and get the task done.

That way, Lewis wouldn't lose face because of her.

It would also keep Ellis from being so arrogantly triumphant.

Dressed in white riding gear, her spine ramrod straight, she rode the tall horse at a leisurely pace, unwittingly becoming the center of attention for

everyone present.

Isla also mounted a horse.

There was no help for it. With Ellis entering the equestrian arena, they all wanted to accompany him, and her slow riding wasn't a big deal as long as she didn't break into a run. There would be no risk to her

unborn child.

Isla was followed by a few lackeys she had summoned,

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and those women were flattering her with beaming smiles:

"Miss Isla, your mother is really impressive. She's able

to invite Mr. Olsen from Clance to this kind of

equestrian gathering!"

"Not just Mr. Olsen. Don't underestimate the other young masters from those families! Their family backgrounds are quite formidable as well!"

"Isla, I used to think your family was just a middle-class household, but who would have known you had such powerful connections? Why didn't you show off before? Your family is so low-profile!"

"Isla, your family name is also Olsen. Is your family related to the Clance Olsen family?"

Isla had already looked into this matter.

Indeed, there was a connection.

Taylor was a very distant relative of the Clance Olsen Family, separated by many generations, and due to the distance, there had been no contact between the two

families.

Taylor grew up in Oceanion and went to university in

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Clance.

After graduating, he married Mrs. Olsen, Jodie South,
and it was only after this that he returned to

Oceanion...

When Mrs. Olsen was in Clance, she made contact

with many prominent young people from powerful families, and it seemed she had a pretty good relationship with them.

This time, she just casually sent a few messages to those in Clance, and some of the people who came today did so because of Ellis, but others came out of respect for Mrs. Olsen's family.

In any case, these rich second-generation individuals indeed represented a formidable network of

connections.

When Isla turned her gaze to Ellis, she saw that Jake had already mingled among them, chatting and laughing.

Ellis, as the standout of this generation in the Olsen family, might have been showy in his actions, but he took very good care of Jake out of respect for Mrs. Olsen.

At least, however, Ellis felt inside, he appeared to get well with Jake on the surface.

along very

But Jake was young and eager after all. He already wore a hint of pride on his face, unlike Lewis's maturity and depth.

Isla's eyes flickered.

If she had known earlier that Mrs. Olsen had so many connections, she wouldn't have set her sights on Jake. If she could have married Lewis, she wouldn't have to

live so hard now.

Keira really has good fortune!

Isla glanced at Keira, nudged her horse, and picked up the pace to catch up with her. “Keira, Chasing Wind really understands humans. You’re so stable on your first ride, and it hasn’t even shown its temper to you.”

This comment made the group of rich heiresses following her laugh.

“Judging by her appearance, this can’t be her first time riding experience. Who wouldn’t be scared their first time?”

“It’s definitely not her first time. Didn’t you hear?”

When Miss Isla was taking riding lessons as a child, she was there, acting as a human stepping block for Miss

Isla!”

s that still a thing? I’ve only seen it on TV, where eunuchs would kneel down and let the emperor step on their backs to mount a horse. I’ve never seen it in

real life. Miss Isla, why don’t you and Keira perform it

for us?”

Isla’s smile deepened at the corners of her lips. “Don’t say that, times have changed. Now, Keira is my aunt, and my uncle is right here watching...”

“That doesn’t change the fact that she’s an illegitimate daughter! I heard when she was younger, she even had to fetch wash water for your feet?”

“Ew, a foot-washing maid. How disgusting!”

Keira’s eyes turned cold as she stared straight at Isla. “It was you who pushed me just now, wasn’t it?”

Isla narrowed her eyes. “Keira, what are you talking about? I don’t understand... But Mr. Horton’s horse is quite temperamental; you really have to be careful...”

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Keira said nothing further and simply gave Chasing Wind’s reins a gentle tug.

Chasing Wind immediately showed an unruly and impatient demeanor, casting a glare at Isla’s horse, snorting softly through its nostrils.

Isla’s horse was suddenly startled and took a half-step to the side, its front hooves collapsing with a thud, making Isla tumble directly off the horse!

Isla rolled off, her riding outfit now smeared with dust from the ground.

But because the ground of the riding arena was loose and soft, it didn't cause much harm to her unborn child.

However, she was in a totally disheveled state, and it was exceedingly embarrassing.

"Miss Olsen!"

Staff and her lackeys rushed to her side, asking anxiously, "Are you alright?"

Isla clenched her fists tightly. "Keira, you did that on purpose!"

Keira leisurely adjusted the reins. "What are you

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talking about? I don't understand. Plus, it's my first

time riding a horse; I don't know how to control it. Mr. Horton's horse is very fierce. Isn't your horsemanship supposed to be good? How could you get so close to me? That was quite careless, wasn't it?"

Isla was speechless!

Those words sounded all too familiar!

She trembled with anger.

Just then, Jake and Ellis noticed the commotion here

and had already galloped over.

Jake alighted from his horse and walked over to Isla's side. "Is the baby alright?"

Isla really wanted to roll her eyes.

But seeing Ellis also looking over, she stared direct Keira, her lips quivering. "Aunt, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have been disrespectful to you. I shouldn't have let everyone bring up your status as an illegitimate daughter..."

She lowered her head, and with a voice of

aggravement, she said, "When I get back, I'll persuade my mother properly. I'll accept you and stop picking

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fights with you... You can come back to the Olsen

family whenever you want. I won't dare stop you again, but can you please not harbor any ill intentions toward my baby? It's innocent!" The source of this content is (F)indN(o)VEL.NET

As she spoke, her eyes reddened.

Keira frowned tighter. "What are you talking about? When did I ever want to return to the Olsen family?

Mrs. Olsen has never blamed me..."

Isla immediately nodded. "Of course, my mother wouldn't dare blame you... After all, you are now my

uncle's wife in the eyes of the law..."

Hearing this, Ellis grew more and more annoyed. Suddenly, without a word, he rode over to Keira's side, then fiercely whipped her horse's hindquarters!

Chasing Wind, startled, leapt forward and began to swiftly.

Ellis, an excellent rider himself, followed right beside Chasing Wind and sneered. "Miss Olsen, you like to bully others with your power? Then let's give you a taste of your own medicine!"

Keira was perplexed.

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Chapter 170

170 Horse Racing and Face-Slapping

Keira frowned, about to speak, when Ellis's whip snapped against Chasing Wind's butt once more, suddenly boosting its speed again!

Ellis's expression was grim, tinged with anger.

Today, he was determined to teach this illegitimate daughter a lesson!

With him there to protect her, she wouldn't die from a fall, but he could scare her to death!

Ellis had always enjoyed playing such cruel jokes since he was young. He lost count of the number of girls he had driven to despair on horseback, making them cry and beg for mercy in utter humiliation.

After dismounting, they would sometimes even soil themselves.

The malicious daughters of the wealthy aristocratic families were all subdued by his lessons, earning him the reputation of a devil incarnate in Clance.

Today, he wanted the illegitimate daughter to run for her life in utter disarray, preferably scared out of her

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wits, fleeing in a most disgraceful way, so that she lose all face and never be able to attend any social event again.

Let's see how she would bully Mrs. Olsen and her daughter after that!

With that thought in mind, Ellis lashed Chasing Wind on its butt once again with his whip.

Chasing Wind's speed surged anew!

Ellis's horse almost couldn't keep up.

He followed closely behind, sneering as he watched the girl in front.

But seeing as Chasing Wind was moving too fast, Keira leaned forward, almost flat against the horse...

Her posture was correct, but her face must be contorted with fear by now, right?

Ellis snickered, his voice calm and composed, "Keira, beg me now, and if you apologize to Isla after this, I'll let you off. How about it?"

However, the girl lying on the horse's back turned her head at that moment.

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Her bright eyes were still cool and calm, and with barely parted lips, she said, "Mr. Olsen, how about we make a bet?"

Ellis believed she was definitely feigning that calm

demeanor!

He asked disdainfully, "What bet?"

"Those flags up ahead will mark the finish line. Let's see who can get there faster

Ellis scoffed. "You're overestimating yourself! Fine,

what's the stake?"

"If I lose, I'll apologize to Isla as you just said."

Keira said indifferently, "But if I win, you go to Lewis and bow your head, admitting you'll never be his equal!"

Ellis burst into laughter. "You just want me to let you go, don't you? You think I can't see your little ploy? B I accept your bet!"

At that moment, he had to admit he was somewhat impressed by Keira. Despite the situation, she was able to respond with such ease.

Coming un with this betting idea to make him let her

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go was quite shrewd.

Anyway, if she lost, she would still have to apologize to Isla, so he considered giving her a way out.

After leaving that comment, Ellis was ready to overtake Chasing Wind on the inside, assuming Keira would slow down, but just as he sped up...

“Go!”

Keira kicked the horse’s sides with both feet, and with a calm, bright voice, pushed Chasing Wind to increase its pace!

Ellis only saw a blur as Chasing Wind suddenly went a horse’s length ahead of him!

Ellis was stunned.

Kei skilled riding, her cool and collected demeanor,

and the clear sound of her voice when she accelerated

all made him realize, she was no novice!

Ellis lashed his own horse’s tail fiercely, determined to catch up.

How could his horsemanship possibly be worse than that of an illegitimate daughter?!

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On the other side, Isla and the others had long since stopped and were watching the activity in the horse

field.

Isla looked down at the dust covering her clothes and the layer of dust on her hair, clenching her fists.

Someone immediately tried to restore her dignity.

“Miss Isla’s equestrian skills have always been excellent; she’s always been one of the best among

us...”

“Exactly, Miss Isla has been outstanding since she was young and has always been the child our parents compared us to. Every time they brought her up, they told us to learn from Miss Isla...”

“Speaking of which, Keira is famously just a pretty face right? I remember back at school, she was always the worst student in class... It’s true what they say about children born to different mothers!”

“She’s not only bad at studying, but she’s bad at everything, after all, she comes from such a lowly birth...”

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“Look over there!”

While a few people were mocking in secret, suddenly a shocked cry made everyone turn to look at the field!

They saw Keira and Ellis say something, and then Chasing Wind had started to gallop rapidly, quickly throwing Ellis’s horse behind!

The few people who were chatting were astonished.

Jake stared blankly at the equestrian field and saw Keira’s poised and impressive stature. He blurted out in disbelief, “How could she possibly ride a horse?!”

Isla was also stunned, incredulously watching the equestrian field.

Equestrianism had always been her proudest activity; she’d won quite a few competitions in it, and that was why she dared to hold this banquet to entertain Ellis,

but how could...

The speed at which Keira was now riding was something she’d never achieved!

Isla clenched her fists tightly, then suddenly said, “It must be because Chasing Wind is such a good horse... Yes, this horse is a prestigious Ferghana horse. No

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wonder so many people want good horses. The bonus a good horse brings is all too significant!”

Jake also tensed his jaw. “Right, it must be that...”

The rest seemed to refuse to accept the fact that Keira could outrun them at horse riding, and so they were all swayed by this reasoning.

“Keira is racing against Mr. Olsen. Even if she wins, it’s not something to be proud of. After all, Mr. Olsen’s horse is just an ordinary one...”

“Chasing Wind is not only famous in Oceanion but all over Crera. it has a pure Ferghana horse pedigree...” This chapter is updated by FindNovel.net

While the crowd was abuzz with discussion, Ellis cursed under his breath. “Damn it, Keira, even if you win, it’s only because of that horse. If I had brought n Rising Sun here, you definitely wouldn’t have beaten me! Giddy up!”

He was furious as he whipped his horse again.

His horse was also one of the better ones at the

Horton family Horse Field, second only to Chasing Wind.

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However, due to its pedigree, its speed had already

reached its peak, and now, with this incessant urging, it suddenly became spooked

But then, the horse suddenly lost control, leaped out of the equestrian track’s railing, and bolted away!

Ellis was immediately stunned. He pulled hard on the

reins but to no avail!

The entire equestrian field erupted in chaos.

That was a very serious horse-riding accident! If not handled carefully, Ellis might fall off the horse and die!

The horse field's trainers and Ellis's instructors all

panicked. They quickly mounted horses in pursuit, and the ambulance nearby roared into action, attempting

to save him!

Isla and Jake exchanged glances.

In their eyes, in addition to panic, a hint of excitement suddenly emerged.

The accident with Ellis happened while he was racing against Keira. If Ellis's family pursued the matter for accountability, they would certainly demand an explanation from Lewis!

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Having offended the Clance Olsen family... Lewis's days would be numbered!

They hadn't anticipated this twist at the equestrian visit. What an unexpected joy!

With this thought, a touch of excitement surfaced in their eyes.

Lewis also frowned and ran a few steps to the horse nearby, trying to join the rescue.

Ellis was a person of special status; an accident like this would be difficult to explain to the Clance Olsen family!

But he was far from the spot where Ellis had been racing, and with the spooked horse accelerating, he had no chance of catching up.

Just when everyone held their breath, fearing a major

catastrophe was coming...

The agile figure of Chasing Wind suddenly leapt into the air, jumped the railing, and went straight after Ellis!

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Chapter 171

171 Save Him

Everyone was stunned.

When Chasing Wind leaped over the railing, the whole horse almost seemed to fly.

Its pale golden fur shone with a brilliant luster under the sunlight.

Such speed and height made everyone's hearts leap to their throats. An average person would surely be thrown off the horse's back by such a maneuver, and even the riding coaches couldn't guarantee their own safety!

They could almost picture Keira being tossed off, crashing heavily into the ground, and then having her ribs crushed by the horse's hooves...

That bloody scene made everyone unable to bear watching!

Some of the young ladies of the rich families exclaimed in shock, subconsciously covering their eyes.

Others who were braver watched intently, worrying

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171 Save Him

about Keira...

But the anticipated gruesome scene didn't occur. Keira's entire body was flat against the horse, and she was pulling the reins with one hand. The moment Chasing Wind leaped and landed, she remained firmly seated on its back!

Her figure merged with that of Chasing Wind, making her look like an equestrian deity descending from the

heavens!

“Holy shit! It actually worked!”

A rich young man who had been riding with Ellis exclaimed, unable to help himself. “That illegitimate daughter is kind of badass!”

The coach nearby breathed a sigh of relief but then frowned with worry. “This is just the first obstacle. The main thing is to see what happens next...”

His words made the people who had just relaxed tense up again!

Yes, jumping the railing was only the first obstacle. The most important part was catching up to Ellis’s horse, and then figuring out how to soothe it and make it calm down! The link to the origin of this information rests in FindNovel .NET

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171 Save Him

Currently, the horse was in panic mode, and a non-professional horse trainer would never be able to

calm it down quickly.

Everyone frowned again.

Ellis felt he was done for.

He had tried all methods he knew to calm the horse, but still, he couldn’t get it to stop. He could feel the horse’s violence and unease from under him.

The speed of the horse kept increasing, and his body was being jolted so violently that even clinging to it tightly did no good.

At this speed, if the horse went berserk...

There was almost no chance of survival!

Ellis frowned tightly, but he didn’t regret taking the illegitimate daughter seriously.

She relied on a good marriage to bully Mrs. Olsen and her daughter, and he would teach her a lesson next time to take up for Mrs. Olsen!

He just felt some regret that he hadn't lived long

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171

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enough!

He hadn't found a wife for his third uncle yet...

And he hadn't managed to trick Lewis back home to marry his cousin...

What he regretted most was that he had come all the

way to Oceanion and hadn't even met that legendary horse trainer!

What a loss! His life had been too much of a loss.

As Ellis was thinking about this, a neigh suddenly came from behind him. With a slight turn of his head, he saw Keira, her face tense, rushing up beside him like a

heroine.

Ellis immediately frowned and said, "What are you doing catching up?"

Keira' frowned as she stared at his horse. "Hold on

tight. Grab the reins..."

Ellis was immediately astonished, "You want to save me? Stop joking around. With your skills, you'll just be sending yourself to death too!"

Keira gave him a cold glance and didn't speak, still observing the horse.

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171 Save Him

Horses wouldn't just go mad for no reason, especially those from the Horton family. Apart from Chasing Wind, they had all been tamed and were very gentle by nature.

There must be something that agitated this horse. Keira observed to find the root cause...

Yet Ellis scoffed. "What? Are you afraid that if I die, I'll bring trouble for you? Then carry some guilt and stop bullying Mrs. Olsen and her daughter in the future! I despise nothing more than seeing others smugly triumphant!"

Keira said, "Shut up!"

Ellis went on. "Right, can I ask you a favor?"

Keira still said nothing.

Ellis coughed. "My idol is that mysterious horse train from Oceanion. If you meet her, please tell her I

admire her."

Upon hearing this, Keira suddenly showed a strange look in her eyes.

She gave Ellis a long look.

This man wasn't bad, actually. Even when he forced

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171 Save Him

her into a horse race, he had remained by her side, shielding her. Otherwise, Keira wouldn't have bothered playing the saint to save him

"Your horse riding skills are actually pretty good. You ride so fast yet so steadily. It seems you're not just a pretty face. Lewis does have some taste... But don't chase after me. Don't overestimate yourself. You're risking your own life..."

Keira sighed, then sped up once more!

Chasing Wind caught up with the other horse...

Ellis panicked. "Hey, what are you doing? You're not intending to die with me, are you? It looks like you're preparing for a lovers' suicide, which is entirely

unnecessary..."

Before he could finish his sentence, his eyes widened in shock.

To his surprise, the woman in front of him suddenly stood up on horseback, hanging off the side of Chasing Wind like a circus performer, and with a burst of speed from Chasing Wind, she leaped up!

Then, Ellis felt a weight behind him. She was already sitting there her arm reaching past him to grab the

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171 Save Him

horse's reins!

Ellis was shocked.

He was horrified. "Hey, illegitimate daughter, do you have a death wish?! Even if you jump over, it's useless. You can't calm this horse down... This is practically suicide! You..."

There was no saddle or stirrups in the position behind him, and with the horse moving so fast, Keira would immediately be thrown off!

He instinctively looked aside and heard the woman's crisp, calm voice of disdain in his ears. "Shut up, you're so annoying!"

Ellis was speechless.

Just as he was about to say something else, the woman's voice came from behind him again, "Sit tight

and hold on!"

Before he could understand her intentions, Ellis felt his waist being embraced, and then the woman's body soared, performing a side flip from behind him to his front.

Next, Keira grabbed the reins and took control of the

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171 Save Him

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horse.

She leaned down, gently stroking the horse's head, then pulled back hard on the reins while simultaneously lying down to touch the horse's belly...

"It's no use. I've tried that all already! If you jumped over just to do this, it's really unnecessary. Do you think you're my idol?"

Having his reins taken away, Ellis could only grasp Keira's slender shoulders. He had been on the horse the whole time and was acutely aware of the horse's agitation and acceleration.

Since the horse began panicking, he had constantly tried these comforting gestures, but they were of no

use.

Therefore, seeing Keira making the same moves as he did, he couldn't help but frown and speak out.

But to his utter disbelief, almost immediately after he spoke, he felt the horse beneath him gradually calming down!!

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Chapter 172

172 It Won't

Ellis was stunned.

It had to be an illusion!

The horse was still galloping but the speed at which the scenery on both sides was receding was indeed slowing down...

He looked at the girl sitting in front of him in astonishment.

Keira was bending over, still stroking the horse's head and body. She was still whispering something,

seemingly comforting the horse.

Chasing Wind had also caught up with them. It

gradually slowed down, leading their horse to a stop.

Keira finally sighed in relief.

And Ellis was already dumbfounded, looking at Keira in disbelief.

She actually managed to do it?!

How could this be...

Caught in his amazement, Lewis and several other

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C172 It Won't

security personnel came galloping over on horseback, surrounding them and were immediately stunned by

the scene.

Lewis's gaze immediately fell on Keira, and upon seeing that she had no visible injuries, he finally relaxed.

Then his cold eyes fell on Ellis's hands had on Keira's shoulder, and if looks could kill, Ellis's paw would have been butchered a thousand times over by now!

He rode forward and coughed. "Ellis, haven't you had enough riding? Are you not afraid the horse will get spooked again?"

Only then did Ellis snap back to reality and immediately dismounted.

Lewis then looked toward Keira. "Keira, you..."

"I'm fine." Keira didn't dismount but continued to gently pat the horse's head, soothing its emotions.

Someone couldn't help but ask, "Mrs. Horton, was it you who calmed the horse down?"

Another person chimed in. "The horse was in such a bad state just now, and it got calmed down like that?"

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172 It Won't

"No, that can't be possible, right? Under that condition, even a professional horse trainer might not be able to manage it... There have been several cases like this, ending in both human and horse deaths..."

"A similar situation occurred in Oceanion before, but at that time, it was resolved by that impressive, mysterious horse trainer..."

"The horse trainer? Mrs. Horton, you're not saying that you are...?"

Everyone gasped.

Lewis's eyes widened.

When Keira felt the horse beneath her was calm, she straightened up and let out a breath. Hearing everyone's speculation, she glanced at Ellis and saw that he had already widened his eyes in surprise...

Keira chuckled lightly, neither denying nor confirming it. "This horse got spooked because there was a wooden splinter on the whip, which Mr. Olsen had inadvertently dug into the horse's backside."

After saying this, she turned her palm over, revealing a wooden splinter.

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This was why she had flipped over to Ellis's back before calming the horse down from the front; when she landed behind Ellis, she pulled out the splinter

first.

Everyone saw the thick wooden splinter and gasped, then immediately turned to look at Ellis. "Mr. Olsen, how did such a large splinter get there?!"

Ellis was also dumbfounded and didn't speak for a moment.

Keira said indifferently, "Mr. Olsen, you were hitting the trees with this whip, weren't you?"

Ellis was dumbfounded.

He suddenly remembered that he hadn't been hitting trees with the whip, but when he was bullying Keira, he had used the whip to strike her horse's backside, and upon pulling it back, he had carelessly hit a wooden post...

That was truly a case of shooting oneself in the foot!

Ellis suddenly felt somewhat embarrassed.

For a moment, no one spoke, and there was an awkward silence.

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At that time, Jake and the others, some by car and some on horseback, finally arrived at the scene.

Without having seen clearly what had happened, they immediately gathered around Ellis. "Mr. Olsen, are you alright?"

Jake also started accusing Keira right away. "Keira, why are you being so serious with Mr. Olsen? If you hadn't raced with him, such an accident wouldn't have occurred! Uncle, I think you must give an explanation to Mr. Olsen today!"

At these words, Ellis felt even more embarrassed.

Lewis scoffed. "Ellis, what kind of explanation do you want?"

Ellis quickly touched his nose and hesitated. "Well..."

He cleared his throat, "Today, Mrs. Horton saved my life, so I owe her a favor. Lewis, Mrs. Horton, if there's anything you need help with in the future, as long as it's within my capacity, I'm willing to lend a hand once."

Upon hearing this, Jake was surprised.

The distance was too great from where they were

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standing, and he hadn't seen what had happened clearly. Did Keira save Ellis? How could that be possible?

SO

When did her horse riding skills get good?!

Leaving those words behind, Ellis then got into the car to head back. "Alright, it was just a small matter. Let's return to the party and have some fun..."

Jake wanted to say something but knew it wasn't the time to question it and immediately followed Ellis back.

After getting into the car, Ellis's gaze stealthily shifted toward Keira.

Now what should he do?

He now owed this illegitimate daughter such a big favor. How could he help his uncle to protect Mrs. Olsen and teach Keira a lesson?

That was really too much!

A group of people quickly surrounded Ellis and left.

Keira, on the other hand, rode her horse alongside

Lewis on their way back.

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The two of them rode side by side, chatting as they went along.

Lewis looked at her and suddenly asked, "You said you couldn't ride horses."

Keira immediately coughed and looked away evasively. "I didn't say that. I just said horse riding was quite

fun..."

Lewis laughed, "Yeah, I was just a bit curious..."

"Curious about what?"

"I'm curious if there's really anything my wife can't do?"

Keira stiffened.

He called her "my wife"!

His voice was deep, and the two words he uttered were very magnetic as if something swept across her

heart...

Keira's cheeks turned slightly red, and she smiled with a smirk. "There are still things I can't do."

"Like what?"

"Well, I can't... pee standing up?" Follow current novels on Find_Novel.net

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Lewis was dumbfounded.

“Go!”

Keira turned her head back with a smile, raised an eyebrow at him, then accelerated past the cars and ran toward the equestrian field.

Lewis watched her from behind, smiling indulgently, and sped up to chase after her...

Keira returned on horseback faster than they did by car.

After dismounting with a flourish, she tossed the reins to a staff member and walked over to the rest area, then picked up a bottle of water and began to drink.

After riding for around two hours, she was indeed a bit tired.

Just then, she saw Frankie rushing over with Rebecca.

Upon seeing her, Frankie immediately sighed in relief. “Rebecca insisted on coming over, so I went to the entrance to pick her up. When we came back, I heard that Ellis caused you trouble? Are you alright?”

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“I'm fine.”

Keira looked toward Rebecca.

Rebecca had already run to her side and took her arm. “Miss Keira, do you want to continue playing?”

“I'm done playing,” Keira stretched out a bit. “I'm tired.”

“Then come with us. It's dusty and boring here. Let's go back now, brother. Mom and Dad are waiting for Miss Olsen!”

Keira said, "Okay."

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