

## Chapter 24 "I miss you, Nora."

"Nora, please come to see me! I want to know you are still alive."

"I don't want you to die and I don't want your cornea."

"Not until now have I known what you have been through..."

Steward had realized that he loved Nora but it was too late.

He had already lost her.

He was attacked by a sudden great pain and his face turned pale. He felt like a sharp weapon was keeping stabbing him.

This house carried most of their memories after their marriage, but he couldn't find any good ones. In his eyes, the house was dark and lonely.

Steward said in silence to Nora, "I don't know when I started to love you but now I know clearly I have lost you for good."

"If I had known you would leave me after the surgery, I would rather stay in the darkness forever."

Steward cried with one hand holding the diary book and the other hand reaching out. He could catch nothing.

He had a lot of things to tell her and he was begging to see her in his dreams.

He finally fell asleep but there was no sight of Nora in his dreams. He had a light sleep and couldn't sleep again after waking up. So he was keeping his eyes open and waited for the dawn.

When the room became bright, Steward placed the diary book back to where he found it. He washed his face in cold water and then walked to the yard.

He was carefully digging under the osmanthus tree until he found the plum wine buried by Nora.

Steward, holding the green jar in his hands, walked into the house. He knocked on the mouth of the jar sealed by earth little by little.

He gently lifted the lid and the air was soon filled with an intoxicating smell.

He immediately covered the jar with the lid because he wanted to keep its good smell.

Slowly lowering his head, he pressed his cheek to the jar, and closed his eyes to imagine that it was Nora who had dug it out by hand.

Finally, he decided to pour it in a small bowl.

Looking at the clear wine in the bowl, Steward seemed to see Nora's smiling face.

"I miss you, Nora."

He tasted it carefully, and tried to keep this taste in his mind for the rest of his life.

Returning to the family business, Steward took over his father's work quickly. In fact, during the past two

years when he was blind, he had made many big decisions for the company.

His father could finally spend more time with his mother travelling around.

Steward was so busy at his work that he sometimes had little time having meals with his parents.

His father used to be mad at Steward fooling around all day but now he started to worry about him when he saw Steward work so hard.

He cleared his throat and asked, "Steward, are you going to be celibate forever?"

Steward did not reply and everything tasted like sawdust to him.

No matter how delicious the meal was, he could not be able to enjoy the delicacy of the food as if he had lost his palate.

He had never tasted what Nora made for him but now even if he wanted to, he couldn't eat it.

His father added, "I know you did not get back with your former girlfriend since you divorced..."

Steward paused for a while and said seriously, "There was no divorce."

"I thought you had already got divorced," said his mother.

Since Nora left, his mother thought Steward had made a bad decision.

"We hadn't got divorced legally. I had torn the

divorce paper off."

"Is it because you finally found Nora was a good girl? Did you regret what you had done to her? What a pity! Nora had already decided to leave you. I hope she has a good time abroad." Steward's mother sneered at him.

Steward's eyes turned red. "One day, they will all know about Nora's death," he thought.

Even if he kneels down before the Hills and begs for forgiveness, he could not bring Nora back.

If he could exchange his life for Nora's, he would die immediately without blinking an eye.

His father felt an aura of sadness and loneliness around Steward, and he gave his wife a jog, "Please stop talking about Nora."

Steward's mother ignored him, and she thought Steward deserved it since he did not cherish Nora when she was still with him.

She still couldn't forgive what her son had done to Nora.

"Dear, let's go abroad to find Nora next time and have a good time with her."

"Do you know where she is?"

"No, I don't know her place. I have lost touch with her for a while. I know she's a good girl and I have treated her as my own daughter..."

"Maybe she was afraid we are going to persuade

her to get back with Steward."

"I don't know. She hadn't texted me back. I would blame this on Steward!"

...

Steward put down the knife and fork. He should not have come back to his parent's home for his parents always reminded him that Nora had left him.

He wanted to pretend that Nora was still alive and living somewhere in the world. Maybe she just didn't want to see him.