

## Fled With CEO's Twin Babies Chapter 221 - 250

### Chapter 221 Dealt with Wendy

Shocking! After the crisis of falling in love with a man, Mr. Tony is suspected of kidnapping and being arrested by the police.#

Two hours later, the live broadcast room with this title suddenly became popular all over the Internet. Many netizens crowded into the live broadcast room to find out what was going on.

The stock price of the Pope Group had risen a little after Tony was driven out of the board of directors, but it fell to rock bottom again in less than two days.

Patrick was in a meeting when he noticed that there was something wrong with everyone's expressions. He frowned and asked, "What happened?"

A senior executive hesitantly picked up his mobile phone and showed it to Patrick.

At first glance, Patrick felt dizzy about this title. He grabbed the phone from the executive and clicked on it, just in time to see Tony being taken out of the room by the police.

The fainted Tony was dragged away like a dead dog, followed by a crying "victim".

All of a sudden, the blood in Patrick's body surged, making him completely faint.

Trevor, who was also shocked by Tony's big trouble, quickly stepped forward to support him and politely said to the group of executives, "It happened so suddenly today that Patrick couldn't stand it for a while. When we go back and investigate the whole matter, we will definitely give you an explanation."

The executives, who had some objections in their hearts, felt less dissatisfied when they saw that Trevor was so generous.

Moreover, everyone present was smart. Seeing that Tony had been put into prison, it was self-evident who would be the next owner of the Pope Group. Therefore, they had to show respect to Trevor.

Trevor didn't forget to send a thumbs-up emoji to Charlotte as he drove the unconscious Patrick to the hospital.

Charlotte didn't care about the chaos of the Pope Group. When she got home, she looked at the memory card she had just got.

Except for the memory card that recorded the naked Tony, she only read the beginning and looked carefully at the rest. After making sure that their conversation was recorded, she sent it to Joe and Officer Carter at the same time.

She didn't intend to provoke the relationship between Joe and Wendy and just didn't want to be hindered by Joe when the police arrested Wendy.

Not long after the recording was sent, Joe called her. "Did you get this recording yourself?"

Isn't it very

eyes were full of sarcasm. Arc

you going to say that I made it up?"

"That's not what I meant," Joc said in a heavy tone. "But you also know that a recording alone is not enough to convict Wendy."

"Of course I know." The sarcasm in Charlotte's eyes became more obvious. "I just hope that when the police come to investigate her, you can show mercy and let the police do the investigation."

Without waiting for Joe to speak, she continued, "If you insist on protecting her, I don't mind using my own way to get her to the police station. It's just that when that time comes, my methods won't be so gentle."

After that, she hung up the phone directly.

A busy tone came from the other end of the line. Joe frowned deeply.

He took out his mobile phone and looked at it for a moment. In the end, he did not call Wendy but simply told Jack a few words.

Half a day later, Wendy, who was filming on the spot, was stopped by several policemen in front of the crowd and they were ready to take her away.

Wendy shouted in a panic, “Who are you? What are you going to do?”

## Chapter 222 Wendy in a Panic

“Miss Swan, you are suspected of participating in a children’s kidnapping case. We hope you can cooperate with the investigation.” The policeman said lightly.

Wendy felt her heart skip a beat but still pretended to be calm. “Kidnapping? I don’t know what you’re talking about at all!”

Officer Carter had been used to meet this kind of people for a long time. He just said calmly, “Whether is yes or no, we will know it after you go to the police station with us for investigation. Now please cooperate with us.”

“Do you know who I am?” Of course, Wendy couldn’t leave with them. “I’m the future hostess of the Smith Group. If you take me away like this, can you afford the fluctuations in the stock price of the Smith Group?”

“I want to call your leader!” Wendy continued to shout arrogantly, “I’m innocent! You have no right to take me away!”

Officer Carter sneered and said, “I don’t know what kind of company can stand above the law of our country! Don’t worry, this time I come to take you away with the approval of our leader. If you have anything to do, you can go to the police station and find your lawyer later.”

Wendy did not believe that the police director would take the risk of offending the Smith Group to get someone to arrest her.

bribed by Charlotte? She must be in a miserable situation now. Is that why she wants to frame me?”

Officer Carter did not intend to continue arguing with her in front of others. He just made a gesture to the people around him and forcibly took Wendy away.

Although Wendy had been involved in all kinds of scandals. recently, ever since she officially became Joe's fiancée, the

people around her had selectively forgotten about those things. and began to curry favor with her.

Now, she was taken away by the police in public. Wasn't this a piece of breaking news?

For a moment, there were a lot of people on both sides of the road, and many of them were recording with their mobile phones.

Wendy almost fainted when she saw this scene!

How could the image she had just managed be destroyed in such a way?

"I want to call Joe." She shouted desperately, but Officer Carter did not agree to her request. "Your request can be discussed after you go to the police station."

Fortunately, Perry was smart enough to call Jack quickly.

After making sure that the call was connected, she hurriedly said,

ask Mr. Smith to save her!"

way by the police! Please

Jack sighed in his heart and said calmly, "Mr. Smith is in a meeting now. Please forgive me for not telling him. But if Miss Swan is innocent, I think she will be released soon."

After hanging up the phone, Perry was stunned.

Having been in the entertainment industry for so many years, how could she not understand his meaning?

It was obvious that Mr. Smith was going to give up on Wendy!

But how was that possible?! Weren't they engaged?

Perry looked blankly at the back of Wendy, who had been forcibly taken away. She was at a loss for a moment.

After getting in the police car, Wendy quieted down.

She looked at the policemen indifferently and said, "If I am released, I will definitely complain about you."

Officer Carter smiled and said, "Of course."

## Chapter 223 The Children Came Back

After arriving at the police station, Wendy was still arrogant. "I want to see your leader."

"Please correct your attitude, Miss Swan." Officer Carter stared at her with a serious look. "We didn't invite you to be a movie role. Please answer our questions honestly. Do you know Ariel Gresia or not?"

"Ariel? I don't know her." Wendy blinked and looked at Officer Carter innocently. "Did you bring me here because of a strange person? What crime did she commit?"

Officer Carter was noncommittal. At this time, his assistant came in and whispered a few words in his ear.

Wendy noticed his actions and said proudly, "Is Joe here? I want you to suffer."

Unexpectedly, it wasn't Joe, but Tony's testimony.

When Tony woke up, he realized that he had been taken to the police station. In the face of repeated interrogations by the police, he refused to admit it at first. It wasn't until he heard the recording handed over by Charlotte that he agreed dejectedly.

The lawyer of the Pope Group didn't come at the right time.

ty

his crime, he was

dumbfounded.

He had no choice but to ask Tony to insist that Wendy was the one behind him and that she had instigated him to kidnap the children. Therefore, Tony told the police the details about the deal he had made with Wendy and stated Ariel was found by Wendy.

The police officer interrogated Tony about the whereabouts of the children. Just as he was about to take his men to look for the children, he bumped into Gorya and Erik, who were rushing over with Ariel in tow.

“We are the bodyguards hired by Miss Clinton. We found her and the two children in the cave on the island,” Erik explained.

After finding the children, they covered Ariel’s eyes, threw her into the cave, and blurred her sense of time. She thought that she had been caught not long ago.

Officer Carter who came after hearing the news was stunned. He suddenly felt that such a scene was somewhat familiar.

“After the incident, we followed Miss Clinton’s request to look for the two children. Fortunately, we found them first.” Gorya handed over a video file, but of course, the time on it was deliberately blurred.

Officer Carter handed the video to his colleagues and subconsciously looked behind them. “Miss Clinton and the children...”

them for a physical examination.” Erik replied simply.

The long-term professional sensitivity made Officer Carter realize that the two of them were extraordinary.

Ordinary bodyguards should not be able to find the two children in such a short time, and they carefully left the surveillance video as evidence. They even answered all the questions in an orderly and reasonable way in the face of Officer Carter.

Both Gorya and Erik automatically ignored the suspicion in the eyes of Officer Carter.

On the other side, Charlotte held the two children for a long time and did not let them go.

Although she had confirmed their safety through the video call, she had not seen them with her own eyes. It was until now that Charlotte’s hanging heart slowly relaxed.

At the thought of almost losing them, Charlotte's heart was filled with fear.

Similarly, Ben and Anna hugged her neck tightly and refused to let her go.

Although Gorya and Erik tried their best to cover it up, they were both smart enough to guess that Miss Gresia might want to do something bad to them.

Until now, when they saw Charlotte, whose eyes were red, the speculation in their hearts was completely confirmed.

Anna nestled in Charlotte's arms and muttered softly, "Actually, I like Miss Gresia very much..."

Charlotte touched her head with distress. "How about I take you on a trip later?"

"Alright!"

## Chapter 224 Being a Father Was Extremely Failure

The two little guys, who were depressed just now, suddenly became energetic. Even Ben could not help discussing the trip with Anna in a low voice.

Charlotte couldn't help laughing. Sure enough, the children had no worries.

Standing not far behind them, Joe looked at the scene in front of him in silence. Jack reminded him softly, "Do you want to go forward and take a look at the children?"

Joe walked in Charlotte's direction.

Hearing the footsteps, she looked at him coldly and did not speak in a hurry.

Although Ben and Anna already knew Joe's identity, their relationship was not very close due to all the things that had happened before.

Now that they saw him, neither of them showed much joy on their faces.

Jack on the side quickly mediated, “He hasn’t slept well for two days in order to find you...”

indifferently.

Jack had to swallow the rest of the words.

Ben and Anna looked at each other and stepped forward politely. “Thank you, Dad.”

Looking at the polite and distant faces of the two children, Joe had a strange feeling in his heart.

To be honest, he was just maintaining his responsibility as a father to the two children. But now that the children were so distant from him, he suddenly felt he was a failure as a father.

Just as he was about to speak, Charlotte, who was not far away, raised her voice and said, “Mrs. River has cooked Paella for you. Do you want to eat it?”

The two children cheered at once. “Of course!”

After thanking Joe perfunctorily, they ran in Charlotte’s direction.

Joe’s face immediately darkened.

Watching Charlotte’s car drive away, Jack felt that Joe’s aura was almost condensed.

He silently took two steps back and didn’t say anything inappropriate.

After standing there for an unknown period of time, Joe said in a low voice, “Let’s go.”

“Where are we going?” Jack asked subconsciously and then realized that he had said something wrong. He quickly apologized, “I’m sorry...”

Joe gestured for him to stop saying and said, “Go to the police station.”

Although the children had been found, the play had to be finished. Charlotte would definitely go to the police station next.



As soon as Joc arrived at the police station, he happened to meet Penny who came to bail Wendy out. Seeing him, Penny was overjoyed. “Mr. Smith, are you here to bail Wendy out? She is so simple that she doesn’t even dare to kill a chicken. How could she kidnap the children? There must be a misunderstanding! Please uphold justice for her!”

Joe glanced at her indifferently and said, “As long as she doesn’t do it, I believe the police will definitely clear her name.”

Penny froze on the spot.

Why did it sound like something was wrong in his words? Was Mr. Smith not going to take care of Wendy anymore?

“Are we still going in?” Perry asked softly behind her.

Penny was upset at the moment, so she shouted at Perry, “Can’t you see that her fiancé is already here? Why do we need to get

into other people’s business?”

After said that, she left in a hurry. Anyway, if Wendy came out, she would have an excuse.

## Chapter 225 Framed Tony

When Charlotte arrived at the police station, Joe was already sitting behind the one-way glass, watching the police’s interrogation of Ariel.

Tony had now changed his words and said that the kidnapping case was all caused by Wendy. He just believed her words and used the children to threaten Charlotte. He didn’t do the crime.

successfully.

As for the couple, he refused to admit it. Mandy just wanted to disgust him, so she did not continue to frame him.

Wendy insisted that she did not know Ariel and had only met Tony twice. It was impossible for her to collude with him.

After the two sides argued, all the focus was on Ariel.

In the interrogation room, Officer Carter looked at Ariel seriously. “Ben and Anna are your students. Why did you kidnap them? Who ordered you to do this?”

Ariel lowered her head and refused to say anything.

“As a child’s trusted teacher, you actually kidnapped them. Don’t you feel guilty?” Officer Carter rebuked angrily.

Tears streamed down her face. After a long silence, she said in a hoarse voice, “I kidnapped them and I deserve to die, You can

Seeing such her behavior, Charlotte frowned tightly.

She had a hunch that it would not be easy for Ariel to tell the truth.

Sure enough, after saying this, Ariel stopped talking. No matter how Officer Carter threatened and bribed her, she said nothing.

In desperation, Officer Carler could only show the photos of Wendy and Tony. “Do you know them?”

Ariel widened her eyes slightly and pointed at Tony.

“He was the one who instructed me to do it.”

Ariel had been silent just now, but now she quickly accused Tony of bribing her and insisting that he wanted her to kidnap the two children.

Officer Carter frowned. “Why didn’t you say it before?”

“I didn’t know that you had caught him before, so I naturally didn’t say anything.” Ariel suddenly calmed down.

She told him everything from the moment Tony found her to the moment she was bribed.

In order to prove herself, she even took out a check signed by Tony from her underwear.

everything straightforwardly from beginning to end, which was completely different from her previous attitude.

Moreover, would Tony be so stupid as to bribe Ariel with a check he had signed himself?

However, Ariel insisted that Tony had bribed her and used the check as evidence. Officer Carter and the others checked her account but did not find any large amount of money in it. Even the apartment she rented was clean.

As a kindergarten teacher, she had nothing to do with Wendy. Officer Carter could only inform Tony of the investigation results.

Tony thought that he could escape from the crime easily and was stunned when he heard it!

He roared angrily, “It was that little b\*tch Wendy who framed me! It was she who bribed the teacher. What does it have to do with me?”

The lawyer next to him stopped him from being incompetent and furious. “Have you left any relevant evidence? For example, chat records, call recordings, or the surveillance video when you met...”

Every time the lawyer uttered a word, Tony looked even gloomier.

Only then did he remember that every time Wendy met him, she never contacted each other on the phone.

place. They had

She even said that she didn’t want to bear the cost of buying Ariel alone and asked him to write that check.

At that time, he was completely immersed in the joy of taking revenge on Charlotte. In addition, he was sure that Wendy would not dare to lie to him, so he did not pay attention to these details at all.

## Chapter 226 Dealt with Wendy

Now that he thought about it, he was afraid that Wendy was ready to use him as a scapegoat from the very beginning!

“Damn it!” Tony cursed crazily. If Wendy appeared in front of him now, he would probably tear her to pieces in an instant.

Charlotte did not expect Tony to be so stupid.

She didn’t believe that Wendy was innocent. It was just that Tony’s carelessness had unintentionally met her deliberate plan.

When Charlotte left the interrogation room, she happened to meet Wendy, who had been released.

“It’s you!”

Wendy looked at Charlotte in shock and immediately figured out the reason. “You must have deliberately asked someone to frame me!”

Charlotte glanced at her lightly and said, “If I had made up my mind to frame you, would you still be standing here and talking to me?”

“Besides...” Charlotte leaned closer to her. “Are you really innocent?”

Wendy was shocked. “What do you mean? Even the police have admitted

that

you

Say?

“In this world, as long as you have done it, there will definitely be traces.” Charlotte smiled. “Do you think you can do everything flawlessly?”

Wendy forced herself to sneer. “You’re just saying it! Show us the evidence if you can!”

“Don’t worry.” Charlotte’s voice suddenly became cold. “In the past, I was too lazy to pay attention to your actions. But this time...”

She suddenly smiled mysteriously. “Don’t forget that Stacy is still locked up in the detention center. Are you sure she really doesn’t know anything?”

As soon as she said that, Wendy’s face turned pale.

She clutched the hem of her dress tightly and used almost all her strength to suppress the urge to scream.

“How can you guarantee that your children will be safe next time?” Wendy smiled provocatively.

Charlotte stepped forward without hesitation, grabbed her hair, and kicked her on the knee.

Wendy was in pain and hit the smooth floor heavily. The loud sound made others’ teeth ache.

She screamed and lay on the ground for a long time, unable to get up.

Just then, Joe walked out of the interrogation room and saw this scene.

Charlotte looked at him from a distance.

“Take care of your people. One day, I will come and get even with her personally.” She spat out these words with a cold look and turned to leave.

Hearing her words, Wendy noticed that something was wrong.

She struggled to sit up. When she turned around and saw Joe, her eyes immediately turned red. “Joe...”

Joe slowly walked up to her, lowered his head, and asked, “Can you still stand up?”

Wendy thought he was concerned about her, so she shook her head pitifully. “It hurts.”

Joe did not bend down to help her up but glanced indifferently at Jack behind him.

Jack braced himself to step forward and reached out to help Wendy up.

However, Wendy did not intend to cooperate with him. She widened her eyes and looked at Joe with tears in her eyes.

Joe looked down at her and said, “You seem to have forgotten

one thing. Ben and Anna are also my children, the heirs of the Smith Group.”

In an instant, Wendy’s face turned pale.

Before she could react, Joe had already started walking forward.

On the other side, after Charlotte went out, she handed a few strands of hair to Mandy.

“Check the DNA of her and Stacy.”

## Chapter 227 Asked Stacy

Three days later, Charlotte looked at the matching paternity test certificate in front of her and sneered.

She had guessed that there must be something wrong with the relationship between Stacy and Wendy, but she didn't expect that they would be mother and daughter.

Judging from her reaction, Wendy should have known about their relationship.

Charlotte thought for a moment and went to the detention center with the paternity test result.

Because Stacy was involved in other cases, she had been detained in the detention center and had not been officially sentenced yet.

Wendy didn't dare to visit her often, so Stacy had been living a miserable life in the detention center recently.

Seeing Charlotte coming, she immediately became angry. "How dare you come to me!"

Charlotte sneered. "I want to see you. Do you dare to refuse?"

Stacy looked back at the guard with a serious expression and was so angry that her nose was almost out of joint.

"Why are you looking for me?" she asked impatiently.

Charlotte threw the paternity test document on the table. Stacy opened it hesitantly. When she saw the result, she was dumbfounded. "Where... where did you get it?"

Charlotte leaned back in her chair and stared at Stacy calmly. "What do you think will happen if Joe finds out that Wendy has been lying to him under his nose?"

"No!" Stacy immediately objected fiercely.

Seeing her reaction, Charlotte raised her eyebrows. "Why are you so nervous?"

Stacy forcibly looked away and snorted. "You're just jealous that she's more favored by Joe than you. Even if he knew about this, he wouldn't dislike her."

Stacy sounded too sure, which made Charlotte confused.

Why was she so sure that Joe would not dislike Wendy?



“You’re wrong.” Charlotte narrowed her eyes. “You know, there are two children between him and me. Yesterday, Joc admitted in front of Wendy that Ben and Anna will be the heirs of the Smith Group. What should Wendy do then?”

“Impossible!” Stacy retorted without much confidence. When she saw Charlotte’s smiling eyes, her last bit of confidence suddenly dissipated.

me.”

have to do with

“If I’m not mistaken, Wendy bought your house in AW Apartment, didn’t she?” Charlotte said it out directly. “There seems to be a young man living there. Do you want to have a DNA test with him?”

Stacy finally changed her face and was about to pounce on Charlotte.

Before she could touch Charlotte, she was pulled back by the police. “If you continue to behave like this, we will ban you from being visited.”

Stacy leaned back in her chair, gasping for breath.

She stared at Charlotte as if a female wolf was going to tear the other party into pieces.

Charlotte stared at her calmly, showing no fear at all.

After a long time, Stacy asked dejectedly, “What do you want?”

Seeing that she finally gave in, Charlotte sat up straight and said, “What I want is very simple. I just want you to tell me something about Wendy.”

She was not sure if Stacy really knew the secret between Wendy and Ariel, so she could only use this method to trick her.

Stacy looked at her with a serious expression as if she was

Charlotte knocked on the table impatiently with her fingertips. “You should know that I don’t have much patience, and I won’t wait for you until you figure out how to say it. If you can’t say anything valuable...\*.

She looked at Stacy meaningfully and said. “You should understand.”

Gifts

Write your comment

hesitating about what to say or not to say.

Charlotte knocked on the table impatiently with her fingertips. “You should know that I don’t have much patience, and I won’t wait for you until you figure out how to say it. If you can’t say anything valuable...”

She looked at Stacy meaningfully and said, “You should understand.”

## Chapter 228 The Wrong Direction of Investigation

Stacy gritted her teeth and looked at Charlotte. “I can tell you her secret, but you must write me a letter of forgiveness.”

Although Stacy’s crime involved a significant amount of money, it was ultimately an attempt. As long as Charlotte and Joe were willing to write a letter of forgiveness, she could be given a light

sentence.

Charlotte sneered. “Why do you think you can negotiate with me?”

Stacy glared at her. “Aren’t you afraid that I won’t say anything?”

“Aren’t you afraid that man in your house will lose an arm and a leg tomorrow?”

Charlotte asked lightly.

Stacy was extremely angry but couldn’t find anything to threaten her, so she could only accept her condition.

Coming out of the detention center, Charlotte's face was gloomy.

Mandy saw that she was in a bad mood and thought that the negotiation with Stacy did not go well. "Do you want us to threaten her again?"

No necu

Charlotte rubbed her eyebrows wearily. Thinking of what Stacy had said and what she had suffered all these years, she couldn't help sneering.

The smile on her face became bigger, but her eyes turned red.

Seeing Charlotte like this, Mandy was stunned.

What did Stacy say to her? Why did she look so strange?

Fortunately, Charlotte's abnormal behavior did not last long. She quickly controlled her emotions and said, "Stacy doesn't know how Wendy managed to keep Ariel not telling the truth but mentioned that Wendy had sponsored a batch of students in the past."

At that time, Wendy sponsored this group of students to set up a good image, but in the end, she really did a good thing. Was it possible that Ariel was one of these people?

Mandy nodded. "Don't worry, I will check it out."

Back home, Charlotte happened to see Ben and Anna sitting together and playing.

Fortunately, Gorya and Erik were fast enough, and the kidnapping did not leave any shadow in their hearts.

Charlotte suddenly looked at Mandy. "Gorya and Erik did a good job this time. Why don't I raise their salaries?"

Early the next morning, Mandy knocked on Charlotte's door in high spirits. "I confirmed last night that there is no one named Ariel in the group of students that Wendy sponsored."

It seemed that they had been heading in the wrong direction.

Charlotte nodded thoughtfully, but Mandy didn't leave, still looking at her with bright eyes.

Charlotte raised her eyebrows in confusion. "What's wrong?"

"Don't you have... anything else to say to me?" Mandy asked suggestively.

Charlotte shook her head deliberately and asked, "What?"

Mandy sighed and turned to leave.

At this time, Charlotte's gentle voice sounded behind her. "This time, they will raise their salary, and so do you!"

Mandy nodded excitedly. "Don't worry. I will definitely help you find out their connection!"

Charlotte couldn't help laughing and couldn't figure out why Mandy liked money so much.

At this moment, Charlotte's cell phone suddenly rang. It was a call from Patrick.

Chapter 229 Patrick's "Begs for Mercy"

"How have you been, Miss Clinton?" On the other end of the phone, Patrick smiled brightly as if he just intended to have a simple chat with her.

Charlotte also smiled. “Thanks to you, I am living a good life.”

Patrick obviously did not expect her to answer like this. After a hollow laugh, he said, “Recently, my unfilial son, Tony seems to have offended you. He is just stupid and can’t stand the instigation of others. In fact, he doesn’t have any bad intentions...”

Charlotte curled her lips and replied, “You’re not going to say that he’s still a child and you want me to let him go, are you?”

Patrick really wanted to say this sentence.

“If I remember correctly, your son should be one year older than me?” Charlotte said sarcastically, “He colluded to kidnap two four-year-old children...”

“He really is a ‘child’.”

As soon as she said that, Patrick flew into a rage from embarrassment. He didn’t even want to pretend to be calm and said in a deep voice, “Charlotte, we are all in the same circle.

Why do you have lo

he likes you. Aren’t your two children fine?”

Charlotte was so angry that she laughed.

She didn’t want to talk to Patrick anymore, then hung up the phone directly, and sent the video of naked Tony shot by Jack to him.

In less than two minutes, she received crazy countless calls from

Patrick.

She didn't even think about answering and blacklisted him directly.

About half an hour later, she received a call from Trevor. "What did you do to make Patrick so angry that he almost smashed a mobile phone and an antique vase? If I hadn't stopped him, he would have gone to see you in person."

Charlotte's tone was faint. "Let him come."

"No way." Trevor refused decisively. "I haven't taken over the company yet. If he dies of anger because of you, it will cause a lot of trouble for nothing."

The sound of footsteps came from the other end of the line. Trevor immediately raised his voice and said, "I'll visit you officially at your company tomorrow."

Before Charlotte could speak, Trevor hung up the phone.

Probably knowing that he had done something wrong when Trevor came to the Horizon Group the next day, he not only brought an exquisite afternoon tea but also a small gift to Ben

and Anna.

He sat in front of Charlotte and picked up the coffee on the table comfortably. "Patrick has been very angry recently. When he asked me to plead with you yesterday, he said that as long as you can forgive Tony, you can put forward any requests."

Patrick probably regarded Charlotte as a person who had been bullied by him at will in the past and thought that he could deal with her with money.

But how could the chairman of the Horizon Group be bribed by him so easily?

Charlotte sneered. “Then how are you going to report back?”

“Of course, I’m begging you, but you didn’t agree and even quarreled with me.” Trevor said indifferently. If it weren’t for stabilizing his position, he would have angered Patrick to death in person. How could he let Patrick make trouble in front of him?

As he spoke, he took out a file bag and handed it to Charlotte seriously. “Please let Tony spend the rest of his life in prison.”

Charlotte didn’t understand his meaning, opened it, and found that it was Tony’s evidence of committing crimes over the years.

There was no lack of charges of bribery, violence, and threats.

The worst part was

secretly sent to a private clinic for an abortion, resulting in the death of her and the baby.

Charlotte’s brows furrowed tighter as she read.

## Chapter 230 Tony’s Crime Evidences

It could be seen that Trevor had been collecting evidence of Tony’s crimes for nearly six years, and every case was recorded very clearly. It could be said that Trevor had done it very carefully.

“Are you going to piss Patrick off by giving this to me?” Charlotte withdrew her gaze from the document and looked at Trevor with amusement.

If Patrick knew that the lobbyist he sent was the one who wanted to harm Tony the most, he would probably die of anger on the spot.

Trevor gave a harmless smile. “That depends on your methods.”

Charlotte accepted his information and glanced at him lightly. “3% of the shares.”

Trevor almost threw away the cup in his hand. “Aren’t you asking too much?”

Although the Pope family was not as powerful as the Smith family now, it was not a small family like the White Family. 3% of the shares were worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Charlotte leaned back confidently and looked at Trevor. “You should know that I am worth it.

Of course, Trevor knew it. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have agreed it so readily.

He looked at her for a long time and sighed. “Okay, 3% shares. But you must support me unconditionally in the future.”

As long as Charlotte was always on his side, it would at most be a loss of money and she was worth it.

Charlotte agreed without hesitation. “Of course.”

After reaching an agreement, they pretended to have a big fight, in the office, and then Trevor slammed the door and left angrily.

Charlotte called Frank and the others in and shared the afternoon tea.

After returning to the Pope Group, Trevor said angrily to Patrick, “Charlotte refused to accept our benefits. Why don’t we find a way to deal with her together?”

Patrick did want to, but Tony who wanted to deal with her was still in prison. He would never let Trevor take the risk again.

He had no choice but to comfort Trevor, “Don’t worry about her. I’ll pull some strings and get Tony released as soon as possible.”



After all, Tony had failed the kidnapping. Even if they really wanted to sentence him, he wouldn't be sentenced for a long time. As long as they made some movements in the middle,

Tony would soon be released.

However, it was impossible for the Pope Group to let a person who had been in prison become the chairman, which meant that the Pope Group had basically fallen into Trevor's hands.

But Trevor felt that it was not enough. His Grandpa and mother had suffered so much back then. Why could Patrick still enjoy life so much now?

On the other side, Charlotte handed all the evidence over to Officer Carter after getting it.

Officer Carter did not expect she to take out so much evidence, and he was stunned.

"How much hatred do you have for him?" Charlotte must have paid a lot to get so much evidence in such a short time.

She did not mention Trevor but said lightly, "For every mother, children are untouchable taboos. Since he dared to hurt them, he should have thought of such an ending."

Officer Carter did not dare to underestimate the anger of the mother and accepted all the evidence. "Don't worry, if the evidence is true, we will not easily let go of any guilty person."

Charlotte nodded. "I trust you."

Speaking of this, she pretended to ask about Stacy unintentionally, "How's her case going?"

Officer Carter suddenly looked embarrassed as if there was something that he could not tell her.

Chapter 231 Gideon Was Back

Charlotte was not a person who wanted to pursue to the end about others and was just a little curious. “Is she involved in a big case?”

Officer Carter nodded solemnly.

“Okay, thank you for your hard work.”

After coming out of the police station, Mandy carefully observed her expression. Seeing that she did not show the same decadent. expression as before, Mandy was slightly relieved.

She was her God of Wealth and couldn’t let anything happen to her.

“Next...” As soon as Mandy opened her mouth, Charlotte replied, “Let’s go to the airport.”

Gideon had gone back to Albania not long ago and received the award for her. She had promised to pick him up in person to express her gratitude.

When she arrived at the airport, Gideon’s plane had just arrived on time. From a distance, Charlotte saw him and waved at him with a smile.

“I didn’t expect you to come.” Gideon teased her. “When I went back this time, my ears were almost calluses by Mr. Rumba’s

If he didn’t have a project at hand, he would  
teach you a lesson in person.”

Charlotte showed a smile that was uglier than crying. “Why?

Didn’t I bring a lot of special local products to him from Zyphoria? Why is he still angry?”

Although he was a master respected by everyone, in front of these disciples, he was like an old naughty child, laughing and cursing without any burden.

Gideon didn't comment but reminded her gently, "It doesn't matter. Isn't there going to be a construction competition in the second half of the year? You'll have a chance to see him."

This kind of comfort was equivalent to nothing.

Charlotte snorted, "Ben and Anna have been talking about you all the time. You'd better go back and eat by yourself today."

"Don't forget, your thing is in my hand." Gideon pointed at his suitcase. The two of them looked at each other and smiled.

The two of them, who were in a harmonious atmosphere, did not notice that Joe was looking at them with a gloomy face on the second floor of the terminal.

Jack just hung up the phone and came over. "Mr. Smith, Miss Swan wants to ask when you will go back..."

Before he could finish his words, he saw Charlotte and Gideon talking and laughing below.

ately stopped walking and stopped saying.

How could they run into such a scene at the airport?

As if sensing that the voice behind him had suddenly disappeared, Joe turned around to look at Jack.

Jack shivered. "You..."

“Have you investigated clearly what happened to Wendy in the past?” Joe asked coldly.

Jack hurried forward and nodded. “According to our investigation, Wendy didn’t disappear and went to school normally in those days.”

Joe stood still and watched Charlotte and Gideon walk out of the airport with a sneer on his face. “Very good. Tell her that I’ll be home in three days and ask her to wait for me.”

Seeing his cold eyes, Jack felt his heart skip a beat and secretly wiped the cold sweat for Wendy.

After coming out of the airport, Charlotte did not take Gideon to the outside restaurant but to her villa.

As soon as Gideon entered the door, Ben and Anna rushed over and threw themselves on his legs.

“Gideon!”

Gideon bent down to pick up the two children and held them in his arms.

Charlotte was quite surprised and sighed, “I didn’t expect you to look thin but strong.”

Gideon glanced at her and asked, “Do you want to have a try?”

Anna covered her mouth and smiled happily. “Okay, okay! Let Mommy try it.”

“I don’t want.” Charlotte refused decisively.

Chapter 232 A Visit to the Exhibition Hall

Gideon took out Charlotte’s trophy from the box. “Here, the trophy has been returned to its rightful owner.”

What he took out was a trophy of the Walkin Architecture Award, which was the dream of many architects. However, Charlotte did not receive it herself but let Gideon receive it.

When she reached out to take it, she heard Gideon say half-jokingly, “Aren’t you afraid that I won’t give it to you?”

“Don’t make a joke.” Charlotte took it and chuckled. “There should be more than three trophies in your house, right?”

Gideon didn’t comment on her words and suddenly asked, “Are you going to the construction exhibition tomorrow?”

“You’re talking about Master Phil’s exhibition, aren’t you?” Charlotte had heard of this master before but didn’t agree with some of his ideas, so she didn’t intend to take a look.

Gideon nodded and said, “Although I don’t agree with some of his ideas, I have to say that his design is indeed very luxurious. If Mr. Rumba hadn’t...”

He didn’t finish his words, but Charlotte understood.

Back then, their teacher, Mr. Rumba, had once been one of the world’s top designers. However, a fire had injured his hands to different degrees, and he had been unable to draw the design by himself.

In spite of his pain, he no longer participated in the design and instead became a mentor behind the scenes. Even though he had taught a large number of outstanding disciples, he still felt a bit of regret in his heart.

The two of them fell silent.

In order to dispel this mood, Gideon continued, “Don’t you want me to pretend to be Moontide? It should be normal for me to go to the construction exhibition, right?”

Charlotte smiled helplessly. “Okay, I’ll go with you.”

The next day, she went to the Atlanta Exhibition Hall with Gideon as promised.

The number of people who visited the exhibition hall was far more than she had imagined. She asked Gideon curiously, “Haven’t I come out to watch the architectural design exhibition for a long time? When will it become a popular exhibition?”

As soon as she finished speaking, a delicate female voice answered first, “It’s because the master’s architectural style is grand and unique, attracting everyone to come and watch.”

Neither Charlotte nor Gideon had the intention to talk to her. Gideon even smiled and replied to Charlotte, “I guess maybe

Visitors have ulterior motives.”

In addition to the Holiday Resort developed by the Smith Group and the Horizon Group, there was also a landmark CBD building in Atlanta this year.

As far as Charlotte knew, there seemed to be a lot of people who wanted to do this project. If they could get an international master’s design, their chances of winning the building’s plan would be much higher.

Thinking about it, Gideon was right.

Seeing that the two of them completely ignored her, the woman spoke in front of them in exasperation.

“Do you know what respect is?”

The woman looked young, like a little girl who had been spoiled by her family. Charlotte and Gideon had no intention of arguing with her. They bypassed her and continued to walk forward.

“You two!” The woman was so angry that she reached out to pull Charlotte, but Charlotte avoided her hand.

This time, Charlotte finally looked straight at the woman and said, “I only know that it’s disrespectful to interrupt others for no reason.”

The woman flew into a rage. “I’m just giving you an answer out of kindness. You really don’t know what’s good for you!”

#### Chapter 233 Andy Apologized to Her

The dispute between the two sides soon attracted a lot of attention. As the organizer of the meeting, the assistant of Master Phil also hurried over.

First, he sized up the clothes on both sides without leaving a trace. After making sure that their identities were not simple, he tried to smooth things over. “It’s just a misunderstanding. Master Phil hopes that everyone can treat the design work with an appreciative attitude. Why don’t we turn hostility into friendship?”

Although he was a foreigner, he could speak English quite well.

If it weren’t for this woman stopping them out of the blue, Charlotte and Gideon wouldn’t have argued with her at all. Naturally, they didn’t want to cause trouble now.

But before they could nod, the woman pointed at Charlotte’s nose and said, “She provoked me on purpose! I want her to apologize to me!”

“This...”

The assistant looked at the two parties awkwardly. Gideon, who had been silent all this while, finally spoke up. “Miss, we are only being polite to you out of courtesy. If you continue to pester

Although Gideon didn’t say a word of curse, it still made the woman very angry.

She pointed at Gideon and said, “Who do you think you are...”

“Stop talking.”

At this moment, a middle-aged man hurried over. When he saw Charlotte, he was stunned and apologized repeatedly, “Miss Clinton, I’m sorry! She has been spoiled by my wife since she was a child. If she has offended you, please forgive her!”

Charlotte glanced at him and recognized that he was the boss of a construction company, Andy Turnbaugh.

Seeing that her father was so humble, Carina Turnbaugh suddenly exploded with anger. “Dad! Why did you apologize to her?!”

“Shut up!” Andy looked at Carina angrily. “I’ve already told your mother not to spoil you! It’s obviously your fault. You should apologize to them.”

Seeing that they were about to argue, Charlotte had no intention of continuing to watch the show and slowly withdrew from the crowd with Gideon.

It wasn’t until the two of them left that Andy heaved a sigh of relief.

veryo might more or less look down on Charlotte, but now looking at the fate of the Pope family, who dared to have such an idea?



A woman who could become the chairman of the Horizon Group was definitely not a good-for-nothing.

On the other side, Carina was still making complaints. Andy glared at her and said, “If you continue, I will cancel all your cards.”

This sentence was more effective than any persuasion. Carina closed her mouth reluctantly.

She looked resentfully at the backs of Charlotte and Gideon as they left and secretly complained about them.

Not long after they left, they arrived at a building model.

It was a high-altitude villa suspended between cliffs. There was a waterfall flowing straight down under the villa, which looked very magnificent.

“This design is really unique.” Gideon praised it with a vague attitude.

Charlotte glanced at him.

Mr. Rumba had specifically used this villa as an example to explain the design plan, but it was just a negative one.

It was said that Master Phil had dug out a corner of a mountain.

in order to build this villa. He had spent a lot of manpower and material resources and had even destroyed the ecological chain on the mountain.

## Chapter 234 Differences in Concepts among Architectural Designers

The idea of Master Phil was to let nature adapt to human society and achieve the desired design effect by changing the environment.

This kind of design attitude had always been criticized by Mr. Rumba.

“You really have a good taste.”

Hearing the praise of Gideon, an elder with slightly white hair walked over and gave him a thumbs-up.

“Nice to meet you, Master Phil.” Gideon recognized him at a glance and greeted him with a smile.

Master Phil raised his eyebrows in surprise. He looked at Gideon carefully for a while and smiled meaningfully. “I know you. If I remember correctly, you should have won four trophies.”

Gideon didn’t expect Master Phil to recognize him, nodded slightly, and said, “I’m just lucky enough.”

Master Phil shook his head and said, “We are all construction designers. We know that this industrial designers have never

Architectural Design was a subject that perfectly combined romance and science. It was absolutely impossible for designers to use the ‘lucky’ to get success.

Gideon smiled but didn’t reply.

“Fortunately, your design style is not like that of the designer named Moontide,” Master Phil suddenly said, which made Gideon and Charlotte both frown.

Someone next to them heard this and asked subconsciously, “Isn’t Moontide the winner of this year’s Walkin Architecture Award? Is there any inside story?”

Master Phil released a cold snort. “Her design work this year was known to fuse nature and buildings, in my opinion, it’s basically a complete mess. If all buildings had to make way for nature, then we humans shouldn’t have built houses at all. We have to be the owners of nature, not let it become our owners.”

“Master, you’re right!” Carina came over and agreed with his idea loudly.

“Moontide claimed that she wanted to protect nature, but in fact, she used a lot of wood to build a building. I think she is hypocritical!” Carina said softly.

As she spoke, she observed Master Phil. Sure enough, he smiled.

“May I ask who you are?” Master Phil asked with a smile.

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very surprised and quickly said, “I am your loyal fan.

I think your design works are real master-level buildings. Those hypocritical people who want fame are not qualified to compare with you at all.”

Seeing Carina talk to Master Phil after a few casual curses, the others quickly echoed what Master Phil said.

Gideon frowned, and wanted to say something, but was stopped by Charlotte.

From the very beginning, she knew that her design concept was different from that of the other party. It was normal for them to look down on each other.

What’s more, the design was subjective. There was no need to argue with them over such a small matter.

Master Phil, who was surrounded by the crowd, finally came out and found that Gideon and Charlotte had left.

At this time, Carina quietly approached him and handed him a business card. “Hello, Master Phil, our construction company sincerely invites you to design for us. We will give you full authority and a generous reward. We will never let you down.”

Master Phil glanced at her indifferently and then gestured to his assistant to take the business card.

## Chapter 235 The Fake Moontide

Gideon and Charlotte didn’t know that it was this exhibition that had caused the Turnbaugh family to officially associate with Master Phil, and they were going to cause big trouble in the future.

After leaving the exhibition hall, Gideon looked at Charlotte apologetically and said, “I’m sorry. If I hadn’t insisted on you coming to the exhibition, you wouldn’t have been so unpleasant in the end.”

Gideon didn’t expect that Master Phil didn’t like Moontide’s design so much.

Charlotte didn’t take what Master Phil said to heart at all. “I can’t blame it on you when I go out and meet a lunatic. As for Master Phil, my design idea is different from his, so it’s normal for him to look down on me. One day, I’ll make him afraid to criticize me at will.”

Master Phil dared to look down on Moontide in public because she had a low status in the construction world.

If Moontide became an internationally renowned master like him in the future, would he still dare to do this?

The answer must be no.

Gideon breathed a sigh of relief when he saw that Charlotte was

Is. Designers are most

afraid of losing their style because of the voices outside. If you

really can't recover from this setback, I will definitely be blamed by Mr. Rumba."

Charlotte smiled and said, "Don't worry, at least I will strengthen my heart for you."

"Charlotte."

”

While they were talking, a deep male voice suddenly interrupted them.

Charlotte's body stiffened slightly when she heard this familiar voice. She looked at the coming man expressionlessly and said, "Mr. Smith."

Joe didn't know if it was an illusion but always felt that Charlotte was a little more distant from him than last time, even with a hint of indifference.

Could it be because of the man beside her?

Joe easily recognized that the person standing next to her was the one he had seen at the airport.

How long had it been since David went abroad? How could Charlotte have changed her boyfriend?

Joe didn't realize how jealous his thoughts were. A huge storm was brewing in his eyes, but his expression remained calm.

and looked at the two of them. The atmosphere at

the scene was getting tenser.

Behind Joe, Jack complained incessantly in his heart.

They had been all well before this business trip, but for some reason, Joe had suddenly given the order to compress the task that would have taken three days to complete to one day. After that, they hurried back.

Even Jack, who had a strong constitution, couldn't stand it. However, after returning back, Joe didn't intend to go home. Instead, when he saw Charlotte on one boss's Instagram, he rushed over with Jack.

"So you're Mr. Smith." Gideon smiled faintly and stretched out his hand to Joe in a seemingly polite manner. "Seeing is believing."

Joe ignored him.

Gideon didn't mind. He withdrew his hand calmly and said, "I heard that you want to see Moontide. I am."

Charlotte glanced at him subconsciously. She hadn't explained it to him yet. How could he know how to pretend the Moontide?

However, she had planned to let Gideon pretend to be her. Since they had bumped into each other, it was more natural for her to introduce Gideon in this way than deliberately introducing him.

Only then did Joe's gaze fall on Gideon. "Are you Moontide?"

He suddenly remembered the various anomalies when Charlotte talked about Moontide before. He had originally thought that Moontide might be her, but now it seems like he guessed wrong.

Did Charlotte deliberately conceal Gideon's identity because she wanted to protect him?

## Chapter 236 Dinner for Three People

Charlotte had no idea how much Joe had imagined because of her previous actions. Just as she was about to leave with Gideon, Joe spoke first, "I've been fascinated by Moontide for a long time. Since we've run into each other today, why don't we have lunch together?"

Gideon smiled warmly. "That's exactly what I'm thinking."

Charlotte glanced at the time on her phone and looked at them speechlessly.

Were you guys sure you wanted to have lunch at this time?

“Why don’t you go and eat...” Charlotte didn’t want to see Joe, so she looked at Gideon tentatively.

Gideon didn’t say anything and just looked at her gently.

This scene inexplicably reminded Charlotte of the years when she studied under Mr. Rumba. Every time Gideon arranged all kinds of crazy homework for them, he would smile like this.

Her body stiffened slightly. “I’ll go with you.”

Before getting in the car, Gideon was supposed to take Charlotte’s car, but Joe suddenly said, “I happen to have some

day Resort to ask Moontide on the

way... May I know your name?”

“Gideon McKinney.” Gideon straightforwardly stated his name and turned around to look at Charlotte. “In that case, you can go by yourself. I’ll take Mr. Smith’s car.”

Charlotte couldn’t figure out what was going on.

However, she didn’t intend to control Gideon. Seeing that he knew what he was doing, she nodded and got into her car.

Turning around, Gideon still smiled gently. “This way please, Mr. Smith.”

Even though he was in his car, Joe felt inexplicably wronged.

Not long after Charlotte arrived at the CAL Restaurant, Joe’s car also arrived.

Joe and Gideon got out of the car in silence. Seeing the strange atmosphere between the two of them, Charlotte subconsciously looked at Jack.

Jack looked away tiredly.

Would Miss Clinton believe him if he told her that they made him and the driver tremble without saying a word in the car?

This was the first time he had seen someone with the same aura as Joe, even if he was just a gentle-looking man.

sitting down. Then Gideon and Joe surrounded her in the middle, while Jack and Mandy sat on the other side of the table.

After seeing the excitement in Mandy's eyes, Jack felt even more tired.

Joe took the lead in ordering a few dishes, but Gideon interrupted him. "Can we remove the salmon? Charlotte doesn't like raw food."

Charlotte looked at Gideon in surprise. How did he know?

Gideon said gently, "Every time we go out for a party, you never touch the raw food on your plate. It's hard not to notice."

Joe had never noticed it in the past years and his face suddenly darkened.

Since Charlotte came back, both her performance and the things around her had constantly reminded him that it was not only five years between them but also countless times that he would never have a chance to see her past again.

"Mr. McKinney seems to be very familiar with her." Joe casually threw the menu on the table and looked sharply at Gideon. "What's your relationship?"

Charlotte frowned.

Chapter 237 A Tit for Tat

"I don't think our relationship has anything to do with Mr. Smith." Charlotte coldly interrupted Joe. "Mr. Smith, you said you want to talk about the Holiday Resort with Moontide, please don't ask these questions anymore."

Her tone was a little sharp. Not only did Joe notice it, but even Gideon gave her a sidelong glance.



Gideon patted her hand comfortingly and smiled gently. “Our relationship is still in progress. As for what will happen in the future, I am also looking forward to it.”

Joe’s face darkened. He looked up at Gideon and said, “Mr. McKinney should understand that you could not easily touch someone else.”

Gideon acted as if he didn’t feel the pressure coming from Joe, smiled, and said, “Mr. Smith, you should understand that there are many people in the world who make mistakes, but not everyone has a chance to make up for them.”

One of them had a fierce aura, while the other was  
magnanimous and gentle. When they clashed, neither side had  
Won.

Charlotte coughed softly and asked, “Aren’t we here for lunch?”

Joe and Gideon looked at her at the same time. Gideon lowered  
his eyes and smiled. “It’s my fault. I was so focused on chatting with Mr. Smith that I  
forgot that you’re hungry.”

He picked up the menu on the table, quickly added a few dishes, and then asked someone  
to start preparing.

Once again, Charlotte was surprised to find that the dishes that Gideon had ordered were  
all her favorites.

“Are you surprised that I know your taste?” Gideon raised his eyebrows and asked.

Charlotte nodded unceremoniously.

“This is what a pursuer should do.” Gideon smiled mysteriously. “Don’t say that you don’t know that I’m pursuing you. This will make my pursuit seem useless.”

Charlotte was silent.

Joe on the other side slightly tightened his grip on his forks.

For the rest of the meal, Joe and Gideon argued with each other in secret.

At first, Charlotte wanted to stop them and tried to shift the topic to the Holiday Resort, but later she gave up when she found that she couldn’t persuade them.

She had never thought that she would see such a childish side of them.

Finally, when the meal was over, Charlotte said before they could speak, “Gideon, you’re tired today. I’ll send you back first.”

Gideon smiled gently and said, “Thank you.”

Charlotte didn’t even spare Joe a glance and turned to leave with Gideon. Unexpectedly, Joe stopped her. “I want to see the children tomorrow, okay?”

“What a coincidence. I promised Ben and Anna yesterday that I would watch a movie with them. I’m afraid they won’t have time tomorrow.” Gideon apologized in a gentle voice.

As expected, Joe’s expression changed.

“Gideon is right. If you want to see the children, you can pick them up when school is over next time.” Charlotte nodded slightly at Joe with an indifferent attitude.

Joe just stood there and watched them get in the car and leave.

After getting in the car, Charlotte didn't know how to face Gideon for a moment. Unexpectedly, he smiled first and said, "How is it? Was what I said just now perfect?"

Charlotte looked at Gideon in shock, and then she seemed to heave a sigh of relief. "Was what you just say...?"

"Of course it's true." Gideon was not stupid enough to deny his words. "I just don't want to give you any pressure. If you haven't felt my pursuit yet, you can treat me as an ordinary friend."

#### Chapter 238 "Moontide" Could Work in the Smith Group

Seeing that Charlotte seemed to want to say something, Gideon suddenly became serious.

"To tell you the truth, I noticed you when I was learning with Mr. Rumba. When I first saw you, you were still a gloomy person trapped in the swamp, but in just half a year, I witnessed your inner transformation. At that time, I clearly felt my heart beat faster."

However, before he could take action, Charlotte silently distanced herself from him.

At first, Gideon thought that she had noticed his intentions. and then decided not to disturb her anymore. However, when he returned this time, he realized that everything that had happened back then was a misunderstanding.

"It's not easy for the heavens to give me this opportunity. I just don't want to waste it anymore."

Gideon spoke in a gentle voice, and the seriousness in her eyes could not be ignored by Charlotte.

"But I..." Before she could finish her sentence, Gideon gestured for her to stop. "I know what you want to say, so I told you not to take it to heart. You deserve to be cherished. I'm just begging

"Don't force me to call Mr. Rumba and complain to him." In the end, Gideon winked at her with a rare hint of ridicule.

Charlotte smiled helplessly.

She thought that the interaction between Joe and Gideon would end from then on. However, in less than two days, she received a call from Joe. “What did you say? You want Moontide to work in your company?”

She subconsciously looked at the caller’s name and confirmed that it was Joe.

“The project of the Holiday Resort is about to start. You and I both know how important it is to our two companies. Wouldn’t it be best to let him, the chief designer, take charge of it?” Joe said in a low voice.

But Joe and Gideon didn’t seem to get along well with each other when they met a few days ago.

“Even if you want the designer to be in charge, he can still work in the Horizon Group.” Charlotte unconsciously drew a circle on the white paper on the table with a pen. “You should know that it will be more convenient for me to communicate with him.”

Gideon was only temporarily helping her to be Moontide. Why did Joe make this matter more complicated?

“But the construction units are all in our company, it’s better for

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Moontide to come to our company.

Joe and Charlotte were arguing. Those who didn’t know the causes and consequences would think that they were fighting for some top talent.

In the end, Gideon was the one to resolve the dispute.

“I think Mr. Smith is right. Of course, I can work in the Smith Group.”

Charlotte looked at Gideon in surprise, but he smiled faintly at her and wrote a sentence on the paper, “Don’t you believe me?”

“Then it’s settled.” Joe didn’t give Gideon a chance to regret it and immediately made the decision. “I’ll get someone to prepare the special employment contract.”

After hanging up the phone, Charlotte looked at Gideon in confusion. “Why...”

“Since you don’t want Moontide to be exposed for the time being, it’s best for me to complete this project on your behalf. Even if your identity is discovered in the future, you can explain that I helped you as your senior brother.” Gideon explained

softly.

Chapter 239 Interrogating What Happened Back then

Charlotte felt that Gideon had more than just this purpose, but he was not her subordinate after all, and she could only say, “Thank you for your helping me.”

“You must be cursing me in your heart.” Gideon suddenly approached her and said.

Charlotte shook her head helplessly. “I don’t do that.”

Gideon smiled gently and said, “It doesn’t matter if you curse me in the heart.”

Before Charlotte could feel touched, he continued, “Don’t tell me about it.”

Charlotte looked at him expressionlessly. “Oh, I will definitely tell you.”

On the other end, Joe hung up the phone and looked expressionlessly at Jack. “Let’s go home.”

Jack finally heaved a sigh of relief and quickly and smoothly sent Joe back to the villa.

Sensing that the speed they back home today was very fast, Joe pursed his lips and coldly said, “You can go back now.”

“Okay.” Jack looked respectful, but his back was full of joy.

Joe silently withdrew his gaze, rubbed his eyebrows, and entered the villa.

“Joe, you’re back!”

As soon as he entered the door, Wendy stepped forward with a smile and reached out to hold Joe's hand.

Joe moved away from Wendy imperceptibly and his eyes fell on the bright red heart-shaped birthmark on her arm.

Seeing that he was staring at her arm, Wendy subconsciously turned her body to the side, completely revealing her heart-shaped birthmark to him.

Joe suddenly chuckled and stared at her. "Is it tattooed?"

"What?" Wendy looked at him in confusion.

Joe took out an envelope, threw it casually on the coffee table, and sat down on the sofa.

It was obvious that he had something to discuss with her.

Wendy sat down beside him and reached out to pick up the envelope. "Is this for me?"

Joe was noncommittal.

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Wendy opened the envelope and found a stack of photos inside. The photos seemed to be screenshots of one of her movies. It had been so long that she couldn't remember them clearly.

"What's this?" Wendy secretly breathed a sigh of relief and asked in confusion.

Joe leaned back on the sofa and clicked on the photo from a distance. "Look carefully."

Wendy looked at it again and soon found something wrong.

Almost every one of the photos showed her arms. The place where there should have been a birthmark was empty.

All the memories of the past returned to her mind.

It was shot more than a decade ago when she was studying at the Film Academy. Because she didn't have many scenes at that time, she didn't remember it. More importantly, she hadn't met Joe at that time.

She secretly clenched her fists and said with a stiff smile, "You mean the birthmark? At that time, the movie director felt that the birthmark on my arm was too eye-catching, so he asked the makeup artist to cover it up for me. You won't suspect that my birthmark is fake just because of these photos, will you?"

Joe still stared at her with a deep gaze and asked indifferently,

"Is that so?"

"You don't believe me!" Wendy suddenly stood up.

oment, she probably contributed all her acting skills. With tears in her eyes, she said, "I was only eight years old at that time. When I was kidnapped, I was wearing a red sweater and a pair of black pants. You were tied up before me. When I was brought in, you were tired and fell asleep, weren't you?"

Wendy recounted the details of the incident with tears in her eyes but did not notice that Joe's gaze was getting colder.

When the little girl was locked up with him, he closed his eyes and pretended to be asleep, but as soon as the kidnapper left, he quickly opened his eyes and talked to the little girl. If Wendy was the little girl, it was impossible for her not to know about it.

## Chapter 240 Wendy Pretended to Faint

Joe's eyes were filled with frost. He had never thought that one day he would be fooled. Not only that but he had been deceived for nearly eight years.

Wendy was courting death.

But after hearing what Wendy said, he changed his mind.

Wendy was definitely not a simple imposter. The person behind her must know where the person he was looking for was.

"I'm not doubting you and I just feel that it's impossible for a person's personality to change so much." Joe frowned slightly and revealed a hesitant expression.

Wendy felt a little relieved. Fortunately, she had memorized those details over and over again and would never expose herself.

She raised her head slightly and looked at Joe sadly. "If possible, I hope I can always be as brilliant and brave as I was when I was a child. It's just that people would change after growing up."

"In addition, the entertainment industry is complicated, so I have to learn to be hypocritical and tactful to barely protect myself."

A teardrop slowly fell from the corner of her eye, which looked very sad and beautiful.

If it were anyone else, they might have been deceived by her hypocritical performance. However, the person in front of her was Joe. He wished he could tear her into pieces.

Seeing her performance, not only was he not touched at all, but he even felt a little disgusted.



Was he deceived by such a clumsy performance at that time?

“Maybe I’m thinking too much.” Joe looked at Wendy with a gentle gaze. “If you weren’t the little girl, how could you know so many details?”

Before Wendy could heave a sigh of relief, he said, “Unless you’re one of the kidnappers.”

Wendy forced a smile. “I couldn’t be the kidnapper.”

Joe was noncommittal. He took out the paternity test report that Charlotte had handed over to him and said, “I don’t know that Stacy is your mother.”;

Wendy was worried again. “Where did this come from? How is that possible? Isn’t her my Aunt?”

She tried her best to get rid of his suspicion and it seemed that she really didn’t know about it.

‘So, the person I’ve been calling aunt for so many years is my biological mother?’

Wendy widened her eyes and suddenly fainted.

Looking at Wendy who had ‘fainted’, Joe knew that she was faking it. However, he did not intend to expose her. Instead, he asked the servants to call the family doctor.

The doctor looked hesitantly at Wendy. She seemed to be fine...

Just as he was hesitating about whether to tell the truth or not, Joe took the lead and said, “Her condition seems to be very serious. Should she go back to the room and rest first?”

Joe asked calmly and motioned for the doctor to continue his words to make up the story.

“Miss Swan does need to rest in bed due to her symptoms. You...” Before the doctor could finish his words, Joe interrupted him. “Since her condition is not good, you should take her upstairs. Leave the professional matters to the professionals.”

In a daze, the doctor carried Wendy upstairs.

As Joe watched them leave, the coldness in his eyes was very thick.

## Chapter 241 Wendy's Inquiry

After the family doctor left, Wendy slowly breathed a sigh of relief.

When she was in the hall just now, she almost couldn't bear the pressure brought by Joe for a moment. Fortunately, she had simulated that scene countless times in her mind over the years, so she could get away with his suspicion.

But what about next time?

Wendy suddenly thought of Stacy, who was still locked up in the detention center. She frowned deeply.

Early the next morning, Wendy, who had completely disguised herself, quietly left the villa.

In order not to let others find her whereabouts, Wendy even specifically asked Perry to rent a taxi and take a long detour to the detention center.

If it weren't for the fact that she had no other choice, she would never contact Stacy at this time.

After entering the detention center, Wendy did not notice that as soon as she left the villa, a black car had quietly followed her.

Looking at Wendy's whereabouts, Joe replied coldly, “Report to me all the people and things she has met and done during this

period.

After getting a positive answer, Joe turned off his phone with a cold face.

Wendy didn't know that she had been followed all the way and used the name of Perry to visit Stacy again.

Stacy frowned when she saw her. "How dare you come to see me?"

At the thought of her son being threatened by Charlotte everywhere, Stacy wanted to slap Wendy in the face.

If Wendy hadn't offended Charlotte, how could she come to them for no reason?

"I didn't come here to quarrel with you today." Wendy looked at Stacy coldly. "Did you spill the beans when the police interrogated you last time?"

Stacy looked at her in confusion. "What did I leak?"

Wendy pursed her lips and told her what Joe had questioned her about last night.

When Stacy heard that Joe began to suspect Wendy, her first reaction was to feel guilty. After all, she had already told Charlotte the secret because of her threat that day.

But on second thought, if Joe suspected Wendy because of Charlotte's words, Wendy wouldn't have believed her so easily.

Thinking of this, Stacy became self-righteous again. "How do I know what you did wrong? Anyway, I've told you all the details I can. If Joe still suspects you, it can only mean that your acting skills are too bad."

The more she thought about it, the more she felt that it was true. Stacy sneered and said, "Could it be that your dirty deeds in the past have been discovered by Joe?"

Wendy carefully observed her expression, was sure that she had not spilled the beans, and then was not interested in continuing to argue with her.

"That's good." Wendy looked at Stacy proudly. "You should know that I'm the only one you can count on in the world."

Stacy sneered. "Relying on you? You've only come to see me twice since I was locked up. Not only did you not come but you also didn't have enough money. What can I count on you for?"

Wendy glared at her. "Do you have any choices?"

Although she really didn't want to see Stacy, she would never say it directly.

After saying what she should say, Wendy got up and was about to leave.

## Chapter 242 She Had a Younger Brother

Unexpectedly, Stacy stopped her at this time. "I know that you have begun to work recently. Transfer one million dollars to my account."

"Are you crazy?!" Wendy stared at her in disbelief. "You're locked up in a detention center. Why do you need so much money?"

"It's none of your business," Stacy said coldly. "Can't I leave myself a way out?"

Seeing that Wendy was going to refuse, Stacy simply said, "Don't even think about saying no. I know your weakness. If you don't want to give the money to me, I can ask your fiancé for it."

Wendy's face turned pale. In the end, she could only clench her fists and nod.

When she came out of the detention center, she suddenly received a mysterious message.

"Go to the AW Apartment and have a look. There is a huge surprise hidden there."

At first, Wendy did not take the message seriously. However, on the way back, she suddenly remembered that the AW Apartment was where she had bought a house for Stacy.

Was hidden inside?

After thinking for a while, she turned the car around and drove to the AW Apartment.

Although she had bought a house here, it was Stacy who had made the decision to look after the house and buy it. She only had a slight impression of this apartment.

According to the address she saw in the contract, Wendy found that house.

Looking at the closed door, Wendy couldn't help laughing.

She was really frightened by Joe's question yesterday. Stacy had been alone all these years. Now that she was locked up in the detention center, how could there be anyone in this house?

Just as she was about to turn around and leave, the door behind her was suddenly opened, and a strange man with yellow hair came out.

The yellow-haired man looked very young, probably a little younger than Wendy.

Wendy was stunned and looked at him. "Who are you? Why do you live here?"

The yellow-haired man frowned impatiently. "This is my home. If I don't live here, who lives here? Who are you?"

Just as Wendy subconsciously wanted to cover up her

appearance, the man narrowed his eyes and asked, "Are you Wendy? My elder sister?"

"Who's your sister?!" Wendy looked at the man in disbelief. "Don't mess with relationships!"

With an evil smile on his face, the yellow-haired man said, "My mother's name is Stacy Vega. She said you are my sister. Is that true?"

“It’s impossible!” Wendy said in a sharp voice.

Over the years, Stacy had always portrayed herself as a mother who loved her daughter very much. Back then, she did the whole thing for the future of her and her daughter.

But now, Wendy was told that she had a younger brother.

Wendy couldn’t believe it.

“You came at the right time. I’ve been a little short of money recently. Why don’t you give me some money?” Sam waved at Wendy frivolously, and the expression on his face was even more shameless than that of a ruffian.

What Wendy had always believed collapsed in an instant.

Her voice was a little bitter. “Has she been raising you all these years?”

“Of course.” Sam nodded casually. “She sacrificed a lot to help you find a good family, but I can only follow her and suffer.

At this moment, Wendy finally believed what Sam said.

Wendy felt more and more suffocated as if she had been trapped at the bottom of a lake. She suddenly raised her head and looked at Sam with killing intent in her eyes.

Chapter 243 Dealt with Stacy and Sam

The moment her eyes met his, Sam subconsciously took two steps back.

Sam seemed to realize his cowardice and growled at Wendy, “Why are you looking at me like that? Do you want me to make your secret public?!”

Wendy clenched her fists tightly.

The last fantasy about Stacy from the bottom of her heart had completely disappeared. She calmly straightened up and looked at Sam coldly. “It’s okay if you want money, but you have to guarantee that my secret will never be known by others.”

Hearing that she could give him money, Sam naturally agreed. “Don’t worry. After all, you are my sister. I don’t want you to have bad luck, do I?”

Wendy sneered. Of course, she knew that both Stacy and Sam wanted her to have money for a long time. Only in this way could they treat her as an ATM and enslave her forever.

“Joe is keeping a close eye on me. I can’t transfer the money to you directly. I’ll bring cash to you in three days,” Wendy said lightly.

Although he could not get the money immediately, Sam suppressed his dissatisfaction when he thought that he would have to ask Wendy for money for a long time in the future.

After leaving the AW Apartment, Wendy dialed the number that sent the mysterious message with a cold face, but no one responded. She suddenly understood that the person did not intend to show up.

Clenching her phone tightly, Wendy thought for a moment and dialed a number.

Everything that had happened here had been clearly seen by the people sent by Joe. Even the contents of her call had been conveyed to him.

Joe narrowed his eyes and didn’t expect her to be so bold.

“Continue to follow.” Joe gave a few simple instructions and unconsciously tapped his fingers on the table.

According to his investigation, Wendy had been subsidizing Stacy over the years and had even paid off Stacy's gambling debts more than once.

According to Wendy's character, how could she be so willing to be controlled by others and even extort such a large sum of money?

Unless they knew her weakness.

Perhaps Stacy was the key to this matter.

Wendy did not know that her conversation had been overheard. She quickly calmed down and slipped back to the villa, pretending that nothing had happened.

At Joe's request, everyone in the villa pretended not to know anything. Wendy thought that she had gone out without anyone noticing.

The next day, she used the same trick again and slipped into a remote cafe to see a man with a scar on his face.

"I want to get rid of two people." Wendy whispered to the man, wearing a pair of huge sunglasses.

The man glanced at her coldly and asked, "Who introduced you here?"

"Leopard." Wendy gently spat out his name. She had met Leopard when she paid off Stacy's gambling debt. At that time, she didn't know why she had left his contact information. Unexpectedly, it came in handy today.

The man looked at her again and nodded. "Who do you want to kill?"

Wendy handed over the photos of Stacy and Sam that she had prepared earlier.

The man quickly glanced at it and spat out three words coldly, "Two million dollars."



Her lower lip hard and nodded. "I can give you 3 million dollars, but don't mention my name after the accident."

The man agreed without hesitation.

## Chapter 244 Joe and Stacy Met

Neither Wendy nor the man noticed that in a secret corner not far from them, someone had quietly recorded the whole scene.

Joe soon received the video. After he finished watching it, he ordered Jack, "I'm going to the detention center."

Since Wendy refused to admit it, he could only find a new way to confirm it.

At this time, Stacy in the detention center was also very anxious. Wendy had promised to send the money over soon, but two days had passed, and there was still no news from her.

Did she go back on her word?

"Stacy, you have a visitor!" A prison guard came over and interrupted her mind.

Her eyes lit up and she replied happily, "I'm coming!"

She walked happily all the way to the reception room. When Stacy saw that it was Joe, she froze on the spot.

"Hurry up and go in!" The prison guard behind Stacy pushed her, causing her to stagger and almost fall to the table.

Stacy quickly straightened up and smiled awkwardly at Joe. "Why are you here in person?"

Joe glanced at her indifferently and pointed to the chair opposite him. “Sit down.”

Stacy quickly sat down. Facing Joe’s dark eyes, she shivered a little and said, “You come to find me...”

Joe did not reply. Instead, he pushed his phone in front of her and said, “Take a look first.”

Stacy picked up the phone in confusion and saw a video on the screen waiting to be played. She glanced at Joe and confirmed. that he had no intention of stopping her before opening it.

The video showed the whole conversation between Wendy and the killer.

The photographer’s angle was very clever. Not only did he record their conversation, but he also took the two photos clearly.

Stacy’s face turned pale in an instant. Her hands trembled and she tried her best to hide her panic, but it was useless.

She suddenly looked up at him and said, “It must be fake! Impossible! How could Wendy want to kill me?”

Joe glanced at her indifferently. “Because you’re her mother?”

Stacy stiffened. “Why are you...”

“Not only do I know that you are her biological mother, but I

also know that you deliberately threw her at her adoptive parents’ door,” Joe said bluntly.

Stacy’s face immediately turned pale. She knew that the video Joe took must be real because if he wanted to harm her, there was no need to go through so much trouble.

“Please save me and my son!” Stacy shouted as she pounced on Joe and knelt down.

“I can save your son’s life, but I can’t save him for no reason...” Joe’s gaze fell on Stacy.

“You have to take out something that interests me.”

She looked at him in a daze. “I don’t understand...”

He was not in the mood to detour with her and said directly, “You can exchange for a lot of secrets, such as the birthmark on Wendy’s arm.”

With a crash, Stacy fell to the ground.

## Chapter 245 The Truth

For a long time, Stacy felt that she was so great.

It was not only because of her scheme that her daughter had lived a luxurious life since she was a child but also because she had helped Wendy hook up with a rich and powerful family so that she would not have to worry about it for the rest of her life.

But it was until today that she found that the more proud she was, the faster the retribution would come.

She thought that she had Wendy under control but did not expect that the other party was secretly plotting to kill her. She knew Wendy too well, and the resentment and killing intent in Wendy’s eyes were definitely not fake.

As for Joe...

“Don’t try to lie to me.” Seeing Stacy begin to look away, Joe suddenly said, “You can’t afford the consequences of lying.”

“Can you guarantee that you won’t take revenge on me?” Stacy gritted her teeth and made a decision. “I want you to protect my son and me.”

“I can only guarantee that I won’t let Wendy do anything to you two,” Joe said indifferently.

Stacy thought for a moment and clenched her fists. “Okay! You

Joe narrowed his eyes slightly. It seemed that he had come to the right place.

“Actually...” Stacy nervously swallowed. “Wendy is not the girl you met back then. Her birthmark was tattooed later. Those experiences... I told her.”

After saying this with great difficulty, Stacy stole a glance at Joe.

She had thought that he would fly into a rage, but he remained calm.

For him, it was just a guess that had been confirmed in his heart.

“How did you know the details?” Joe was not in a hurry to ask where the little girl was. Instead, he looked sharply at Stacy.

Stacy looked away and didn’t dare to answer.

Joe crossed his hands on the table and looked deeply at Stacy. “You cooperated with those kidnappers.”

Stacy was shocked, waved her hand in a panic, and said, “No, no, I didn’t do that!”

Joe was noncommittal. “I’ve said it before. If you lie to me, your ending will be very miserable.”

Stacy trembled slightly. Of course, she knew how powerful Joe was. After all, none of the kidnappers came to a good end after

being released from prison.

After a long time, she said with a sad face, “I’m really not their partner! I just... just... just want to send Charlotte out.”

“What?!” Joe straightened his body and glared at Stacy. “Charlotte?”

Stacy trembled all over. “Yes. The little girl who was kidnapped with you was Charlotte.”

It was just a short sentence, but it exploded in his ears like a clap of thunder.

The person who was kidnapped with him was Charlotte!

Stacy didn't notice the change in Joe's mood and continued talking.

When Stacy worked for the White Family as a servant, she found that this family was much better than that of the adoptive parents of Wendy, so she had long harbored evil intentions. But one time, she happened to hear the White couple talking about Charlotte's family background, so she came up with an idea at that time.

If Charlotte was kidnapped, they would definitely pay a lot of money to save her. It didn't matter even if they didn't want to pay. Once Charlotte was in trouble, she could use this secret to threaten them to recognize Wendy as their daughter. In this way, not only could they take advantage of the opportunity to inherit Charlotte's large fortune, but they could also shut

everyone up.

## Chapter 246 Endless Regret

Stacy found a few fellow villagers who were idling around and always revealed the wealth of the White Family intentionally or unintentionally while chatting, which finally aroused their evil thoughts.

Then, Stacy pretended to take Charlotte out, but in fact, she had already informed those kidnappers to take her away.

However, she didn't expect that those kidnappers not only took Charlotte away but also Joe.

What was even more unexpected was that the two children, who were less than 20 years old in total, had really escaped from several cruel kidnappers.

When Charlotte was discovered, she was covered in blood and dying.

Perhaps the White Family really had a conscience, or they were worried about the loss of the inheritance. In short, the White Family tried their best to save her.

By the time the White Family came to their senses, the kidnapping had basically been settled, and several kidnappers had been arrested.

The people of the White Family had never studied this case carefully. After learning that the kidnappers had been arrested,

ger paid

on to it.

Only Stacy, who was worried that she would be exposed, had been secretly trying to find out the details of the case. Only then did she know that Joe had been looking for the little girl who had been kidnapped with him.

Therefore, under her deliberate cover, the White Family, who didn't care about it at all, didn't notice it, let alone Charlotte herself.

Not long after learning the news, Stacy took the initiative to leave the White Family.

When Wendy grew up, Stacy told her about it and took her to tattoo an identical heart-shaped birthmark in the same position as Charlotte. Stacy inquired about the details of the case from Charlotte, and told them to Wendy.

Joe knew what was going on later.

After listening to Stacy, Joe remained silent for a long time.

What he had done to Charlotte over the years flashed through his mind, like a dismembering knife cutting his body, hurting his skin, and piercing his bones and blood.

Joe suddenly stood up and quickly walked back to the car.

Stacy looked at Jack in shock. "What... what does Mr. Smith mean?"

Jack was also at a loss, just glared at Stacy, and said, "Just wait and see."

Sitting in the back seat of the car, Joe undid his tie without a care for his image.

It was summer, but he felt that the air around him was pouring into his lungs like ice. Not only was it painful, but his limbs were also numb from the cold..

"Mr. Smith?"

Jack returned to the car, was shocked to see his pale face, hurried forward, and asked, “Are you all right? Do you want me to take you to the hospital?”

The voice of Jack broke the ice that tightly bound Joe’s limbs, slowly bringing him back to reality.

The sharp pain was still there, but Joe slowly said, “Go to find Charlotte.”

He was on his last breath.

When Joe thought of what Stacy had said about Charlotte back then, his heart was once again torn apart and stabbed hard by a knife.

He suddenly remembered that there was no birthmark on Charlotte’s arm.

Because there was a long scar across the place where the  
mark should have been, which looked extremely horrible.

He didn’t dare to guess or think about it.

## Chapter 247 Waiting for Her

When Joe arrived, Charlotte was in a meeting.

Frank asked politely, “Is there anything urgent you want to talk to Miss Clinton about? Do you need...”

“No need.” Joe said in a hoarse voice. “I’ll wait for her in her office.”

Seeing this, Frank did not ask any more questions and just asked the secretary to serve him tea in time.

Joe sat in the empty office and looked at Charlotte’s chair not far away. For the first time, his mind went blank.

Since the death of his parents, he had been used to controlling the overall situation, kept thinking, and never stopped. This was the first time that his mind was blank. He didn't know why he had to come to Charlotte and even didn't know what to say after seeing her.

Now he was like a dried fish, and only when he saw Charlotte could he really come back to life.

After an unknown period of time, Charlotte ended the meeting.

When she heard from Frank at the door of the conference room that Joe had come, she felt a little strange. They had no business to discuss during this period of time. Why did he suddenly come.

to her?

“Tell him I'm busy now.” Charlotte didn't want to see him, so she simply left Frank some instructions and then left the company with Mr. Lake.

Before Frank could react, they had disappeared from his sight.

Frank had no choice but to bite the bullet and come to

Charlotte's office. He cautiously said to Joc, “Mr. Smith... I'm really sorry. Miss Clinton has something urgent to deal with. I'm afraid...”

Joe looked at him indifferently, and the rest of his words were stuck in Frank's throat, unable to come out.

Joe understood. Ever since the kidnapping, Charlotte had been trying her best to avoid him. She probably had the same thoughts now.



The expected burst of anger did not appear. Joe simply nodded casually and said, "I'll wait for her here."

"But..." Frank was stunned.

The person sitting in front of him was Joe! How could he waste so much time waiting for someone?

Thinking of Charlotte's instructions, Frank had to say again, "But..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Joe shot him a cold glance.

Frank couldn't force them to take him away, so he left with a sad face.

It just so happened that there were some minor problems at work today. By the time Charlotte finished dealing with these things, it was almost late at night.

She touched her belly slowly, and at this moment, she felt hungry.

"Mr. Lake, why don't we have supper together?" Charlotte asked her secretary to order supper for all the employees who worked overtime that day. Then she turned to look at Mr. Lake next to her.

Before Mr. Lake could reply, Frank rushed over and said, "Miss Clinton..."

Seeing his embarrassed look, Charlotte was a little surprised. "What happened?"

Frank looked a little weird. "It's Mr. Smith... He's waiting for you in your office."

“What?” Charlotte was shocked. According to her understanding of him, it was impossible that he had not seen through her intention to dodge him, but he still waited until now.

She hesitated for a moment and was about to ask Frank to continue to send Joe away when he quickly said, “Mr. Smith has been waiting for you in your office for a day. Maybe there’s

another reason...”

If he didn’t take Joe out of the office, he was very suspicious that Joe would sleep on Charlotte’s sofa.

Charlotte had no choice but to follow Frank back to the office.

It wasn’t until the moment she saw Joe that she finally understood why Frank seemed to be particularly panicked.

The current Joe could almost be described as bedraggled.

Chapter 248 The Follow-up of the

Past

As the only heir of the Smith Group, Joe could always be described as noble in front of others. But now, his collar had been rudely torn open, his suit was wrinkled, and his eyes were full of confusion and helplessness.

If others saw him like this, they would suspect that the Smith Group was on the verge of bankruptcy.

Charlotte pursed her lips. “What happened to you?”

Joe looked up at Charlotte. Her clear eyes were full of doubts, confusion, and even inquiry.

But there was no care in her eyes.

Once upon a time, even if he frowned, Mia would ask about it for a long time. But when she became Charlotte, all kinds of things that Mia would do disappeared.

All of this was his own fault.

“I...” Joe’s voice was hoarse, and his eyes fell on her arm.

There was only an eye-catching scar left on the place where the birthmark should have been.

“What happened to the sear on your arm?” Joe’s throat seemed to have been rubbed by a piece of sandpaper, and there was a faint smell of blood.

Charlotte looked at her arm in shock. The scar had followed her for so many years that she sometimes forgot its existence. But there was nothing she couldn’t say. “I encountered something when I was a child...”

As she spoke, Charlotte suddenly understood.

She looked at Joc curiously. “You know?”

Joe abruptly raised his head. “What should I know?”

His eyes were so terrible that Charlotte frowned. “Do you know that Wendy is not the person you are looking for?”

It was as if a heavy hammer had struck his heart. Joe was in so much pain that he almost curled up his body, but he still stared at her. “When did you find out that she’s not the person I’m looking for?”

“I went to see Stacy for the kidnapping case before, and she said that.” Charlotte’s expression gradually became indifferent.

She had once offered her heart to Joe, but he had dismissed it.

She thought that Joe really loved Wendy, but later on, she found out that everything she had suffered in the past was all because of a ridiculous reason.

What was even more ridiculous was that the person who should have been repaid was actually her.

Except for the word ‘ridiculous’, she couldn’t think of any other words to describe it.

“I...” Joe opened his mouth, not knowing what to say.

Charlotte looked indifferent. She pointed to the scar on her arm and said, “Not long after you left, one of the kidnappers came back. When they found out that you were missing, they wanted to get some information from me. At that time, I didn’t say anything. They took out a dagger and wanted to threaten me but accidentally scratched me. I cried so hard. They were worried that you would find others for help and come back, so they threw me into the mountains.”

Speaking of this experience, Charlotte still had a lingering fear.

If she had been found by the police later, she would not be standing here now.

## Chapter 249 A Call from Sir Smith

“You always... knew the boy was me?”

Joe’s voice was bitter as he used all his strength to ask this question.

“No.” Charlotte shook her head. “I didn’t know until Stacy told me...”

Joc couldn’t stand it anymore. He staggered to his feet, stared at Charlotte, and said, “I’m sorry.”

Before she could reply, he had already stumbled away.

Charlotte looked at his back and frowned. “Is Jack here?”

Frank nodded. “Jack has been waiting outside. He should be able to send Mr. Smith back safely.”

Only then did Charlotte relax. After all, Joe was her business cooperator and children's biological father. She did not want anything to happen to him here.

In the next few days, Charlotte did not see Joe again. She thought that he had accepted the matter after the initial shock, so she did not pay any more attention to him.

The only thing that puzzled her was that Joe did not retaliate against Wendy.

Having known Joe for many years, she knew him well. He would never tolerate such deception, nor would he let Wendy go so easily.

Unless he really loved her so much that he went crazy and lost his mind.

Obviously, Joe wasn't that sort of person.

Charlotte frowned but quickly relaxed. No matter how much Joe and Wendy pestered each other, this matter had nothing to do with her anymore.

That day, after work, Gideon went to have dinner with Charlotte to discuss the progress of the Holiday Resort Venture project.

After chatting for a while, Gideon suddenly asked, "Mr. Smith hasn't been to the company recently. Do you know what's going

on?"

Charlotte was stunned and shook her head. "I don't know."

He nodded thoughtfully. "I thought Ben and Anna would keep in touch with him."

Speaking of this, Charlotte didn't know what to say about Joe.

Perhaps he really wanted to be a good father and had made a lot of attempts during this period of time, but Wendy would always appear at critical moments when they met, and even the children did not have a good impression of him.

Charlotte indeed wanted to stop them from meeting, so she would not put in a good word for Joe.

As a result, their relationship became lukewarm, and the two children rarely took the initiative to contact Joe.

Charlotte did not explain in detail and just said vaguely, “The two children only care about playing every day. How can they remember him?”

Gideon curled his lips into a smile and said, “Judging from your reaction, you seem to have really walked out of the past.”

He still remembered that when he first saw Charlotte, there was always a faint sadness between her eyebrows and there seemed to be a figure in her mind.

But now, it seemed that there was no haze in Charlotte’s eyes. When she mentioned Joe, she was no longer as depressed as before. She was really relieved.

Charlotte smiled and said, “People always have to look forward.”

After dinner, Gideon thoughtfully carried her bag. Just as he was about to send her back, Charlotte received a call from Sir Smith.

Seeing the caller’s name, she was stunned.

Although Sir Smith kept in touch with her after she returned to Zyphoria, he usually called her during working time and rarely

called her at this time.

“Sir Smith?” After Charlotte answered the phone, Sir Smith said in a slightly tired voice, “Mia... do you have time to come over now?”

“Does anything happen?” Charlotte did not agree immediately but asked.

## Chapter 250 Joe Got a High Fever

Sir Smith let out a heavy sigh. “Joe had a fever a few days ago and it didn’t subside. He kept saying sorry to you. I...”

Charlotte frowned.

When Joe left that day, everything seemed to be normal, but she didn’t expect...

“I know that he has let you down before and I don’t want you to forgive him.” Sir Smith sounded more haggard. “I just want you to enlighten him, even if you have to scold or beat him. Is that okay?”

Sir Smith had established the Smith Group from zero and had been fighting in the business world for half of his life. Even though he had retired behind the scenes, he still had a deterrent effect.

But now, he begged her with such a low attitude. Charlotte really couldn’t refuse him.

After a moment of silence, she agreed.

“Let me send you there,” Gideon said gently after listening to their conversation.

Charlotte nodded, and they drove to Sun House together.

Before getting out of the car, Gideon asked her, “Do you need me to wait for you here?”

Charlotte glanced at the villa behind her and thought for a moment. “Okay, it won’t take long.”

Gideon smiled and nodded. “It doesn’t matter. I’ll wait for you no matter how long.”

Charlotte was stunned, but since Gideon had already driven away, she did not say anything else.

The butler had been waiting at the door for a long time. When he saw Charlotte, he immediately showed a big smile. “Miss Clinton. Sir Smith has been waiting for you for a long time.”

Charlotte nodded slightly and felt the tense atmosphere in the Sun House, as well as the overt and covert inquiry sight lines.

She didn’t care and went straight to the study room of Sir Smith under the guidance of the butler.

Sir Smith was leaning against the sofa, resting with his eyes closed. When he heard her coming in, he opened his eyes with a tired face and said, “Charlotte.”

“Are you all right?”

Charlotte looked at him with concern. No matter how Joe treated her, Sir Smith had been very kind to her all these years. She didn’t want anything to happen to him.

Sir Smith shook his head. “I’m fine. I’ve seen all kinds of things when I was young.”

He changed the subject. “Do you know what’s going on with Joe?”

Charlotte hesitated for a moment and told Sir Smith about the story of the kidnapping and Wendy, hiding the fact that she was the person Joe was looking for.



Sir Smith was furious. “He said that Wendy saved his life before. I thought it was something else, but it turned out to be this. He has always been conceited and didn’t expect to be fooled by others! What a fool!”

After scolding him angrily, he looked at Charlotte and said, “I have to trouble you to persuade him. If you can’t persuade him, just forget it.”

He said in a deep voice, “The children of the Smith Family could withstand such a blow.”

Charlotte was noncommittal. She turned around and went to

Joe’s room.

The light in the room was dark. Charlotte turned on the light and saw Joe sleeping soundly on the bed.

She had never seen him so fragile. His pale face and abnormally red lips made him look particularly weak under the light.

“Joe...” Charlotte called out twice but did not hear any response.

and leave, Joe slowly

opened his eyes.

Frowning, he looked in Charlotte’s direction and asked in a hoarse voice, “Why are you here?”