

She Becomes Glamorous After The Engagement Annulment

Chapter 771 Repaying Debts

The woman on the bed was motionless.

She was so pale that her skin looked almost transparent.

She looked like she had already lost all signs of life...

However, Philip was not panicked at all. He continued to gently stroke Iris' cheek with his fingertips.

He persisted like that for ten minutes until Iris finally let out a long sigh. She slowly opened her eyes, meeting Philip's head-on. Underneath Iris' long eyelashes, her eyes were filled with a sense of resignation. "Why are you doing this?"

That day, when she went into shock from Philip's strangling, Iris had nearly died.

At that moment, she had really stopped breathing

But when Philip saw that she really wasn't breathing anymore, he'd panicked and hurriedly performed CPR on her, bringing her back to life.

At the same time, Philip had also been informed that Nora was Q. Only then did he realize that he had ultimately still lost the bet with Justin.

Iris hadn't struggled at that time but merely looked at him quietly.

Her gaze had terrified Philip, and he couldn't help but ask, "What are you looking at me

for?"

Iris replied, “I have already given you a life back. Is this enough as repayment for the love between us back then?”

Was it enough?

Iris had become utterly disappointed in him a long time ago.

Back then, Iris asked him for help, yet he'd continued to test her feelings for him. During that time, Iris had given up on the man.

If one asked her whether she loved him?

Iris' love for Philip was certainly not as deep as the latter's love for her.

After all, to Philip, love was everything.

However, that was not the case for her. She had never been someone obsessed over love. Compared to romantic love family affection, friendship, and even her life itself were more important.

Yet if one were to say that she did not love him?

Philip was someone whom she found hard to forget and let go of.

Despite five years passing since her marriage to Herman and even after having Justin, Iris had still been shocked at that moment where she met Philip once more.

After all, he was her unforgettable first love, how could she possibly not have loved him?

However, Iris had already made her choice.

She had sealed her heart and would never give herself and Philip another chance.

She and Philip both owed each other.

Philip owed her a debt of trust, whereas she owed him unwavering love. Only with much difficulty had he finally seen true love in her, yet in the end, it had still turned into a sham, causing him to lose his trust in the world.

In that instant, Iris felt like she had been freed.

Philip's expression, which had been full of guilt, had also shown his regret and fear.

In that instant where his emotions had gotten the better of him, he had hardly been able to control his emotions. That was why he'd done something so ruthless. Philip regretted his actions.

The moment he saw Iris' head hanging and her losing all signs of life, he knew that he had made a mistake.

True love for someone was to watch them live happily, not constant tests and destruction!

In the past twenty years, he had watched Iris from a distance and watched how she'd rather take care of flowers in the suburban villa than leave with him. That had indeed been torturous, but compared to that, he couldn't accept Iris leaving this world for good even more!

It could be said that Philip's bout of venting had allowed him to finally realize his true feelings—he was afraid of losing Iris!

Yet, Iris had completely let go of the relationship after her close brush with death.

She didn't owe him anything anymore.

Unfortunately, when Iris wanted to leave, Philip hadn't agreed to it and had forcibly taken her to the cruise ship.

Only on the ship, and only at sea, would that man be unable to find them.

Iris wanted to escape, but in the vast sea, where could she go?

She could only ignore him and try her best to persevere.

At this time, seeing that she had finally spoken, Philip hurriedly said, “It’s enough, it’s enough! Iris, everything you say is correct. Let’s have something to eat first, okay?”

Iris had not eaten for three days.

Without food or water, the body wouldn’t be able to take it.

However, Iris shook her head. “I told you, I’m not going to eat if you don’t free me. Philip, I don’t owe you anything anymore, you have no right to put me under house arrest.”

Philip sighed silently when he heard this. He said, “I’m not putting you under house arrest. I just want to start over with you.”

“That’s impossible.”

Iris was weak, so her voice was a little low.

She sighed. “Nothing can happen between us anymore. There are no longer any ties or debts between us.”

Her firmness made Philip panic.

He wanted to say more, but Iris closed her eyes, turned over, and continued to rest on the bed as if she had fallen asleep.

Philip stared at her back, at a loss as to what to say. He could only back away quietly and leave the room in silence.

Upon hearing him leave, Iris breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

However, not even five minutes later, the door was opened again. Philip said a little joyfully, “Iris, I’ve thought of a solution.” Iris opened her eyes. The moment she looked over, she was stunned. “What are you doing?!”

Chapter 772 Taking Revenge For Her

Iris was stunned.

Philip had found someone to carry a large fish tank into the room. The fish tank was half a person’s height and nearly three feet long. With a basin in his hand, someone poured water into it.

After doing it a few times, the tank was full.

Iris couldn’t understand what Philip wanted to do. However, the servants left after filling the tank with water, leaving only Philip and Iris in the room.

Philip gazed at her with his deep and bottomless eyes. Inside his eyes was love so strong that it was nearly crazy. He suddenly said, “Iris, I know you are angry at me for almost strangling you to death, so I will take revenge for you now.”

After he spoke, he suddenly lowered his head and plunged it into the water!

Iris’ pupils shrank and she sat up abruptly.

As she hadn’t eaten for three days, the violent movement made her vision blackout. She shook her head. After regaining a bit of light in her eyes, she looked at the room again.

Philip’s hands were grasping both sides of the fish tank tightly, and his head was still immersed in the water!

Iris shouted, “Are you crazy?!”

She rushed up to Philip and grabbed his collar to pull him out. However, Philip was very strong, Iris couldn't make him budge in the slightest.

Iris hurriedly got down beside him and started to bang on the fish tank!

In the water, Philip opened his eyes, which were a little red from holding his breath. He stared at Iris, his lips moving. Although there was no sound, Iris understood what he was saying: "Are you still angry?"

Iris was utterly stunned.

She stared at Philip in disbelief. The man's eyes were firm and determined as if saying that if she continued being angry, then he would really suffocate himself to death!

Iris hurriedly nodded to express that she was no longer angry.

She really was not angry.

She merely felt freed.

Despite that, Philip didn't get out of the water. His lips were still moving. He asked, "Will you eat?"

Iris clenched her jaw, not sure how she should answer.

If she ate, she would be compromising.

But she didn't want to continue her relationship with Philip. Now that she had gotten on in years, she felt that enjoying family life and playing with her grandchildren at home was the best outcome she could ever have.

While she was hesitating, she noticed that Philip's eyes were starting to roll up, indicating that he was about to pass out.

Iris yelled, “Come out of there! Come out!”

But Philip did not move.

It was as though he would never come out unless she answered him.

Seeing that the man was really about to suffocate himself to death—a minute had already passed since he went into the water—Iris did not dare to waste any more time. She hurriedly shouted, “I’ll eat, I’ll eat!”

When Philip heard this, he finally let go...

However, by then, he was already exhausted and couldn’t climb out at all and he fell into the fish tank instead.

Iris tried to pull him out again. As the man wasn’t resisting anymore, she managed to pull him out after putting every bit of her strength into it.

Splash!

Water splashed onto the ground, wetting the entire deck...

Philip lay there, his arms limp beside him. As he took gulps of air, he slowly opened his eyes.

Iris rushed up to him and gave him a slap across the cheek!

Smack!

Iris stared at him and snapped furiously, “You lunatic! You are a lunatic!”

Philip, however, merely stared at her with a smile. His simple and naive appearance suddenly reminded Iris of their first date.

He was introverted at that time. To be honest, among all the people courting Iris, he was neither eye-catching nor outstanding, yet she had chosen to date him.

He didn't know where to take her or how to be nice to her, so he had stood below her dormitory and waited for her. After she got dressed and came downstairs, he could only give her a silly smile.

The faces of that boy from back then and the man in front of her gradually overlapped.

Iris cast her eyes down and said nothing.

The servants outside had already entered, and they started to clean up everything in the room.

Soon, the water on the floor was gone and the fish tank was also carried away. The room became clean and spotless. They even prepared a change of clothes for Iris, whose clothes had gotten wet when she pulled Philip out of the water.

Iris went to the bathroom and changed.

After she came out, she found that Philip had also changed into a set of clean clothes with the help of the servants. He had calmed down somewhat by then. The table was also full of her favorite breakfast foods.

Iris walked over. Before she could do anything, Philip pulled out the chair for her, his behavior extremely gentlemanly.

Iris sighed.

She lowered her head.

If she didn't eat, she didn't know what else Philip might do...

Never mind.

She would just take it that all her years of growing flowers in the suburban villa were just a vacation. She made up her mind to eat and drink properly from now on. Otherwise, if her health suffered, how was she going to go back, enjoy family life, and play with her grandchildren?

As for Philip... She lowered her eyes.

She'd just treat him like a stranger.

Seeing that she was willing to eat, Philip broke into a grin excitedly. He sat opposite her and kept offering her different dishes. However, she didn't eat any of the food he served her.

Philip sighed silently and put down his cutlery. "Iris, I know you still blame me for everything that has happened, but I will slowly make up for what I've done. We will definitely be able to return to what we were like in the past."

Iris wanted to say that it was impossible, but when she looked up, she saw Philip staring at her and saying, "It'll definitely be possible. Definitely, absolutely."

Iris decided to shut up.

After she finished eating, she felt a little more energetic. Although she was still rather weak, she didn't want to lie down in the room anymore, yet she didn't want to be alone if she were to go out for a walk, either.

She wanted even less to be with Philip.

While she was deep in thought, Philip smiled and said, "Iris, look who's here?"

Iris turned to see Mrs. Landis walking in. At the sight of Iris, Mrs. Landis stepped forward and called out, "Ma'am!"

Iris was surprised.

Philip sighed. "We're going to have to drift at sea for a while. I was afraid that you would be lonely, so I brought her here too. With her accompanying you, you would probably have a very good time here. By the way, you can go

shopping. The cruise ship has everything, and there isn't any limit to your purchases at all."

They were on a tourist cruise ship. Even a single ticket cost thousands of dollars, yet Philip had reserved the entire ship.

The cruise ship was huge and lavish.

The cruise ship was just like a large shopping mall. There were all kinds of luxury goods there, so one wouldn't find it boring even if they stayed here for a month.

As Iris listened to what he said, she lowered her eyes, patted Mrs. Landis' hand, and said, "Then let's go out for a walk."

If she stayed in the room, she'd have to face Philip. If so, she might as well relax, calm down, and protect herself well. They would eventually dock one day. After Iris and Mrs. Landis went out, Jason quietly came in and walked up to Philip. He said, "Boss, King is calling again. What do you think his relationship with Justin Hunt really is?"

Chapter 773 Husband And Wife Work Together

Philip narrowed his eyes when he heard this.

To be honest, when he abducted Iris, he'd initially planned to take her away, but he hadn't expected the Hunts to be so capable. On top of that, Justin was not as simple as it seemed.

Justin had driven them into such a corner that they nearly couldn't leave New York.

After that, when Philip wanted to return to his turf, he'd received a call from King, asking him to send Iris back home safely.

Philip realized it then.

No wonder King had sold him the shares at such a high price. King had already taken the Hunts' side a long time ago, everything he did was to help the Hunts.

He couldn't figure out the relationship between King and the Hunts, but he didn't dare to offend him, either. Thus, he had put on an obedient front and pretended to obey his instructions, but taken Iris to the cruise ship the next moment.

As long as they were at sea, King wouldn't be able to find them. Even if they found their location, they wouldn't be able to do anything

This was also why he'd taken Iris to the ship.

Of course, there was also another reason.

When they were in college, he'd once asked Iris where she wanted to go on a vacation the most. Iris had replied, "I don't like sports. Mountain climbing and all that makes people sweat and it stinks. I like ferry vacations. I can travel around the whole world on a cruise and it won't tire me out either."

This most elegant way of travel was her favorite.

At that time, Philip had said that he would take her there in the future.

He was just fulfilling the promise he'd made back then.

Thinking of this, Philip took the satellite phone from Jason. King's deep voice came from the other end.

"Philip, Iris hasn't returned home yet."

Philip replied, "Yeah, she and I still have some old promises that we have not fulfilled. We are having a lot of fun, so please don't worry, Mr. King."

King fell silent for a while. Finally, he said, “If anything happens to her, I will make you die a terrible death!”

The other party’s harsh words shocked Philip.

The main reason why no one dared to refute King in the group was that he really was just like a king. When Philip inherited his Imperial League account as a child, King had already been in the group for as long as forty years.

He could remember like it was just yesterday that someone in the group had questioned King’s position and actions thirty years ago. Their century-old business empire had gone bankrupt within a month.

King had used actions to prove his position and status.

Since then, no one in the group dared to ever go against him again.

Philip was a fierce and savage man through and through, but even he was afraid of King. He thought for a while, but still decided to ask, “May I know how you are related to Justin Hunt? Why do you protect them so much?”

King sneered, “Don’t ask things you shouldn’t be asking. You just need to know that Iris is a relative of mine. Anyone who hurts her will have to pay the price.”

His relative...

That meant that they were related by blood!

Philip was stunned. He’d thought that as long as he got over his own issues, he would be able to be with Iris again; just like how Herman had obediently divorced Iris when he casually manipulated the Hunts a little.

Iris had also stayed in the suburbs for more than twenty years and never remarried.

Little did he expect that Iris had such a powerful background?

But if Iris knew King, then shouldn't she have sought help from King instead of him when Justin was kidnapped ?!

What exactly was going on ?

Philip was puzzled, but when he wanted to ask further, King had already hung up.

This gave Philip some reservations.

He suddenly looked at Jason. "Get our men to thoroughly investigate Iris's background."

Although Jason didn't understand, he nonetheless said respectfully, "Yes, sir."

At the Hunts' residence in New York.

Justin lowered his gaze and went into deep thought after he hung up the phone.

Philip was a little crazy, and he also had an unyielding aura etched deeply in him. Therefore, he mustn't push him too hard; it was very likely that Philip would otherwise kill both himself and Iris.

Justin had exposed his family ties with Iris just so Philip would hesitate to do anything rash.

Of course, Justin was also now certain that he understood Philip very well. The man loved Iris very much and was reluctant to hurt her. Or else why would he hold back for more than twenty years ?

"Boss, we have found their whereabouts. Philip owns a cruise ship that left shore three days ago. Those who had booked tickets have all received refunds and information about compensation from the cruise ship. Therefore, we are guessing that Mdm. Iris is on the cruise ship."

Sean reported his findings. “We have contacted the people on the cruise ship. We have an informant there, and he has passed us a message saying that Mdm. Iris is fine. On the contrary, Philip has been begging her for forgiveness.”

He frowned and went on. “The troublesome part is, although we have pinpointed the cruise ship’s location, there are too many of Philip’s men on board while we only have one informant, so we have no way of snatching her back. Additionally, if we dispatch a helicopter or a ferry to take her back, given the commotion it would cause, we won’t be able to completely guarantee Mdm. Iris’ safety at sea. Therefore, we may still need to wait for her to return safely by herself after she and Philip resolve the issues between them.”

After confirming that Iris was safe for now, Justin was relieved.

He lowered his head and looked at the map on the table. “Just get someone to monitor them at all times. Dispatch a ship to follow them from a distance and make sure they don’t discover the ship. But if any problem arises, they are allowed to immediately approach and carry out a rescue operation!”

“Yes, sir.”

Sean took out his cell phone and made arrangements.

After the arrangements were made, he looked at Justin, only to see him staring at the location of a certain bank on the map.

Sean asked, “Boss, what’s wrong?”

Justin was silent for a moment. Suddenly, he said, “Station all our men in New York near this bank. Nora and I will be going there within the next two days.”

“Yes, sir.”

Sean turned to leave, but before he stepped out, Justin suddenly stopped him. “Get a few of our men to follow me out tonight.”

Sean’s heart sank.

Justin was the Irvin School of Martial Arts’ Big Brother. To be honest, he was fully capable of protecting himself in most typical dangerous situations. The reason why he brought so many bodyguards with him was just so he could weaken the enemy’s attention on him.

Yet he was specially bringing their own men with him this time? What kind of dangerous mission was he going on?

He lowered his head and said, “I’ll go with you.”

“No, it’s fine.”

Justin suddenly looked at him. “The Hunts and the Imperial League need you.”

Sean: “...”

Suddenly, it felt a little like Justin was leaving his last words, which made him feel rather uneasy.

He called a few of their most skilled men over. Then, he watched as Justin led the men and entered the darkness.

At the same time, Nora also quietly left the Hunt Manor.

She was going to the bank to see what on earth her mother had left her!

Chapter 774 She Can’t Wait Anymore!

Nora couldn’t wait anymore.

Perhaps it wasn't the V16 but clues to it in the safe deposit box, but there were only two months and twenty days left until Xander had to take the V16.

Every passing day was torture for her. This was especially true when she saw the terrible atmosphere at home upon returning from California earlier in the afternoon. Cherry was not playing games, neither was Pete working on his Mathematical Olympiad. Instead, both of them were circling around Xander.

Cherry had taken out all her favorite Barbie dolls and princess dresses and wanted to give them to him.

Xander hadn't taken them.

As for Pete, he also hinted that he could give him all the Mathematical Olympiad worksheets he had bought.

Xander hadn't taken those either.

The little fellow slumped on the sofa and waved as he said, "I don't like your stuff! I only like animals!"

When Cherry heard this, she immediately suggested, "I have an uncle who also loves animals a lot. He has a lot of stray cats and dogs. Why don't we get Uncle Louis to send us a few?!"

But Xander had waved and said, "No, I don't want them. Those animals are your uncle's friends, not mine."

Cherry corrected him. "Xander, he's also your uncle. He is very generous. Besides, he also needs money to feed that many cats and dogs, but he doesn't have any. He will definitely thank us if we help him raise a few!"

Pete also nodded and said, "Yes, he also has a dog whose coat has a mix of colors."

As soon as he said that, Xander replied, “So what? Even if he does, it’s still not Rainbow.”

Rainbow was Dog No. 3. As its coat was a mix of different colors, Xander had named it Rainbow. The name was too cliché, and even Rainbow itself disliked it. However, that was what Xander called it, so it had no other choice.

Rainbow was also the healthiest among the dogs there.

However, just this morning, Rainbow lay down on the floor and never woke up again.

Xander, who had become accustomed to death and parting, had dug a hole in the garden together with Cherry and Pete and buried Rainbow there.

There were now several more mounds in the garden, all of which contained Xander’s friends.

Every time they went to the garden, their hearts would be exceptionally heavy.

As soon as Xander said that, Cherry and Pete looked at each other, neither of them daring to continue. Cherry changed the subject and said, “Xander, have you decided yet? Are you going to take the same last name as me or Pete?”

Neither Cherry nor Pete would be changing their names.

But surely Xander couldn’t keep using Yale as his last name, right?

While Cherry and Pete were thinking about it, Xander waved and said, “Nah, I haven’t.”

Cherry said, “Why don’t you take Smith as your last name like me? Grandpa will like you a lot!”

Pete said, “Boys should take Hunt as their last name, of course. It’s better to have the same last name as Daddy.”

Cherry then said, “But if Xander’s last name is Hunt, then wouldn’t he end up competing with you over family assets? Let’s have Xander take Smith as his last name and inherit Grandpa’s assets instead!”

Pete and Xander both looked at her. “What about you?”

Cherry grinned. “I have Grandaunt!”

Pete: “?”

Xander: “??”

Cherry tilted her head and said, “Grandaunt doesn’t have any children, so she has always said that everything she has is mine. Princess Lucy can testify to that!”

Princess Lucy had been staying at the Hunts’ ever since she came to celebrate Cherry’s birthday the other time. She had stayed with Cherry and played with her for three whole days.

Later, because of all the uncertainty and turmoil regarding Herman and Philip, Justin had sent her back.

She and Cherry had been reluctant to part when she had to go.

At the mention of her grandaunt, Cherry tilted her head and said, “I miss Grandaunt!”

Xander had been listless the whole time.

Even when Nora came home, all three children rushed over, and she played with them for a while—Xander was still not very happy.

However, it seemed like the little boy had learned to hide his emotions from an early age, so he didn't let it show at all.

After having dinner with the children, Nora sent them back to their room to rest.

The three little fellows were still very young. Coupled with the fact that she was around that night, they had all clamored to sleep with her. Thus, all of them lay down together on the bed.

The heartless Cherry fell asleep very quickly.

Pete looked at Xander worriedly.

Nora patted his head.

Pete was simply too sensitive. On top of that, he even knew to be mindful of other people's emotions. He was so sensible that it made one's heart ache.

On the contrary, it was Xander the little devil who couldn't fall asleep. It was only after Nora lit the calming incense she had developed that Pete and Xander finally fell asleep.

She got up to check on Justin and see what he was doing

But as soon as she moved, she heard Xander shouting in his sleep, "Mommy, save me! Rainbow, I don't wanna die. Sniff..."

"Rainbow, is it cold in the soil?"

"Does it hurt when you die?"

"Do you still feel anything after death?"

Nora was frozen in place.

She had lit the calming incense, so despite Xander's extreme unease, he didn't wake up. However, his words pierced Nora's heart like a dagger.

As it turned out, Xander was feeling very insecure.

He had been fearful all along, yet the boy had never said anything in front of them.

It was true that he felt sorry for the animals and was sad to part with them. But who wouldn't be afraid of death?

This was especially when... Xander had an extremely high IQ. He understood the concept of life and death.

Nora took a deep breath and walked out of the room.

She didn't go upstairs to look for Justin.

On the way back to New York, she and Justin had agreed to find a suitable opportunity to get rid of the people tailing her. After that, they would go to the bank to retrieve the things there.

But she couldn't wait anymore.

After Justin's fight with Jude, he had become extremely cautious. This made the perceptive Nora realize that the people tailing them could not be ordinary.

According to Caleb, the five children who survived back then had all become big bosses in different places. Trueman and Caleb were in Switzerland, but there were still three others who were following her in search of the V16!

She didn't know who they were, nor did she have any clue as to their identities at the moment.

But if she dragged this on any further, she was really afraid that she wouldn't be able to save Xander anymore.

It was just a safe deposit box, wasn't it?

She would just go and retrieve it!

With that in mind, Nora left the Hunt Manor. She didn't drive. Instead, she tried her best to avoid the people tailing her in the dark and turned into a small alley at the side.

After doing this several times, she finally got rid of the people tailing her and arrived at the bank.

The bank was closed and locked up at night. This was not an issue for Nora, though.

She took out her cell phone casually and tapped away on it quickly.

Click!

The door to the bank opened and Nora slipped inside.

Chapter 775 A Stranger!

It was pitch black inside the hall.

Nora turned on her cell phone immediately after she entered. On the screen was the layout of the bank.

Although her mother had deposited the things in the bank more than twenty years ago, the location of the safes was still the same despite the layout of the bank changing over the years.

Thus, her mother's things were still there.

Nora remembered clearly that it was safe no. 06 and the password was her birthday.

She walked soundlessly towards the safe deposit boxes.

There was no staff inside, only security officers patrolling back and forth. However, it was very difficult for them to spot her.

Nora was in full black clothing, so she completely blended with the darkness.

Light-footed and nimble, she headed straight to the safe deposit boxes. But after she passed by two rooms, she suddenly heard footsteps behind her.

Nora's pupils shrank and she suddenly darted into the corner next to her. When she looked behind her, she caught a shadow flashing past.

It seemed that it was very unsafe here tonight.

And she wasn't alone here!

The thought made Nora bite her lip. Her first thought was that she hadn't managed to avoid the people tailing her and had been followed!

Aside from professionals like Morris, the only ones who could follow her without her noticing were people more skilled than her in martial arts.

Someone more skilled than her in martial arts?! Was it Jude's boss?

Could that person be one of the five children who had survived in the gene serum laboratory?

It could only be one of them!

Nora broke into a big frown.

Her mind ran at high speed. What should she do?

Since he had followed her here, he must already know by now that something was up with the bank. Even if she turned around and left, it would be difficult for her to dispel the other party's suspicions.

Even if he didn't know that the safe in question was No. 06, now that he had locked on to the bank, all he needed to do was just check all the safes and he would find the clue.

Therefore, she had no way out.

Tonight, she, Nora Smith, must retrieve the V16 that her mother had left behind. Otherwise, it was highly likely that she would be caught by the other party!

With that in mind, Nora took a deep breath.

Then, she suddenly stopped and went on the offensive!

She would test the black-clad man's skills first.

Bam!

The moment she launched her attack, the two got into a fight. The other party responded very quickly. Before her fist could connect, he was already blocking her attack and counterattacking.

In just a single exchange of blows, Nora concluded that he was most definitely someone whose genes had been modified with the gene serum!

Because his physical strength was too great!

Nora had been practicing martial arts for a very long time. Since she was a child, she had been relying on her natural talent to come this far. On top of that, she even became the Quinn School of Martial Arts' Big Sister.

This was the first person in her life to give her a foreboding pressure.

Her almond-shaped eyes were widened big and round as she stared at the person in front of her.

In the darkness, the man's eyes shone green. He wore a baseball cap and a facial mask, revealing only his eyes. The way he stared at Nora was as if he had just spotted his prey.

When he was blocking Nora's attack, the man chuckled and said, "Is that all you've got?"

He had an accent. It was obvious that he was a foreigner.

In this instant, Nora felt a little angry at herself for not training properly. If she had been a little more diligent, then she might have had a chance if she went at her opponent with full force.

She took a deep breath. "Who are you?"

"You don't need to know that. Just hand over the V16 obediently and I will spare your life."

The man moved toward her one step at a time. "Resistance is futile. All my genes have been improved and I have no flaws. I am the most powerful fighter on earth now. Without any firearms, you won't be a match for me at all."

The man spoke confidently and arrogantly.

How could she use firearms here, though? If she did, all the security officers would come running in an instant!

Nora was in a half-squat, ready to attack.

She knew that she was not the man's match, but she couldn't just go down without a fight.

The V16 was Xander's, she would never relinquish it to anyone else!

She took a deep breath and sneered, "Try me."

The man seemed a little surprised at her reaction. Nevertheless, he let out a low chuckle and said, “Trueman is right, you are indeed too stubborn. You hold out hope until you’re faced with the grim reality. In that case, I shall show you how strong I am!”

The man stepped forward abruptly and closed the distance between him and Nora!

Nora had just exchanged a punch with the man, so her fingers were still hurting. How would she possibly dare to still fight him head-on?

Thus, the moment the man got near, Nora tucked and rolled. A scalpel suddenly appeared in her hand, going straight for the man’s throat!

The scalpel was her weapon.

She had always been a tough woman who met challenges head-on. She didn’t believe that the man was really stronger than her!

But the next moment...

Clang!

Not only did the man evade her attack, but he even struck her wrist. Nora had always had a lot of physical strength, but her hand was in severe pain at this moment as she lost all the strength in her hand instantly.

The scalpel fell right onto the ground!

She really couldn’t beat him!

The thought flashed through Nora’s mind. By then, the man behind her had already come close again. When it looked like he was about to catch her, a contemptuous sneer flashed across Nora’s lips. At once, she turned back and brandished her hand!

A blast of white smoke erupted in the air.

It was a drug to knock one out!

The man froze for a moment.

However, Nora didn't take the opportunity to attack. It wasn't like she could beat him anyway. Also, her objective today was not to kill the opponent but to find the V16.

So... If she couldn't beat him, then she would just run. There was no problem with that whatsoever.

She did a tuck-and-roll and slipped into the corridor next to her. Then, she raced forward.

She didn't look back, but she could sense that the man was catching up to her.

The gene serum had improved his body, so his physical abilities surpassed that of ordinary people. The drug just now only had minimal effect on him. There was no way it would subdue him.

Therefore, Nora ran like the wind. The tables and chairs in the bank also hindered the man during the pursuit.

The man got closer and closer to her. Just as he was about to catch her, Nora dodged and ran into the room where the safe deposit boxes were.

Then, she locked the door!

At once, the sound of someone trying to break the lock rang out at the door. However, Nora's objective was precisely psychological warfare.

She raced towards safe no. 06 to get her hands on the V16 before the man could rush in!

Chapter 776 The Moment of Farewell!

Click!

When Nora opened the safe, the sound of the door opening also rang out.

She looked behind her abruptly and saw the man in black entering. His hand was on the light switch, and with a snap, the room became as bright as day.

Nora's eyes narrowed.

For the first time in her life, Nora, who had been leading in every field no matter what it was since she was a child, felt a sense of powerlessness.

The man was too strong.

To be honest, she didn't get that feeling even when she fought with Justin. While she was thinking, the man said again in broken English, "Give me that thing. I spare your life."

Nora didn't move, keeping her hand in the same position ready to open the safe. She tried to stall for time. "You are only strong because you took the gene serum. Artificial strength like that won't deter or intimidate anyone."

The man sneered, "Justin Hunt can say that but what makes you think you can too? Haven't you also been injected with the gene serum?"

Nora frowned.

His words didn't mislead her, nor did she feel like she was not as strong as she'd thought herself to be, but was instead very annoyed because of what he said. Nora knew very well that what her mother had only injected into her a minuscule amount of IQ gene-improving serum. All her achievements to date were to her own credit!

She wanted to say more, but the man had come right up to her in a flash and delivered a kick right to her face!

His movements were ruthless, merciless, and icy-cold.

Should the kick strike Nora, she would very likely die on the spot.

She didn't have time to look at the safe, she could only dodge.

She'd only just dodged the attack when the man's other leg came at her with another kick. The look in his eyes was icy and carried disgust for Nora.

“I gave you a chance. Since you don't cherish it, then forget it!”

He swung his fist again.

Nora dodged awkwardly and asked, “Do you have a grudge against me?”

She was trying to guess his identity by talking to him.

The man sneered. “Don't bother guessing, you don't know me. But I know your mother! If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be in this state today!”

Nora frowned. “Weren't you only a few years old when my mother died?”

“Heh, if she hadn't developed the gene serum, would we have become tools for their experiments? I hate sanctimonious hypocrites like you! You say that we are wicked and that the world should lock us up but in reality? Was it our choice that we became like this?!”

The man was speaking more, but every word of his was cold and frosty. He stared at Nora and said, “So, you all deserve to die!”

Almost as soon as he said that, he threw another punch!

Nora retreated again, only to find that her back was already against the wall. As the man attacked her again and again and she took step after step backward, she had been forced into a dead end.

Nora could only raise her arm to block his attack.

... Even if she knew that the man was strong enough to break her arm! And crush it!

She closed her eyes and listened to the man coming nearer and nearer to her.

The moment the man was about to strike her, she suddenly opened her eyes.

The best form of defense was the offense.

How could Nora possibly sit around and do nothing?!

Without even thinking about it, she put all her strength into her leg and kicked the man's abdomen!

The man had only two choices—either he pulled back his arm, thereby allowing her to dodge the bullet, or continued to attack and she fought him to the death, even if it meant that she would suffer an even more serious injury herself!

Now that the lights were on, the security guards would discover the situation here in no time. If she stalled for enough time, someone would eventually come. As long as the V16 did not fall into the man's hands, Justin would still have a chance of obtaining it for Xander.

Nora narrowed her eyes, but little did she expect that the man would choose the second option without any hesitation.

Thud!

Nora's leg connected with his abdomen.

In spite of that, the man didn't stop and his fist went straight for Nora's arm!

Thud!

Another thud rang out.

However, the pain of having an arm broken didn't come, which took Nora aback. When she regained her senses, she realized that someone's leg had intercepted the black-clad man's fist from the side.

The blow made the man in black finally take a step back.

Before Nora could see who her rescuer was, she was pulled back by her shoulders. A solid and strong figure then stood in front of her, blocking her from the man in black.

Nora stared at the person in front of her.

Even though he was dressed in black clothes, suitable for moving around in the dark, and a baseball cap, she still recognized at a glance that he was Justin!

The man in black had put all his strength into the punch just now. Although Justin kicked at his fist, it stood to reason to he shouldn't have been able to withstand the punch, yet it seemed like Justin's leg was completely fine.

Nora suddenly thought of how Justin was always forced into fleeing around the room whenever she fought with him.

Now that she thought about it again, though, the man had been going easy on her all this time!

He was obviously stronger than her!

Nora looked at the man in black again. Even though he had been kicked by her and had also exchanged a blow with Justin, the man merely took a few steps back as if he was completely fine.

The man looked at the two of them and chuckled softly. “Hah, you overestimate yourselves.”

Then, without saying anything else, he stepped forward without hesitation. Justin and Nora looked at each other. The two of them tacitly took a step forward and fought with the man.

Despite fighting two-on-one, the man still seemed to be having an easy time.

They mustn't continue fighting with him like this.

The thought had only just flashed past Nora's mind when Justin grabbed her arm and pushed her to the safe.

“Hurry!”

Justin had only uttered a word but Nora immediately understood what he meant. At once, she reached towards the safe.

The man was infuriated when he saw this. He bypassed Justin and attacked Nora.

Nora didn't care. With full assurance, she entrusted Justin with her safety and opened the safe!

The man wanted to rush over, but Justin kept him occupied.

However, the moment Nora opened the safe, her pupils shrank!

Because!

Inside the safe was nothing but a bomb!

The bomb was triggered the moment she opened the safe, and it instantly started to display a countdown of twenty seconds!

Next to the bomb was a tiny box!

Was this... the trap that her mother had left her?

Had it been someone else who did not know the password, the bomb would probably have gone off the moment the door was pried open. Only when she used the password to open the door would she have time to escape.

Her mother had really... considered every possibility.

Even so, she probably never thought that her daughter would be trapped here, right?

Without any hesitation, Nora picked up the tiny box, turned around, and shouted, “Run!”

As soon as she shouted, the man in black rushed right up to her. He reached out to grab the box in her hand.

Nora dodged and shouted, “If we stay any longer, we will all die here!”

Despite that, the man stood right at the door and sneered, “You two can forget about leaving if you don’t give me that!”

The countdown reached ten seconds!

The walls of the room with the safes were forged from steel to prevent people from breaking in and stealing things. There weren’t any windows but only a metal door.

With the man standing guard at the door, it was impossible for the two of them to escape!

At the critical moment, Justin suddenly snatched the metal box from Nora and threw it to the left of the door. He shouted, “Here, you can have it!”

The man stepped aside without any hesitation to grab the box.

Nora frowned.

The timing was too tight, she didn't have any time to swap the box's contents at all. The metal box was still the one that she'd just taken out and the V16 might be in it.

She didn't dare to take any chances!

Just as she was about to rush over to grab it back, Justin grabbed her arm and she was thrown out the door with great force.

Thud!

By the time Nora fell to the ground, Justin had already grabbed the metal box before the other man. He flung it out the door without any hesitation!

And then...

Before Nora could get back up, both the man in black and Justin raced madly towards the door.

Justin looked at Nora.

They were out of time.

The countdown turned from one to zero.

Boom!

The room exploded.

Waves of heat spread swiftly from the metal safe to the door...

All Nora could see was the heat waves hit Justin and the man in black from the back. The two of them were only one step away from the metal door!

He wouldn't be able to get out in time...

Upon realizing this, Nora sprung off the floor and rushed straight to the metal door!

With the door in between them, she and Justin looked at each other.

Suddenly, the corners of Justin's lips curled upward. At the last moment, he suddenly slammed the metal door shut!

“Nooooo!”

Nora screamed!!

Justin... He was still in there!!!

He wasn't out yet!!

But the only thing that she heard was the click of the lock that came from beyond the big metal door, as well as the rumbling explosion inside...

Chapter 777 Whose Corpse Is That? Is Justin Dead Or Alive?

A metal door separated the two worlds.

Nora used all her might to kick and stomp at the door, but she simply couldn't open it. She could only watch helplessly as the fire in the room got bigger and bigger.

The explosion also finally attracted the security officers' attention, who immediately called the firefighters.

Nora stared at the door.

Her countenance remained calm and collected the whole time. Even when people started rushing to the scene, she rationally slipped the metal box into her pocket.

Soon, the fire was put out. The firemen finally pried open the door and rushed in.

Everything inside had been blown up and burned to ashes. On the ground lay a charred, unrecognizable corpse with only the bones left.

There was only one corpse... This filled Nora with hope.

The man in black and Justin had both been inside, so how could there be only one corpse?

Right away, she looked at Morris, who had come over upon hearing the news, and said, "Do a DNA check."

Morris didn't have Justin's DNA data.

However, Nora did. In order to do a comparison with Xander's DNA, she had even retrieved samples again. Thus, Lily had accurate data of his DNA.

Morris nodded at her request.

Some people also came to investigate why they were in the bank late at night and even bombed it.

However, Sean promised to compensate the bank for all their losses while Morris also said that Nora was the special department's legal adviser, so it was perfectly normal for her to come over and conduct investigations.

With that, news of the incident was suppressed

Nora went straight to the special department together with the dead body.

When she returned once more to the familiar place, all the people around her who had once wronged her felt so guilty that they didn't dare to face her.

When Brenda heard the news, she rushed over and looked at her in disbelief.

“Nora, i-is that Justin?”

“No, it isn't.”

Nora sounded certain, but she didn't know whether she was saying that to Brenda or to herself. She said, “There's only one corpse, it can't be him...”

Brenda also nodded when she heard this. She said, “That's right, that's definitely not Justin, Nora. Justin has always been mysterious, and he's always so secretive about everything he does. Also, ever since he was abducted when he was five, he always brings more than twenty bodyguards with him. There's no way anything would happen to someone who fears death as much as he does...”

Despite saying that, her voice gradually became choked up.

Even Brenda didn't quite believe what she was saying

If that wasn't Justin, then where did he go? Didn't he know that Nora and his children were waiting for him to come back?

Why hadn't he shown up yet?

But she couldn't say that, much less did she dare to. In fact, she was just holding out a glimmer of hope that the body was not Justin's!

Upon hearing this, Morris glanced at Brenda.

The woman, who had always been exquisitely dressed, looked a little like she was in a mess at the moment, which went to show how flustered she was due to her involvement with the matter.

He took a deep breath and sent the bones to the lab.

While waiting for the result, in order to relieve some of the pressure on Nora and Brenda, Morris asked, “Nora, you said just now that the two of you met a man in black when you two went to the bank to take something. In order to save you, Mr. Hunt locked himself in the room with the man in black, right? If so, then why was there only one dead body at the scene?”

Nora looked at him.

Morris explained to her cautiously, “This can only point to one thing—there must be other passages out of that room! I have already gotten my men to look into it. If other passages exist, then Mr. Hunt should be fine.”

Nora nodded. “Yes, that’s exactly it.”

Seeing that she looked somewhat flustered, Morris let out a soft sigh. Suddenly, he asked, “So, did you get what you wanted to take from the bank?”

Did she get it?

Nora raised her head slightly and stared at Morris. A while later, she shook her head lightly and replied, “It was taken away by the man in black. He was waiting at the bank precisely because he wanted to take it from us...”

Her voice became softer and softer toward the end. One could hear dejection in her voice.

At this moment, Morris’ cell phone rang.

After he answered, a touch of joy came over his expression. He looked at Nora and said, “They really found a tunnel in the room! So, Mr. Hunt really may have left from that tunnel!”

However, Nora's heart instead sank when she heard him.

Sure enough, there really was a tunnel in the bank. In that case, who had dug the tunnel?

While she was contemplating, chaotic footsteps suddenly came from the door of the lab. Herman's furious roar then came over.

“What's going on? What exactly has happened to Justin?!”

Before Nora could speak, Lauren said reproachfully, “Ms. Smith, why did the two of you go to the bank in the middle of the night instead of sleeping? Why was there an explosion? I heard that this only happened to Justin because he wanted to save you? Who exactly have you offended? Why did this happen?!” Herman's eyes were all red. It was obvious that he was heartbroken and devastated over what had happened to Justin. He stared at Nora and demanded, “C'mon, talk! What's going on?!”

Nora clenched her jaw.

She did not explain, but Sean, who was next to her, said, “It's Mr. Hunt who invited Ms. Smith to the bank. He wanted to show her some of the things he'd prepared for their wedding, but he did not expect to encounter a robber...”

Sean also lowered his head. “Ms. Smith has nothing to do with any of it.”

“She doesn't? How can it have nothing to do with her?!” Lauren yelled furiously, “If it wasn't for the wedding, would he have gone to the bank in the middle of the night? And end up giving the robbers a chance? In my opinion, Nora jinxes the Hunts! Ever since she appeared, the Hunts have been really unlucky!”

Her words made Herman feel even worse.

Nora's eyes were still lowered and she did not speak. She was still re-enacting in her mind everything that had happened earlier.

Everything had been such a blur that even now, she still hadn't figured out what exactly had happened.

The man in black had only appeared at the bank because he followed her there. In that case, how come Justin also showed up at the bank? On top of that, he even happened to be in the room where the safe-deposit boxes were?

Had he done the same thing as her? Because he knew that it was dangerous, he didn't want to drag Nora into it?

While she was thinking, Herman sat on the bench next to her.

Lauren supported Herman by the arm. "Herman, you must hang in there. Justin is no longer around. If something also happens to you, what are the Hunts going to do?"

Upon hearing this, Herman immediately understood something. He straightened his back abruptly and said, "You're right, I mustn't collapse. Now that Justin is gone, I'm the only one who can handle the Hunts now..."

Lauren nodded. "A kingdom mustn't go without a king for a day. Similarly, the Hunts mustn't be missing a president either. Now that Justin's fate is unknown, you have to bear responsibility for the family and the company!"

They were clearly planning a coup d'état!

The sight filled Sean with anger.

It hadn't even been determined whose charred corpse it was, yet those two were already starting to think about the family inheritance? They didn't have a conscience at all!

He looked at Nora angrily, only to see the woman say coldly, “Justin’s fate is not unknown. He’s definitely still alive!”

“If he’s alive, then why didn’t he come back to look for us?” Lauren countered. “To be honest, we all know deep down that the corpse is most likely Justin! Nora Smith, it’s all your fault, so stop pretending like you’re that loyal and in love with him! Do you really think I don’t know what you’re thinking? You’re just concerned about your position as Mrs. Hunt and how Justin’s assets will be distributed, right? I’ll tell you this—your children are still young, so don’t even think about taking over the company! Herman is the most rightful successor to the company now!”

Nora clenched her fists.

She took a deep breath. Just as she was about to speak, the door to the lab suddenly opened and the doctor in charge of the DNA lab came out.

Nora went toward him at once while Brenda and Lauren also rushed over anxiously. The group of them surrounded the doctor.

Herman wanted to go forward, but he didn’t dare to. Instead, he stood behind the crowd in a daze.

Before Nora could say anything, an anxious Lauren asked, “Doctor, the charred corpse, who is it? Are the results out? Is it Justin?”

Chapter 778 This Feels Great! You’re Exactly The One I Want to Hit!!

Everyone looked at the doctor in unison.

Nora stood opposite the doctor. She stared at the doctor’s lips, only to see him say word by word, “... Based on the DNA samples provided by Ms. Smith, we have confirmed that the body is indeed Mr. Justin Hunt’s.”

That one line of his caused the whole place to fall silent.

Everyone looked at the doctor in disbelief.

As for Nora, her expression was calm and her eyes cast down. It seemed like she was thinking about something...

The entrance to the Hunts' manor was jam-packed with people.

A few cars approached.

Nora was the first to get out of the car. Immediately, she saw Mrs. Hunt, who was at the entrance, take a step forward. Her hands shook as she asked, "Nora, where is Justin? The DNA result shows that the corpse isn't Justin's, right?"

Nora was silent.

Screech!

Another car came to a halt. Herman, Lauren, and the others got out of the car. As soon as they did, Herman looked at Mrs. Hunt. His knees gave way and he fell onto the ground.

In tears, he cried out, "Mom!"

His behavior made Mrs. Hunt suddenly realize something. Her eyes widened and she staggered backward. Her vision turned dark and she was about to faint.

Fortunately, Fanny carried the Zabe Corporation's Calming Pills with her at all times, so she hurriedly fed her a pill and stabilized her condition. As Mrs. Hunt gasped for breath, the perplexed old lady asked, "What on earth is going on?"

Herman was heartbroken.

Even if all he did were bad things when he was young, Justin was still his son and he had always been proud of him. Now that his son was dead... how could he possibly not be sad?

Lauren took the opportunity to speak. “It’s all Nora’s fault! She wanted Justin to show her what he’d prepared for their wedding in the middle of the night, so he took her to the bank. But they ended up being targeted by crooks, who took the valuables and even killed Justin in an explosion!”

Mrs. Hunt staggered backward again. She took a deep breath and looked at Nora.

Nora did not explain.

She couldn’t blow up the matter about the gene serum. Besides, she was also very flustered and her mind was in a mess at the moment, so she didn’t have anything she wanted to explain either. She merely stood where she was, her gaze in the direction of Justin’s villa.

The three children were still there. She wondered how they were.

While she was thinking about it, Lauren came forward, pointed at her, and rebuked her. “It’s obvious at a glance that you’re from the boonies. How dare you ask for money and gifts in the middle of the night?! Is money all you can see?! Nora, you’re the one who killed Justin!”

At once, the people around them started whispering to one another, and all of them pointed at and gestured to Nora.

Seeing that Nora had become the target of public criticism, Lauren looked at Mrs. Hunt with satisfaction. She walked over, held her arm, and said, “Mom, I’m sorry, but Justin is already dead! The Hunt Corporation mustn’t be without a CEO, so in my opinion, why don’t we let Herman...”

Before she could finish, Mrs. Hunt took a deep breath and looked straight at Fanny. She said, “Fetch my wooden walking stick!”

Fanny looked at Mrs. Hunt hesitantly.

Mrs. Hunt, however, stomped her foot angrily. “Go!”

Fanny could only hurry into the house. A while later, she came back out with a walking stick.

The walking stick was made of thick, solid wood, and it hurt a lot if used to hit someone

Mrs. Hunt took a deep breath and took the walking stick from Fanny.

The walking stick was very heavy. When she took it from Fanny, she paused for a while.

Brenda, who had followed closely behind the others back to the manor, had already parked the car by then. At the sight, she raced towards them in a panic and shouted, “Grandma, what are you doing?! This isn’t Nora’s fault, you mustn’t hit her! If Justin was still here, he definitely won’t let you do that!!”

Next to her, Lauren sneered, “Brenda, how can you be so insensible? If it wasn’t for her, Justin wouldn’t have died. Why are you still defending her? Do you have a conscience or not?”

Brenda, however, put herself in between Mrs. Hunt and Nora. She said, “Grandma, wake up! This really has nothing to do with Nora! No one expected an accident like that. Besides, Nora must be the most heartbroken among us all right now!”

Mrs. Hunt didn’t listen to her. Instead, she said to the security guard next to her, “Pull her away.”

“Yes, ma’am.”

Someone stepped forward and held Brenda back. Although she could get physical with them, she didn’t want to make a huge scene.

She rolled up her sleeves and shouted to Nora, “Nora, hurry up and go! Don’t stay here stupidly to let her hit you!”

However, Mrs. Hunt had already raised the walking stick!

When Lauren saw this, her lips immediately curled into a smirk.

Justin was dead, and to make matters worse, Mrs. Hunt was about to hit Nora. Those three little bastards had lost their shield. From now on, the Hunts would belong only to Herman. She would see who else was going to fight with her!

She even looked at Nora and said, “Nora, Mom is already so old. If you still have even a bit of conscience in you, then just stay still and let her vent her anger. Otherwise, wouldn’t you be letting down Justin when he’s already dead??”

Nora stood where she was, showing no reaction to her words whatsoever.

Just as Lauren was feeling smug, the raised walking stick suddenly struck her hard instead!

Thwack!

The severe, burning pain stunned Lauren and she couldn’t react for a while. She stared at Mrs. Hunt incredulously and shouted, “Mom, you’re hitting the wrong person! Nora is over there!”

Right after she spoke, Mrs. Hunt’s second blow landed on her fiercely. She said, “You’re the one I’m beating up! Something has happened to Justin, yet

you are not sad at all! Your entire mind is on the Hunts' assets! Why is Herman so blind that he would marry someone like you?!"

Thwack!

When the walking stick struck Lauren again, she finally started to dodge. However, the moment she moved, Brenda, who had been standing beside her utterly stunned, recovered. She said, "Grandma's getting old, are you planning to go against her? If anything happens to her because you made her angry, then you'll be a sinner!" Lauren: "!!"

That bitch was using what she had said just now against her!

Furious and panicked, Lauren could only look at Mrs. Hunt. "Mom, mom! Stop hitting me! Justin is already dead, you only have Herman now! He's your only son left! Isn't that

right?"

"Who says I only have one son? Raymond and Spencer are also my sons! As for the successor to the Hunts, aside from Justin, I still have Pete!"

Mrs. Hunt shouted firmly and loudly.

Her words shocked everyone present, and all of them looked at Mrs. Hunt in disbelief.

What did Mrs. Hunt mean by that?

Was she planning to support Pete, who was only five years old, as the head of the Hunts?

Lauren bit her lip and shouted, "Mom, you're too biased! Pete is only five! What can he even do?"

Mrs. Hunt, however, lowered her head and said in a low voice, “He is certainly still young, but there’s Nora! She is the young lady of the Smiths and also Pete’s mother. There is absolutely no problem with her temporarily taking over as CEO of the Hunt Corporation in Pete’s stead!”

Lauren was even more stunned. “She? Does a woman like her even know how to do business?! You must be muddleheaded!”

“Hah, this matter is settled! Now, we’ll see to Justin’s funeral matters!”

Mrs. Hunt made the final decision.

After all, she had been in the Hunts for many years. Even now, she still held a lot of prestige in the family.

Seeing this, Brenda helped Nora towards the old lady. Then, she held Mrs. Hunt’s arm and said, “Grandma, you totally saw the big picture this time!”

Mrs. Hunt glanced at her coldly and cast her eyes down.

After that, the Hunts made arrangements for Justin’s wake.

Nora returned to Justin’s villa. As soon as she entered, she saw the three children looking at her.

Cherry and Pete’s identical faces showed similar anxiety.

Xander tried his best to disguise his concern with indifference, but the way his eyes flicked towards the door from time to time betrayed him.

The moment Nora entered, Cherry ran up to her. She raised her head and asked, “Mommy, is Daddy really dead?”.

Faced with the three children and their three pairs of pure and innocent eyes, Nora found herself at a loss for words for a moment.

Suddenly, she felt a little angry. She lowered her head and replied calmly, “No, he just has something to do, so he went out for a while. He will be back in three months at the most.”

Xander glanced outside the room. Then, he said, “You’re lying!”

“No, she won’t!” Cherry said firmly, “Mommy never lies to me! Mommy said that we mustn’t run away from our difficulties, but face them head-on, so she will never lie. If she says that Daddy isn’t dead, then he’s definitely still alive!”

After saying that, an assured Cherry turned on her game on the cell phone.

Pete and Xander: “...”

The two boys glanced at each other, and then looked at Nora in unison.

Nora ruffled their hair and sighed. “Don’t worry. I’ll go upstairs and change first.”

She had to attend the wake later, so she needed to change into formal clothes. She also needed to go upstairs to see what was in the metal box that Justin had “exchanged for with his life”. Was it the V16? Or just a clue to its whereabouts?

Although the three children could sense something, they didn’t dare to say anything, so they just nodded.

Nora went upstairs and gave Lily a call. “Are the test results of the bones out?”

Lily spoke very calmly, and her voice sounded very reassuring. She replied, “Yes, it’s out, Boss. The results of the DNA comparison with Mr. Hunt’s are...”

Chapter 779 Redirecting their Troubles!

Nora drew the curtains and sat on the sofa, her grip on the phone tightening a little.

The events from the previous night resurfaced before her eyes.

When Justin pushed her out, he'd whispered three words into her ear: "Nora, trust me."

From the moment the man in black showed up, all the way until she and Justin both appeared in the room where the safe-deposit boxes were, every single second had been too rushed. She and Justin hadn't said a word to each other at all!

At that moment, she could only put her trust in him, go with the flow, and get out of the room.

After that, she saw the metal box flying out and hid it in her clothes, but when she looked back, Justin was already closing the metal door.

The sound of the bomb going off in the room and the click of the lock on the metal door were like boulders that weighed down on her heart.

He had told her to trust him...

But when Morris and the others carried out the charred body, regardless, she had still been filled with disbelief and unable to rest assured at all.

That was why she had impulsively gone to the lab together with the corpse.

After that...

As there weren't any records of Justin's DNA in the database, Nora could only get Lily to send over the records of the samples she had taken in the past.

When Lily sent them over, she had hinted to Nora that Sean had changed the DNA records on the way.

At that moment, Nora had become a little relieved.

But she was still worried.

It wasn't until she returned to the room, answered Lily's phone call, and heard her say loud and clear, "The DNA comparison results show that it's not Mr. Hunt," that she finally became completely relieved!

After hanging up the phone, Nora did not change her clothes right away. Instead, she took out the metal box from her clothes and put it on the coffee table. Then, she sat on the sofa and kept quiet for a very long time.

What exactly was in the metal box no longer mattered to her. What mattered was... what on earth was Justin doing? Why did he fake his death?

Also, why did he prepare a dead body?

Was he the one who had put the bomb in the safe?

What was his purpose in doing this?

Nora couldn't figure it out at all.

Just as she was pondering over these questions, her cell phone suddenly rang.

She answered the call. Caleb's voice came from the other end.

"I heard that Mr. Hunt is..."

He paused slightly. Then, he asked, "You... are you okay?"

"I'm fine."

Nora lowered her eyes, her voice calm and flat.

Caleb breathed a sigh of relief. Just as he was about to say something, Nora heard someone snatch the phone from him. Trueman's shrill voice then rang out.

“You're such a good-for-nothing! That barbarian snatched away the V16 from right under your nose? You're so useless! No wonder even Justin Hunt died! He deserves it!”

Nora's grip on her cell phone tightened a little.

Even if she knew that Justin was just faking his death, she still couldn't help but get a little angry.

But right after, Trueman sneered and said, “My little servant, why don't we cooperate with each other?”

Nora narrowed her eyes. “Cooperate on what?”

Trueman said, “Like me, Xander only has a little over two months left to live. Let's cooperate. I will go to the barbarian and take back what your mother had left. If it is a clue, then you will solve it. Once you get the antidote, you are to give me a share of it! I guarantee that I won't make any more trouble.”

Nora balled up her fists tightly. “Why should I trust you?”

Trueman let out a low laugh. “Do you have any option apart from trusting me when you can't even beat that barbarian in a fight? What else do you have to be so arrogant about when even your husband is dead...? If you want to save Xander, you can only beg me for help!”

Nora hung up on him right away!

She looked at the metal box in front of her again. She seemed to have somewhat understood Justin's objective this time.

The man in black alone was already so powerful that neither of them could beat him in a fight, yet he was only one of the five genetically-modified humans!

If Trueman, Caleb, and the other two were added to the equation too, how would she possibly be a match for them?

Nora had clearly sensed that she'd already thrown everyone off before she went to the bank.

Yet she had still ended up being tailed by the man in black. That was why Justin had set up this whole thing—in other words, he was redirecting their troubles elsewhere! Indeed, even though she had claimed that the two of them only went to the bank in the middle of the night because Justin wanted to show her what he'd prepared for their wedding, Trueman and company all knew that they had gone to the bank for the V16. But now, the situation was that she and Justin had been in “terrible shape and big trouble” when they were facing the man in black, so they had lost to the man who then stole the V16 from them!

News of this had already started spreading in private among the insiders.

No one would suspect that the V16 was actually still with Nora—after all, the man in black had even “killed” Justin! If he hadn't achieved his objective, would he have spared Nora's life?

Therefore, he must have taken the V16!

With that, everyone who had been watching Nora would now watch the man in black instead!

Also, Nora might not know who the man in black was, but the other four among the five successfully genetically modified children did.

This was Justin's setup, as well as personal safety that he'd exchanged for with his life!

One could say that his ploy was perfect and seamless...

But where had the man gone? Why hadn't he contacted her even now?

Moreover!

When the metal door closed and the blast of the explosion rang out in the room, did he really have time to retreat into the tunnel safe and intact?

Also... the man in black was gone, so he must also have discovered the tunnel and escaped along with Justin.

Could Justin beat the man in black? Definitely not...

So, was Justin dead or alive? Was he seriously injured? Was that why he couldn't get in touch with them?

While Nora's imagination was running wild, a knock came from the door. Brenda's voice rang out.

"Nora, I have prepared your outfit for the wake. When... you're ready, come out and take

it!"

Since Justin was "dead", they had set up a wake for him.

A lot of friends and family would be coming to the wake to pay homage to Justin. As his fiancée... and the mother of their three children, by right, Nora should be there to attend to the guests.

Nora did not move.

Outside, Brenda called out again. "Nora, can you open the door first? Grandma... has something to tell you."

Mrs. Hunt ?

Nora hurriedly hid the metal box again before she walked to the door and opened it.

The door opened to reveal Brenda, who had already changed into a black formal dress, standing outside with Mrs. Hunt.

Mrs. Hunt's fingers shook as she glanced at Nora. She took a deep breath and said, "To be honest, deep down, I blame you for his death."

Nora was taken aback.

Mrs. Hunt said, "Herman may be my son, but Justin is also my grandson! I watched him grow up! It was my wish ever since Justin was a child was for him to manage the company and I'm also the one who put in the most effort in him! Now that he's gone, this old woman can't live on anymore!"

Mrs. Hunt pounded her chest as she spoke.

When she saw her reaction, Nora suddenly understood why Justin had been in such a dilemma back then.

He had continuously allowed Mrs. Hunt to dig her own grave, and then allowed Nora to slap the old lady in the face after that. In doing so, his objective was to let her suppress Mrs. Hunt and also to make Mrs. Hunt acknowledge her.

Privately, Joel and Ian had actually complained about it before. They felt that Justin could have easily just sent Mrs. Hunt away with a few words, yet he'd made her suffer such grievances.

But in this instant, Nora suddenly understood.

The elderly Mrs. Hunt might have made a lot of concessions for the Hunts, but her feelings for Justin were all real.

At the very least, Mrs. Hunt was the most saddened by Justin's "death" at the moment...

When Nora was thinking, Mrs. Hunt spoke again. She said, "But... I can't blame you for it! Pete is Justin's son and also the heir to the family. As Pete's mother, you must pull yourself together! Nora, I know that you grew up in the boonies, but you have impressive medical skills, so you should have been exposed to high-class events before. Today, you must keep up a presentable front for the family! As for later, I will help you to protect Pete's Hunt Corporation and personally hand it over to him when he grows up..."

After saying that, Mrs. Hunt looked at her again. She kept quiet for a long while before she finally said, "I declare a temporary... truce between the two of us."

After saying that, she turned and left.

Seeing her staggering footsteps, Nora suddenly stood up straight. This was the first time she felt respect for the old lady from the bottom of her heart.

Despite the multiple twists and turns that the family had faced, she was able to overcome the ordeals no matter what the circumstances.

When her son left, she had supported her grandson to become the heir.

Now that her grandson had left, she was going to support Pete.

In that case, how could she break the old lady's heart?

For some reason, Justin wasn't contacting them. In that case, she would protect his home for him until he returned!

With that in mind, Nora locked the door from the inside.

She took out the metal box and opened it.

She would take a look and see what on earth was this thing that everyone was fighting over!

Chapter 780 It Wasn't Like She Was A Racer!!

The breeze blew at the curtains, making them flutter. In the room, Nora's face alternated between light and dark as the fluttering curtains cast shadows on her.

She stared at the contents of the metal box in astonishment—there was only a memo, and written on it was Morse code again. However, she already had the key to Morse code's uncommon encryption, so it took her only two minutes to decipher the code on the memo: “Staav University, Archives, No. 004”

“Archives, No. 004”?

What did that mean?

Nora didn't have time to look up anything. She tossed the metal box under the bed, tore the memo, went into the bathroom, and flushed it down the toilet.

Thereafter, as Justin's fiancée, Nora helped out at the wake while the three children played in the villa.

Fatty even peeked at them from the door. When he found that the three of them were playing, he immediately shouted, “Why aren't you guys crying when your father is dead?” Cherry was furious. “You're the one whose father is dead! There's no way Daddy would die!”

Fatty scoffed, “Why not? They are holding a wake for your father right now! He's dead! And he's not gonna come back! The three of you are fatherless children from now on!”

Right after he said that, Xander reached into his pocket and suddenly took out a slingshot. Then, he picked up a pebble, aimed it at Fatty, and fired!

Thud!

The pebble struck Fatty's mouth accurately, making his lip bleed.

Fatty immediately burst into tears and ran away crying. "Boo, the three of them are teaming up and bullying me!" Cherry: "...” Xander: "...”

Pete: "...”

—

Three days later, they buried the body in the cemetery.

The dead were gone, and the living must look forward.

At the wake, no one dared to make things difficult for Nora because Ian and Joel stayed with her the entire time, never leaving her side for even a moment. This also prevented Nora from having a chance to find out what No. 004 of Staav University's archives was.

It was not until three days later, after everyone finally dispersed, that she secretly logged on to the Internet and hacked into Staav University's archives.

It stood to reason that in this era of e-learning, all files should have been digitized so that it would be convenient for people to review later on.

However, when Nora keyed in the search term "No. 004", red error text appeared on the webpage: "There are no records of the file you are trying to access.”

Nora frowned.

When she was abroad, she had majored in medicine, so she was very familiar with some schools' quirks. Oftentimes, schools didn't upload information about the subjects they excelled at and other top-secret information into their electronic database. This was to prevent the information from becoming common knowledge.

Well, that made sense. Given how mysterious the V16 was, why would they digitize information about it and make it convenient for her, a hacker, to steal the formula any time she wanted?

Nora rested her chin on her hand and heaved a silent sigh. It seemed that she would have to make a trip to Staav University.

It was just that... How was she going to head there in an inconspicuous and low-key manner?

If she went over so rashly, she would definitely attract the attention of the people tailing her.

Although the man in black had taken a lot of people's attention off her, she mustn't be too willful in her actions.

That night, Nora couldn't sleep a wink as she mulled over how she could go to the Staav University in Switzerland without anyone noticing.

At ten o'clock the next day, she was awakened by an unfamiliar number. When Nora answered the phone grumpily, a voice came from the other end.

“Ms. Smith, there's a routine board meeting today. You are the only one who hasn't arrived yet. May I know how long more you'll need before you arrive? Is there a traffic jam?”

Nora: “? ?!”

What board meeting was this guy talking about?

As she didn't speak, the other party went on. “Ms. Smith? Surely you didn't forget, right? I told you about it yesterday at the... Since you're taking over the Hunt Corporation, you'll have to come over and have a chat with the directors, no matter what.”

Nora finally remembered now. Someone had indeed mentioned it.

Before she could answer, Roger's voice came from the other end of the call.

“Is my sister-in-law still not here yet? Nora has always tended to sleep more, and she always sleeps until noon at home. Justin also indulges her quite a fair bit... You'll have to get used to it, everyone.”

As soon as he said that, some shareholders became unhappy. One of them said, “This is a board meeting! Does she not care about it? She's too much! Will the Hunt Corporation really be alright if we get such a lazy person to be the CEO?”

“Yeah, it's too much that she's still asleep even at this time!”

Roger heaved another sigh. “... Calm down, everyone. She's just a young girl after all, she's not as rough and sturdy as us men. It's okay even if she sleeps a little more than most.”

Nora: “...”

This hypocritical way of talking... She'd really just witnessed the male version of a bitch!

It might seem like he was speaking up for her, but every word of his was sowing discord between her and the others!

Nora took a deep breath and said, “I didn't forget, I'm in a traffic jam!”

“A traffic jam?”

Roger chuckled. “Nora, you really know how to make excuses, don't you? Since you say you're in a jam, then that means you're already on the way, right? How long will it take you to arrive?”

“I reckon the jam will last for half an hour.”

“... So, half an hour later, are you going to say that the jam will continue for another half an hour, Nora? After all, this place is pretty far from the Hunts’ manor, so it’ll take at least an hour to get here! If that’s the case, then why don’t we disperse first and let you take your time? We can move the morning board meeting to the afternoon instead?”

As soon as he said that, someone said, “I have a meeting with an important client in the afternoon! We already arranged for the meeting to be held today, how can you suddenly reschedule it?”

“That’s right, it’s too irresponsible!”

Before the other party could say anything, Nora said, “If I say I’ll take half an hour, then half an hour is how long I’ll take.”

Roger was aggressive. “What if you’re still not here in half an hour?”

“We’ll talk about that later. I’m driving, I’m hanging up.”

After giving him a concise response, she got out of bed in a whoosh, quickly changed, brushed her teeth, and went downstairs.

Brenda followed closely behind her, “Nora, my men just told me something! Roger has been spreading rumors in the company about how lazy you are! He even said that you must still be at home, so you won’t be able to reach even in an hour’s time... It’s too late even if you drive over now!”

Nora got in the car and started it. “Who says it’s too late?”

She sped off with a whoosh right after she spoke.

As Brenda stared at the dust blown into the air by the car, she heaved a silent sigh.

Nora had really been too careless this time.

How could she say that she would be at the company in half an hour?

No matter what, it would take an hour for anyone to drive to the office from the manor! It wasn't like she was a racer!