These days, Christina stubbornly asked Lucy to take her to the orphanage in Z city for a field investigation.

"... This is the orphanage where Brianna had stayed when she was a child."

At noon, the sun was shining brightly. Christina and Lucy arrived at their destination 4 hours after flying from A City. This piece of land had been burned to ashes and only broken walls were left there. Seeing such a desolate scene, they could not help but feel a little scared.

It was a western-style orphanage and only its building shell was left after the fire. The big windows on each floor were burnt to be broken, and huge flames shot up to the ceiling which made every brick become burnt and black.

It could be seen how fierce the fire was. It was said that the fire broke out in the middle of the night. Three old appds wo children were burned to death.

"What was the cause of the fire?"

As a bystander, Christina could not help but sigh in her heart when she looked at the scene.

Lucy shrugged and said, "I don't know."

"Didn't you say you had started the investigation a long time ago?"

"...This is an old case. The accident happened more than 20 years ago. At most, I found the information put on records by the police station. At that time, the network was underdeveloped and there was no online backup. It was all handwritten records. It just said the cause of the fire in the orphanage with a few simple words that the fire started from the back kitchen."

Christina turned to look at her, "The back kitchen?"

Then she said with righteous indignation, "Weren't they mistaken? Even if they wanted to write blindly, they should have made up a reasonable reason." As she spoke, Christina pointed to the darkest two-story building behind the orphanage that had been burned, "It was clear that the fire started from the orphanage's accommodation."

It was because the fire was the fiercest there and that place had been burned most thoroughly. If she hadn't vaguely recognized the small bunk beds, she wouldn't have known that it was the dormitory building over there.

Lucy didn't take it seriously, "You don't have to be so excited. It can only reveal that you've seen too little. There had been too many conflicts of interest in this fire. Some people didn't want to make things too clear, so they just skated them over."

"However," Lucy thought for a moment and then said, "More than 20 years ago, the 'charity orphanage', which had a lot of complicated relationships with its own interests, was not a clean place."

Brianna was sent to this orphanage for the first time when she was a child. She had lived in it for less than a year,

and it was on fire.

The fire not only burned the orphanage into ashes but also killed five people, and all the documents about the orphanage since its establishment were burnt.

Therefore, Lucy had no idea about who Brianna's real parents were, let alone why she was abandoned and sent to an orphanage.

"The children who used to live in this orphanage must have suffered a lot."

Lucy knew the mentality of the homeless orphans very well, because she was also an orphan.

"Maybe I can go to find those orphans who survived. They're all grown up now. I can ask them about what Brianna's personality was like..."

When Christina heard what Lucy said, she immediately urged Lucy excitedly, "Then let's go to find the survivors now."

Lucy glanced at her and said, "The list is in the company's computer. I don't have the ability to remember it at a look. I have to go back first. Also, children like these who grew up in an orphanage and experienced a disaster usually have some psychological problems."

For example, they might be unwilling to communicate with others.

"If you go to find them like this, you won't be able to get any information." Lucy added, "If we want an answer, you have to learn to be patient first."

Christina looked at her without refuting.

After coming out for a field trip with Lucy, Christina felt that she had learned a lot.

"Does Miss Dickens want to personally visit the orphanage which Brianna had stayed in later?" Lucy was also bored recently, so she spared her time to accompany Christina.

"... Was it burned to be like this too?"

Lucy told her truthfully in a flat tone, "It's not that serious. Just a storage room was burned down, but seven people died."

Christina heard she said calmly that seven people had died, and she was surprised, "So many people were burned to death in a storage room?"

"Strictly speaking, they were not burned to death. As I know, the door of the storage room had been locked from the inside, and the people inside were suffocated to death by the smoke."

Lucy was used to these disasters and she was not surprised to see people's death. But coincidentally, both

orphanages where Brianna lived when she was a child had been on fires, and there were casualties in both accidents.

"... That storage room was later remodeled and a new building has been built on its spot now."

So even if they went over, they could see no trace of a fire that had happened.

"... Since so many people died, did the police intervene for investigation?"

"Three of them were old nuns, and the other four men were handymen hired from elsewhere... More than 20 years ago, the surveillance system was not as common as it is now. There was no proof of death. The orphanage didn't want to affect the children's mentality and their daily life. Therefore, it didn't want to make things big and just accepted the reparation as an end to the accident."

Christina was frustrated when she heard what Lucy said, "After a long time, it turned out that we didn't find anything."

Lucy was very calm, "Yes, we find nothing."

Lucy herself was also very depressed about this. It was mainly because the accidents happened a long time ago, and the domestic development was still relatively backward at that time, which caused the progress of the investigation to be very slow.

"... But I'm sure there's something wrong with Brianna." Lucy speculated based on her occupational sensitivity.

The sun at noon was very hot. Christina had been basking in the sun for a long time, and she was sweating all over. After she married into the Hopkins family, she had been pampered as a rice worm, and now she was not used to running around like this.

She wiped the sweat off her forehead and said, "Let's go back to the hotel first."

Lucy looked at her and immediately made fun of her, "Oh, oh, who was the one who strongly requested to come over and personally check it out? Can't you stand the hardship, Junior Mrs. Hopkins?"

Christina was too lazy to listen to her teasing. She went to find a cool place and rested for a while first.

Christina added, "If Patrick comes back, I don't allow you to tell him about this."

"Well, you think he really won't know it if I don't tell him," Lucy said disdainfully.

"... I think you should take the night flight to go home tonight. If a married woman like you have been wandering outside for so long, there will be some gossip."

"I am not in a hurry. I'll go back after a few days."

Looking at the unique architectural scenery of Z city, Christina remembered that she had not relaxed or gone on a

trip for a long time. Besides, she had few friends since she was a child and no one accompanied her to travel around.

Christina thought that if it were a year ago, she would feel incredulous that she would go out for a trip with Lucy.

Most importantly, Patrick had not returned from his business trip, so she didn't have to rush back to serve him. She could stay here for a few more days as a trip.

Lucy had always ignored these worldly rules and did not bother to persuade her. Anyway, Christina was supported by Patrick in the Hopkins family, and the gossip could be ignored.

The two women walked side by side on the road in a relaxed and happy mood. They looked curiously at the authentic local food from the stalls on the side of the road. They bought two skewers of roasted octopus and ate as they walked regardless of their image.

"... Christina, if you're not married, I can barely treat you as a confidante," Lucy said frankly.

Christina glared at her, "There is no need to force yourself."

"Oh, is Miss Dickens angry?"

Lucy was in a rare good mood and said to herself, "Christina, let me tell you. My purpose in life is to eat well and sleep well. It's so simple. But it's not easy for a person to achieve such a simple target smoothly without illness, pain, and financial pressure."

"Christina, do you know what your biggest weakness is? You lack patience. Your opponent is targeting your weakness. Once you lose your patience, you will be easily controlled by your emotions. Then you will make the wrong decision. A slight move you make may affect the whole situation, which may make you lose everything."

Christina also listened to Lucy carefully and muttered, "No one had ever told me this."

Lucy thought for a moment and told her honestly, "That's because Patrick raised you as a pet. Of course, humans can't be too demanding on pets."

Christina was expressionless.

"Lucy," Christina called her.

"What?"

"I was wondering since Patrick's branch companies were scattered all over the country, could it be that some of them were in those remote mountains and forests?"

"Yes, he has five private islands in the South Pacific."

Christina gave her a meaningful look, "You'd better buy more sunscreen and mosquito repellent these days..."

"Why do I need to buy those things? I don't like to use sunscreen..." Lucy suddenly understood what Christina meant and jumped to scold, "You traitor! If you make me go to a desolate place, you can wait and see as I will definitely revenge on you."

"I'm not very familiar with you. That skewer of roasted squid just now costs 18 yuan. Give me the money!" Lucy immediately changed her expression and asked for the money.

Christina looked at her gloomily. This person was really realistic.

"... Go back and play with your pig. Our relationship is just an employment relationship and we are not familiar with each other!"

In fact, the more Lucy changed her expression and the fiercer she appeared to be, the more clearly it showed that she had no confidence. If Patrick really sent her to those desolate islands, the rest of her life would be ruined.

She decided not to get too close to Christina because there was a saying that to be in the king's company is tantamount to living with a tiger.

Lucy always joked that Crystal was a pig. First, she didn't like women who were too docile and only gave in. Second, Crystal's surname had the same meaning as pig, and Lucy could use it to sneer that Christina was just a pet as well.

Speaking of Crystal, Christina was not in the mood to argue with Lucy. Recently, she called Crystal several times, but no one answered.

She felt that Chandler and Crystal still suspected the matter about saffron, and Crystal avoided the topic on purpose.

Christina had been trying to find out about Brianna these days, because she also tried to prove that the matter about saffron had nothing to do with her.



Christina had planned to play for a few more days before going back. She found a lot of missed calls on her cell phone after taking a shower.

She noticed Chandler called her many times.

She wondered why he called her many times when they didn't close to each other.

This time, Christina had a good time with Lucy when they stayed in Z city for three days. They stayed in a five-star hotel, ate the best food, and had a variety of food of special roadside stalls.

"Someone called you 23 times in an hour."

In this presidential suite, Lucy elegantly ate her lamb chop and lobster with a knife and fork after ordering expensive food and simply said without raising her head.

In the large presidential suite they booked, Christina was taking a shower in the bathroom and didn't notice her phone ringing.

Lucy noticed these phone calls but didn't answer the phone because it wasn't from Patrick.

Christina held her phone and was hesitating whether to call Chandler back.

The phone rang again.

"What's the matter?" Christina answered.

Christina was a little awkward because she had a conflict with Chandler before.

Chandler finally got through and was a little angry. "Christina, I tell you that Crystal and I did have a falling out. There is only a small misunderstanding between her and me. You don't have to take her away by force and confiscate her phone."

Christina was solemn. "When will I take her away and confiscate her phone? Chandler, you'd better apologize to me now, or I'll hang up!"

Luly in the presidential suite noticed that Christina angrily said these words suddenly.

Christina got unhappy and instantly said these words.

Chandler on the other end of the phone paused when hearing Christina's warning and felt uneasy. "Christina, you mean that you didn't do anything when Crystal has lost contact for no reason in the past few days."

"Why did Crystal lose contact? Didn't she stay in the hospital?"

Christina didn't contact Crystal these days so that Crystal could live a comfortable life after hearing Mrs. Pei preaching that Crystal should not get too close to her.

As Chandler seemed to be thinking about something and became silent, Christina was a little worried and shouted at the phone.

"Hey! Crystal is not in the hospital. Where did she go?" Christina asked.

Chandler knew that she was not lying.

After being with Patrick, Christina became straightforward. Chandler was very depressed at this time and hoped that Crystal could be more straightforward. He thought it was better for Crystal to be grumpy than missing.

After a while, Chandler replied with mixed feelings. "I don't know either."

"What do you mean," Christina said angrily. "Hey, where's your wife? Chandler, you can't find her."

"You should search the following places, including the apartment she used to live in, and the fountain in the park last time. Go to her stepfather's house and ask around."

Although she was unhappy with Chandler, Christina still listed a few possible places to find Crystal.

"I have searched these places but didn't find her," Chandler answered her in a low voice.

He asked, "Christina, has Crystal really not contacted you in the past few days?"

Christina immediately mocked him. "Didn't your family members not want her to contact me? I've been in Z city these days, and she didn't answer her phone."

"Chandler, are your family members asking her to have an abortion again?" Christina asked him when refraining her anger.

"No."

This time, Chandler said firmly. "But that day, Erica called me that Geoffrey had eaten too much ice cream and was going to have an operation for appendicitis. I rushed down to the pediatrics department."

"There's no need to explain. Crystal is married to you, and you're still flirting with your ex-wife all day. Have you ever considered her feelings? If Crystal is having an affair with another man, your family would kill her! Bastar"

Then Christina hung up the phone.

Angry as Christina was, she still had to calm down and find someone first.

Though Mrs. Pei repeatedly stressed that she should not have too much contact with Crystal, Christina would take action since Crystal was her friend.

Christina looked through her phone address book and asked for help. When looking at the name of Charles, Christina knew that Chandler must have contacted him. Christina didn't seem to need to bother Patrick with these little things because Patrick didn't like her meddling in the Stephenson family. "Lucy." Christina finally put down her phone and called out slowly. Christina finally realized that she had the best helper in front. Lucy sat in front of the expensive european-style imported dining chair and enjoyed delicious cheese and lobster that had just been delivered from the star hotel. She turned a deaf ear to Christina's call. Then, Christina walked over and asked her calmly, "Do you know how much this dinner is?" Lucy didn't even look up and enjoyed a piece of lobster meat covered with authentic Scotland cheese. "I can afford it." "Do you know how much it costs for us to stay in this presidential suite for three days?" Lucy tightened her grip on the fork. Christina added, "Do you know how much it cost us to charter a plane?" They flew all the way from A City by chartered a plane. When Lucy said that rich people had to spend more money so that social wealth would be balanced, Christina threw out the deputy card that Patrick gave her. These two women were both top spenders. But they are different a difference. Christina was rich while Lucy had to earn money. Faced with the huge wealth gap, Lucy forked a piece of lobster. "After eating this lobster, hurry up and find out where Crystal is this time." Christina patted Lucy's short, crisp hair. Lucy had to admit that Christina was the same as Patrick. For the past few days, Lucy had been educating Christina deeply, and now had to obey Christina's order. Although Lucy was very realistic, ruthless, and even quite indifferent to life and death, she was really efficient. 8:57 AM After eating a large plate of cheese and lobster angrily, Lucy got a new laptop when lying on the bed lazily and contacted someone with headphones and cursed to type some words.

Within half an hour, Lucy turned around and told her. "Crystal is now in a private hospital in North of the City, A City."

Christina wondered why Crystal went to the North of the City and was still in a private hospital.

Lucy called out to her, "Christina, by the way, I'm telling you that your friend Crystal had induced abortion at that hospital."

"What is it?" Christina asked.

"When women who have a medical abortion or an accidental miscarriage, doctors need to remove remnants in the body. It is the induced abortion." Lucy explained.

"Abortion?"

Christina was shocked.

Lucy was emotionless and calmly said. "To be exact, Crystal could not protect her three-month-old child."

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It was a private hospital in the north of A City.

The therapeutic level of such hospitals was mediocre, especially in remote counties. The service and environment of them were average, but the charge for diagnosis and treatment was not cheap.

Ordinary people only went to such hospitals when they had no other options.

"... Miss Zhu, my hospital is not as good as the one in the east of the city, but the curettage surgery for you was a complete success. Are you still feeling unwell?"

An old nurse observed the new female patient for a few days. No relatives had visited her since she was admitted to the hospital.

Before and after the surgery, she looked lifeless with a white vacant face.

"Miss Zhu..."

The old nurse called her again in a kind voice, "Do you want me to call for a meal or porridge for you? The doctor told you to eat some food yesterday..."

White bedsheets, white pillows, and white ceiling. Crystal opened her eyes and looked around as if it was a dream.

Her face was pale and she was lying on the bed, motionless. She didn't seem to hear the words of the kind-hearted nurse at all and remained silent.

It was as if her voice had been broken and she couldn't speak.

She slowly closed her eyes again, and she didn't want to think about anything.

The old nurse sighed and walked out of the ward.

Most patients came to such hospitals for treating special diseases that could not be said out loud, and many of them had artificial abortions and medicine-induced abortions.

The female patient surnamed zhu came to the hospital four days ago. At that time, the nurse in the lobby was shocked. The patient was wearing a hospital gown from a famous hospital in the east of the city, and her pants were stained with blood.

Why did she escape from a famous hospital and transfer to this small private hospital? As long as the patient had money to pay, nobody in the hospital would ask her such questions.

A few young nurses at the nurse's station were gossiping, "... She must be jilted by a man."

A middle-aged cleaner also came over, "It should not be an ordinary man. It must be a rich and powerful man. When

his mistress is pregnant and he is afraid of causing trouble, he would send her to a private hospital like here to do abortions secretly."

"It's impossible. That female patient doesn't look like a mistress."

"Can you recognize a mistress at a glance? Such a woman is coquettish when she's in bed. Otherwise, you can't explain why no relatives visited her after her surgery. She must be a mistress, who got pregnant and did an abortion to avert trouble. It was just for money. There are many women like her nowadays..."

The nurses were not talking loudly, but the door of the ward next to the nurse's station was not closed completely. Crystal in the bed was very weak, but her nerves were on edge and very sensitive, and she could hear any noise.

At 9 the next morning, Christina and Lucy rushed back to A City from Z City.

"... Are you sure she really went to the private hospital in the north?"

Christina had been bothering Lucy since last night and she couldn't wait to catch the plane back in the early morning.

She looked up at the taxi driver and urged him, "please drive faster. We have to go to the north of the city asap."

"We're already on the highway. We can't go any faster. If you want to be faster, you should take the helicopter." The driver was a little impatient.

Lucy, who sat next to her, said coldly, "As I said, we should go to Hopkins's house first and take helicopter there."

Christina was furious and kept urging the honest driver, "Hurry up, hurry up. It hasn't reached the speed limit yet."

The driver looked sullen all the way, as he had picked up two difficult guests early in the morning.

There were many places in the north that were not fully developed, and the roads were not that good. The private hospital that Christina was looking for was really remote, and the rest of the journey was bumpy.

"... I should have asked Charles to send someone here first." After more than two hours, Christina finally arrived at the destination.

"You didn't tell Chandler about Crystal?" Lucy turned to look at her.

Christina did not respond and strode straight to the medium-sized hospital in front of her.

Lucy raised her eyebrows and realized that Christina had never informed Chandler.

"I don't even know what happened. Why did Crystal suddenly come here? And you said that she had the curettage surgery in this hospital... I want to see her first to ask for reasons. If it was because of Chandler, Crystal might be in a worse mood to see him."

They talked as they walked.
Lucy shrugged and reminded her, "Did I tell you that there has been a car following us all the way?"
"What?"
Christina went to the Information Desk in the lobby of the hospital.
She tilted her body slightly and looked surprised. Chandler and Charles came striding behind her.
"You"
Charles glanced at her and said frankly, "Yes, we followed your taxi." As he spoke, he frowned and looked around, "Is Crystal really here?"
In the past few days, Chandler had asked Charles to help find Crystal. They thought that Crystal was definitely instigated by Christina to leave secretly, but they searched in the east of the city and found nothing. It turned out that Crystal was in the north of the city.
Chandler was not stupid. If Christina went back to A City, he would probably find Crystal as long as he followed her.
Christina looked at the two men who suddenly appeared. She looked sullen and she felt as if she had been tricked.
But it was not the time to be particular about this. Christina and Chandler asked the information desk at the same time anxiously, "Is there a patient named Crystal Zhu here?"
"Are you relatives of the patient? It's about the patient's privacy. You'd better contact the patient first"
"I'm her husband. Where is she now?" Chandler's tone was a little tough.
Lucy stood in a corner bored and dusted her shoulders. "The Inpatient Building behind, Room 2013, Bed 23 on the second floor."
Christina was responsive and immediately ran to the building behind.
After Chandler and Charles asked other nurses and got the same answer, they rushed over there too.
But all of them failed.
Bed 23 was empty.
" Where's this patient? Has she been discharged?" Christina caught an old nurse and asked.
The patient's name was written on the bed. It was indeed Crystal Zhu.
Her medical record was still hanging at the end of the bed. Chandler picked it up and took a look. Then he looked

depressed.

"... On the day of her surgery, no relatives came over to sign the consent form. We thought she ..." The nurse said, "She hasn't been discharged yet. There's still a deposit of 5000 dollars. She should have just walked out on her own."

After all, as long as the patients did not owe money, they were free to go.

"Why do you let a patient run around?" Christina was a little irritable. She had taken a long time to be here, but she failed.

The nurse felt that they were not easy to be offended, and she quickly explained, "... Miss Zhu's surgery went well and she could get out of bed now."

Curettage surgery!

When Charles heard the word, he was stunned. He didn't ask the nurse, as he knew what it meant. Then he turned to look at Chandler.

Chandler's face was tense, his eyes were stiff, and his feet were as heavy as cement.

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Crystal did not go back to the hospital, nor did she got back the five-thousand-dollar hospital deposit. It seemed that she was no longer as meticulous and cared about the money as she used to be.

She changed into a casual dress and went straight to the agency. Just like a normal person who wanted to sell a house, she asked about the process briefly.

Before she got married, she had a small apartment in the eastern suburbs of the city that was more than 70 square meters. It was paid monthly, and she still had to pay it for five years.

"Though you haven't finished the monthly installment payment, we can find a way to sell it for you. But the price..."

"As long as you can sell it in three days and give me the cash, I can accept it even if it's less than half the normal price." Crystal didn't talk in detail. She left after saying a few words.

When the agent heard what she said, he quickly responded and went to sell the house. And he promised to help her sell the house in the next few days.

During the past few days, Crystal had been very busy going to various departments to handle her certificates.

She threw away her previous phone card and changed it into a new one.

Three days later, the real estate agent called her excitedly, saying that a buyer was willing to transfer the money to her immediately, and if Crystal reduced the price by 100000 dollars again, the agency would complete all the procedures for her.

Crystal agreed without thinking. "Okay."

The agent really didn't expect her to be so easy to negotiate. According to experience, someone who was in such a hurry to sell the house for cash in a short time must have encountered an accident.

But Miss Zhu gave him the impression that she was not sad or anxious at all. She was especially calm and silent.

Lucy was in low spirits these days. She felt that she could no longer work for Christina without paying, but she thought that it was a little vulgar to ask Christina for money. She was mentally unbalanced and deliberately disappeared for a few days.

Christina wanted to look for Crystal to help her. Without Lucy's help, Christina couldn't do anything.

But Christina couldn't find Crystal, and there was no news from Chandler.

[At the quadrangle courtyard of the Stephenson family]

"It's so late. Where are you going? We are waiting for you to have dinner."

Erica came out in an apron and thick gloves. She said with a bottle of ginseng soup in her hands, "You've been very busy these days. Look, you've lost a lot of weight."

Without looking back, Chandler continued to walk towards the door. "You eat first. I have something to do."

Erica put down the soup and ran over to pull him.

"Geoffrey just got out of the hospital today. Where are you going? You should stay with him."

Chandler said fretfully, "There are so many people at home with him. He doesn't need me."

"You are different from us in his eyes. He has liked to be with you since he was a child."

Senior Mrs. Stephenson also walked over and said, "Chandler, why are you going out in the evening? No matter how busy you are, you have to spend time with your family."

As she spoke, she looked at her grandson, who was sitting at the dining table with a weak expression. "Go to comfort him. Otherwise, he will have nightmares when he sleeps at night."

At this moment, the phone in Chandler's pocket rang. He took it out in alarm and saw a strange number on the screen. He was about to answer it.

But Senior Mrs. Stephenson snatched the phone away and hanged it up. She said unhappily, "You care about this strange call very much, but you are unwilling to spend more time with your family. Chandler, do you still care about us?"

Chandler vented his great anger for the past few days to his mother, "You're talking about family, but you've never found out that Crystal has left!"

He rarely glared at his mother.

Senior Mrs. Stephenson looked very hurt when she saw that Chandler was angry at her for a woman.

Senior Mr. Stephenson quickly strode over and scolded Chandler sternly, "Chandler, how could you talk to your mother like that?"

Chandler also realized that his tone was inappropriate. He compressed his lips, turning his head away and remaining silent.

Erica walked over and grabbed Chandler's hand naturally. Then she said gently, "We're are family. Let's sit down to talk about it." She dragged Chandler to the dining table and said, "Go and get some soup for mom and dad. You should be hungry too."

Erica handled it very well. She looked up and invited Senior Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson to have dinner, "Dad, mom, let's have dinner together."

Although what Erica did before really annoyed them, Senior Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson were extremely indulgent to her because she gave birth to Geoffrey. They always hoped that Erica could be together with Chandler for the rest of their lives.

Seeing that Erica had changed so much in the past few months, Senior Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson were especially gratified. After all, Erica was Geoffrey's biological mother. No matter how good other women were, they could not replace Erica's place.

Chandler looked upset, but he let Erica drag him to the table. They all sat around the table to have dinner.

"Erica's soup tastes well." Senior Mr. Stephenson took a sip of the soup and praised it.

Erica smiled brightly and picked up a few pieces of meat for Senior Mr. Stephenson. "I just learned how to fry cuttlefish. Dad, mom, try and see if it suits your taste."

Recently, Erica has become more and more capable of being a virtuous wife. Senior Mrs. Stephenson blew a small spoonful of porridge and carefully fed it to Geoffrey, who was sitting in a child's chair next to her. Then she looked up and said, "This is an ordinary pleasure for us. We should be grateful that we are all sitting together to have dinner."

As she spoke, she turned to remind Chandler, who was eating opposite her, "Chandler, when are you going to the civil affairs bureau to remarry Erica?"

Chandler's hand holding the chopsticks paused, and he immediately looked up.

Erica took the initiative to say with embarrassment, "Mom, Chandler and I will deal with this matter slowly in the future. It's not urgent."

"Everyone at Geoffrey's school is saying that he has two mothers. That's so strange. You adults should deal with it quickly. Don't affect the child."

Senior Mrs. Stephenson was concerned about her grandson.

Chandler suddenly slammed his chopsticks down and announced in a serious tone, "Mom, I can't remarry Erica!"

The harmonious atmosphere was instantly broken.

Everyone immediately turned to look at Chandler, and Erica's face turned pale.

Senior Mr. Stephenson seemed to be very dissatisfied with Chandler recently. He put down his chopsticks angrily and said, "What are you talking about? What are you dissatisfied with Erica now? She is so serious and hardworking in washing and cooking for us. Why are you still so picky?"

"You all ignore Crystal, do you?" Chandler roared.

"I thought Crystal had a good temper in the past, but she made trouble many times and even ran away. Now we

don't even know where she went. Do you still expect her to stay in our Stephenson family obediently?"

Senior Mrs. Stephenson scolded Crystal's inappropriate behavior seriously, "If she imitates Christina, we Stephenson family can't bear it!"

"Why did Crystal run away from home?"

Chandler suddenly stood up from the chair and asked his parents loudly.

He had suppressed his anger for many years. He screamed, "We forced her to do that. She couldn't go back to her house. Did she ever complain it? I, as her husband, was so useless. She even aborted the child now. Are you satisfied?"

Senior Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson were shocked and remained silent. Although Chandler was not docile, he would never yell at them like this.

Moreover, he said that Crystal had aborted the child.

Erica heard the main point and asked in a low voice, "Did Crystal really abort the child?"

Chandler clenched his fists angrily.

"Aunt Zhu ran away because of me."

Geoffrey suddenly burst into tears. He had just finished the operation for appendicitis a few days ago, and he recovered more slowly than adults. He cried bitterly with his small face sickly and pale. "I'm not dad's biological child. I knew it long ago. I don't have a father."



## 2 Comments >



6 days ago

2022/03/14

chandler is such a docile character

At ten o'clock in the evening, Christina received a call from a strange number.

Usually, she refused to answer these strange numbers that seemed to be from the salesmen. But recently, she was thinking about hiring Lucy to work for her and she was expected from Lucy's call, so as soon as her phone rang, she answered it immediately.

"Lucy, come and meet now!" She said angrily.

However, there was a few seconds of silence on the other end of the phone before someone said in a low voice, "It's me, Crystal."

Hearing that, Christina froze for a moment. And then she raised her voice and asked anxiously, "Crystal, where the hell are you? Do you know we're worried about you? We heard you were in a private hospital in North of the City before, and then there was no news from you..."

On the other end of the phone, before she could finish her words, she said calmly, "Crystal, can you help me?"

Because her voice was too calm, Christina immediately shut up. She felt that something bad might happen when she heard the word "help."

"What's the matter? Just tell me..."

Holding the phone, she suddenly felt nervous.

Yet Crystal, who was on the other end of the phone, said calmly, "I just called Chandler and was hung up. I'll send some things to the Hopkins family. Please give them to him for me."

Christina was now a little confused. Why didn't she send them directly to the Stephenson family?

But she didn't ask.

"Okay." She instantly agreed.

Just as she was about to ask where Crystal was, Crystal took the lead in thanking her politely, "Thank you. I'll call you when I'm settled abroad. Goodbye."

When Christina was shocked, the phone was hung up.

Settled abroad?

What did that mean?

Was she planning to live abroad from now on?

And she still had a lot of things to ask Crystal, such as what was going on with the abortion. Crystal could not give up the child on her own initiative for she had been looking forward to the birth of the child.

Why was she planning to go abroad and settle down there for no reason?

After the call was hung up, Christina grew very uneasy, but she didn't know how to deal with it. After thinking about it, she decided to call Chandler first to inform him.

After all, she also knew that no matter what conflicts there were between them, as an outsider, she only wished them to get back together.

"Crystal just called me. She said she had something for you and would send it to the Hopkins family tomorrow." She told Chandler directly on the phone.

"Where is she now?" He was a little emotional when he received her call and asked hurriedly.

"I don't know."

"How could you not know?!" Clearly, he didn't buy her words.

Yet his words provoked her. She then immediately sneered. "Just now, Crystal said that she called you and was hung up by you. Since you don't care about her, then put away your "affectionate" look."

He then suddenly fell silent.

He now remembered that at dinner, there was indeed a call from a strange number, which was hung up by his mother.

"I know you might be very busy, but tomorrow, you'd better come and get the things personally that she sent you. Maybe, it's important."

Although she didn't like the way he and his family treated her friend, at the thought of Crystal's words she immediately realized that things were a little serious. It was better to remind him this time.

"What is it?"

"I don't know," She then replied.

"Christina, are you hiding something? I really want to find her now. Tell me, where is she?!"

Right now, he was very upset. And he felt that he was unable to breathe in the Stephenson family. When he ran to the intersection of the street and looked at the traffic, his heart suddenly became even more empty.

The more prosperous the city was, the emptier his heart became.

...

Where was his home?

8:57 AM

She could sense the restlessness of this usually gentle and elegant man. For a moment, she sympathized with him. She then restrained her anger, lowered her voice, and said sincerely, "I really don't know."

Because she didn't know what to talk to him about, she then hung up.

Early the next morning, Chandler didn't go to the company and drove straight to the Hopkins family.

At around 11 am, Christina received a package. It was in an ordinary file bag with a few papers.

"Crystal said she wanted to give it to you." With complicated feelings, she handed it to him.

After taking it over, he immediately tore the seal.

He took out the papers which was a divorce agreement.

Standing aside, even she could see clearly the content of the file bag. It surprised her.

Chandler, on the other hand, tried to act calmly. He then quickly looked through it, as if he was carefully looking for some information about the address, but he couldn't find it. He only saw a note written by Crystal, which was, "According to the law, anyone who has been separated for two years due to emotional discord can be divorce automatically."

When he saw this, his mind was totally blank.

This handwritten note showed Crystal's determination to divorce.

It didn't matter if he signed the divorce agreement, she would wait for another two years.

"She, she had said she was going abroad." She stammered a little due to the nervousness.

Crystal went abroad so that she could live separately from him.

Immediately, he looked up at Christina, his face even gloomier.

The long silence ensued. "Where is she now?" His voice was hoarse when he spoke.

Yet she said in a low voice, "I don't know."

"Where is Crystal now? Why did she suddenly divorce me? Why did she suddenly abort the child?"

When he heard this answer again, he couldn't control his emotions. He scratched the divorce agreement in his hand and shouted angrily.

"Trust me, I really don't know. I didn't ask her to divorce you." She then explained anxiously. Right now, she also felt aggrieved.

8:57 AM

"Who else could it be except you?"

He directed the anger in his heart at this spoiled and willful Junior Mrs. Hopkins in front of him.

At this moment, as long as Crystal had done something, everyone would just blame Christina for instigating her. Christina admitted that she was willful, but she would not do anything to ruin her friend's marriage.

Just then, someone came over from the other end of the carved wooden corridor. Charles could feel the tension between her and Chandler at the pavilion from afar. He then deliberately coughed to ease the atmosphere.

When they heard the sound, they turned to look at the corridor and saw that Charles and Patrick.

Soon, Chandler's face was filled with ridicule, and she clearly knew that he was despising her because since Patrick was back, he would protect her no matter what happened.

"Believe it or not! The toxic in Crystal's tonic and the divorce are none of my business." Feeling wronged, she retorted stubbornly.

"Calm down, both of you." Charles quickened his pace while speaking, trying to prevent the situation from worsening.

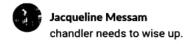
"Christina will not slip toxic into Crystal's tonics."

And she roared angrily, "Of course not me, Brianna did it!"

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