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Charlie laughed helplessly after hearing Jasmine's words. "It seems as though you do not want to be bound to the rules of the Moore family."

Jasmine nodded before she said, "I really do not want to be bound by the rules of the Moore family but I have no other way out of this."

"Why?" Charlie asked in a serious manner. "I think your grandfather might change his mind after this near-death experience because of his critical illness. Furthermore, you're the reason his life was saved and he's able to live healthily for a few more years. If he's really grateful towards you, you can take advantage of this opportunity to ask him for the freedom to love and decide on the man you'd like to be married to. I believe he'll definitely give you the freedom to choose your own husband."

Jasmine smiled bitterly and she shook her head before she said, "That's impossible. Even if Grandpa really loves me and feels bad for me, he wouldn't dare agree to that."

"Why?" Charlie asked with a puzzled expression on his face. "Isn't your grandfather the head of the Moore family? He's the one in control of the entire Moore family and anything that he decides on would be the final decision. What would he ever be afraid of?"

At this time, Jasmine replied in a serious manner, "The Moore family has developed over the years before finally becoming what it is today. All the members of the Moore family are bound by the rules set for the family. As long as everyone obeys the rules, the Moore family will always be united and indestructible. If anyone is given the freedom to break any of the rules, then the Moore family will definitely crumble and suffer a huge loss as no one would abide by the rules anymore."

After that, Jasmine continued speaking, "The Moore family has had to endure so much hardship before growing to become the powerful and wealthy family it is today. The reason why we could do it is because every one of us had the interest of the family at heart and none of the members of the Moore family has ever broken the rule."

Charlie sighed before he said, "Jasmine, I've always thought that you were a very strong and powerful woman. I really did not expect you to be bound at the mercy of others too."

"That's right!" Jasmine replied as she sighed. "There's no way out of this as long as I am a member of the Moore family."

As she spoke about it, Jasmine shook her head before she raised her wine glass and said, "Mr. Wade, let's not talk about all these unhappy things anymore. Come on, drink up! I'll toast you again!"

Charlie smiled before he raised his wine glass and said, "Alright then. This glass of red wine is to celebrate freedom!"

Jasmine was slightly startled at this time.

For freedom?

She did not have any freedom at all.

Even though she was very depressed, Jasmine forced a smile before she nodded and said, “Yes! Let’s drink to our freedom!”

Jasmine was already starting to get drunk after drinking this glass of wine. She stared at Charlie before she sighed and said, “Do you know how many times I wished that I was born into an ordinary family instead? I feel that my life would not be so difficult if that was the case. I wouldn’t have to face so many rules and constraints in my life and I think I’d be so much happier. Even though I hold such a high position and have endless wealth because of my family, I don’t have the chance to feel any real happiness.”

Charlie smiled slightly and said, “Do you also know that there are also many ordinary people who are actually more envious of people who are as rich as you are? This is because they wouldn’t need to worry about money or how they are going to make ends meet. Haven’t you heard people saying that they’d rather cry in a BMW than laugh on a bicycle? You might think that you’d feel very happy and content to be born into an ordinary family but this kind of ordinary life is precisely what many people are trying to get rid of! At the end of the day, isn’t making more money the reason why everyone is hustling and working hard?”

At this time, Jasmine looked at Charlie with a serious expression on her face before she said, “Mr. Wade, you don’t seem to care about making money at all! You weren’t even interested in the twenty million dollars that they were offering you just now. In fact, you could’ve already made a lot of money if you would just sell the pills for ten million dollars each. However, you chose to give the pills away for free instead. Why does it seem like money means nothing to you at all?”

Charlie smiled indifferently as he thought to himself. He did not care about money because he was not short of money at all.

However, Jasmine did not know about the times he needed money desperately in the past.

In the past, Charlie had actually asked Lady Wilson to lend him some money during her birthday banquet so that he would be able to pay for some medical expenses.

Initially, Charlie thought that Lady Wilson would definitely lend him the money since she believed in Buddhism and it was a Buddhism teaching that stated there would definitely be good karma for every good deed done in this lifetime.

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Who would have known that Lady Wilson was just a believer in Buddhism on the surface, but she was actually an extremely greedy and shameless person within!

At that time, he would have been willing to kneel down in front of anyone if that person offered to give him one million dollars.

No one can resist the attraction of money when they are in need.

Those who are able to really treat money as dirt are those people who have more than enough money to spend.

What was ten or twenty million dollars to Charlie now? He had tens of billions of dollars in his bank account and Emgrand Group made tens of billions of dollars in profits every year. He did not know what else he could spend his money on anymore.

Therefore, what was the point of him accepting the twenty million dollars from them now? He would rather not take the money, but instead allow them to pay homage to him and to treat him as their benefactor just so they would show him more respect in the future.

That was what he really wanted.

But how could he tell Jasmine what he was thinking?

Right now, Jasmine feels that he was a saint who could actually treat money like dirt.

If that was the case, then he would simply allow her to continue thinking that way, then.

At this time, Jasmine continued drinking her red wine as she muttered to herself, "Actually, I can tolerate everything else but I really don't want to be manipulated and controlled by the Moore family when it comes to matters involving my own marriage. I don't want to be a pawn that is controlled and used to advance the Moore family business. I don't want to give my youth and happiness away. I don't want to follow in my mother's footsteps and repeat all her mistakes..."

Charlie asked out of curiosity, "Was your mother's marriage also arranged?"

"Yes." Jasmine nodded before she said, "After marrying my father, my mother was never happy in her life. She was so depressed for so many years until she finally passed away at a very young age."

Charlie vaguely remembered Albert telling him that Jasmine's mother had given her the diamond necklace before she passed away more than ten years ago.

Since Jasmine should be around twenty-five or twenty-six years old, Charlie estimated that her mother had probably died when she was around ten years old. In that case, her mother must have been really young when she passed away.

Jasmine took another sip of red wine and she played with the wine glass in her hand before she said apologetically, "Mr. Wade, I'm sorry that you had to listen to me talk so much nonsense."

Charlie hurriedly replied at this time, "Jasmine, please don't say that. I'm glad that you can confide in me because this shows that you trust me."

Jasmine nodded before she wiped the tears from the corner of her eyes. After that, she said, "Mr. Wade, I really want to thank you for everything that you have done for me today. You didn't only save my grandfather's life but you also listened to me complaining and spewing so much nonsense about my life. Thank you for being such a good friend!"

Charlie smiled and said, "You don't have to be so polite with me if you regard me as your own friend! If friends are too polite, then it seems as though the friendship isn't real."

"Yes!" Jasmine replied as she nodded. "It is already getting late, Mr. Wade. I will send you home."

Charlie waved his hand immediately. "You don't need to send me off. I don't think that you should be driving in this condition so you should also find a driver to take you home."

Jasmine nodded and said, "Don't worry about me! The female manager here can drive me home later. I need to send you home first!"

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Jasmine returned to the Moore family mansion after sending Charlie home that night.

Lord Moore did not listen to Charlie's instructions to rest in bed. Instead, he was sitting in the living room at this time as he spoke to Jasmine's cousin and uncle who were reporting the entire family situation to Lord Moore at this time.

As soon as he saw Jasmine arriving back at the Moore family mansion, Lord Moore waved his hand before he said, "Jasmine! I've been waiting for you to come home!"

"Grandpa!" Jasmine replied in a respectful manner before she asked, "Why are you waiting for me?"

At this time, Lord Moore replied, "You were the one who invited Mr. Wade here today, weren't you? Can you give me a detailed account of how you met him?"

"Okay, Grandpa!"

Jasmine hurriedly explained herself. "Mr. Wade and I met by chance at Vintage Deluxe. At that time, Mr. Wade was with his father-in-law..."

"Father-in-law?" Lord Moore asked as he frowned immediately. "Mr. Wade is already married?"

"Yes." Jasmine nodded immediately.

"What a pity! That's a real pity!" Lord Moore replied as he shook his head and sighed. "This is really such a pity!"

At this time, Reuben hurriedly replied, "Grandpa, don't worry! I've already heard some news about Mr. Wade and it seems as though he is the son-in-law of a really incompetent and small family."

"A small family?" Lord Moore felt even more puzzled at this time. "Which small family has the ability to get such a good son-in-law?"

Reuben smiled before he replied, "The Wilson family. Grandpa, I bet you've never even heard of this name before."

"Yes, I've never heard of this family."

Lord Moore frowned before he said, "Since the Wilson family is just a small family, then I guess that it wouldn't be that difficult. There is still hope for us."

After that, Lord Moore looked at Jasmine before he said, “Jasmine, go on...”

Jasmine continued speaking, “At that time in Vintage Deluxe, Mr. Wade’s father-in-law accidentally overturned one of our antique vases. After that, Mr. Wade repaired the antique vase with some incredible craftsmanship and he not only repaired the antique vase but also doubled the value of the antique piece. After that, I started paying more attention to Mr. Wade.”

Immediately after, Jasmine started explaining the entire process of how she got to know Charlie to her grandfather.

When Jasmine explained that Charlie was the one who called for the thunder and lightning that struck the metaphysics master, Jack Yuleman, to death at the banquet hosted by the White family, everyone sitting in the living room was stunned!

“Jack Yuleman? Jack Yuleman...” Lord Moore murmured. “I heard of this name a long time ago. I heard that he has a very mysterious and incomparable ability. Is he dead now?”

“Yes!” Jasmine replied with a face full of admiration for Charlie. “Mr. Yuleman was very arrogant and disrespectful towards Mr. Wade and everyone else at the banquet at the White family mansion that day. In order to teach him a lesson, Mr. Wade called for thunder and lightning and within a few seconds, a bolt of lightning came out of thin air and struck Mr. Yuleman dead in an instant...”

“Oh my god! What kind of supernatural powers does he have?” Lord Moore asked in shock.

The other members of the Moore family were also very frightened at this time.

He called for lightning to kill the famous metaphysics master? This...this was too unbelievable!

After that, Jasmine continued her story. “After that, another Feng Shui master from Hong Kong tried to deceive me out of my money. However, Mr. Wade saw right through him and he was the one who helped me to reverse my fortune by destroying the ‘dragon encapsulation formation’ that I was trapped in in my bedroom.

Jasmine continued talking about how amazing Charlie was and after listening to Jasmine’s story, Lord Moore was also impressed with Charlie. He also admired and looked up to Charlie because he was the one who saved his life today.

After sitting in silence for a short while, Lord Moore sighed before he said, “The Wilson family is really lucky to get such an amazing son-in-law! Mr. Wade is not an ordinary man. He’s really a god!”

At this time, Reuben could not help but say, “Grandpa, don’t you think that it’s an exaggeration to call him a god?”

“You think I’m exaggerating?” Lord Moore replied in a cold manner, “Do you really think that thunder and lightning will fall from the sky if you call for it? He could do it, so don’t you think that he has some supernatural powers? People with supernatural powers like him deserve to be called a god!”

After that, Lord Moore looked at Jasmine with a serious expression on his face before he said, “Jasmine! Grandpa has a task for you!”

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Jasmine hurriedly replied, "Grandpa, please tell me what you want me to do!"

Lord Moore suddenly said, "I want you to make Mr. Wade the son-in-law of the Moore family!"

"What?" Everyone present in the living room, including Jasmine, could only stare at Lord Moore in shock.

At this time, Jasmine felt a burst of excitement in her heart.

However, she was still very cautious and she said, "Grandpa, Mr. Wade...is already married."

"So what?" the old man replied in a firm manner. "I don't care if he's already married or if he has many wives or mistresses. Even if he has a lot of children, we'll have to win him over! I want to have a son-in-law like him. If he is the son-in-law of the Moore family, then the Moore family business will definitely increase exponentially and we'll also be able to rise up the ranks among the other powerful and prestigious families. The Moore family will finally have the opportunity to become one of the most powerful families in the country!"

Jasmine hesitated for a moment but she had a very strong expectation in her heart.

After that, she looked at Lord Moore before she replied, "Okay, Grandpa. I understand."

Lord Moore laughed before he said, "Good! Good! Good! If you get Mr. Wade to become the son-in-law of the Moore family, I will make you the next head of the Moore family, Jasmine!"

Everyone was shocked when they heard Lord Moore's words.

How could he give the position of the head of the Moore family to a woman?

However, Lord Moore had just made her a promise!

And he had never broken a single promise in his life!

For the first time in their lives, all the members of the Moore family had their own thoughts about this matter...

...

When Charlie finally returned home, it was already ten o'clock at night.

As soon as he got into the house, he was surprised to see his whole family sitting in the living room with a solemn expression on their faces.

When Elaine saw Charlie, she started questioning him immediately. "Charlie, where did you go? Do you know what time it is right now? How could you go out for so long? Do you still regard this as your house?"

Charlie was about to reply to Elaine's questions but at this time, Claire suddenly frowned and said, "Mom!"

Elaine could not continue questioning Charlie anymore.

After Charlie placed some vegetables on the table, he asked in a casual manner, "What are you guys talking about? Why do all of you look so solemn?"

Jacob asked, "Did you hear about the big news in Aurous Hill today?"

"What news?"

"Millenium Enterprise has already gone bankrupt because all the other companies have decided to terminate their partnership with the company. Moreover, all the creditors of the company also showed up at their front door today to demand for their money. The company went bankrupt overnight and they owe several billion dollars in foreign debt. The boss of the company, Peter Murray, was so desperate that he jumped off a building today and he's now in a vegetative state..."

Charlie acted as though he was completely unaware of this matter and he asked in surprise, "Oh? Really? That's so unfortunate."

Jacob shook his head and sighed before he said, "Peter Murray used to be the most dominant figure in the real estate industry in Aurous Hill. He used to be so rich and powerful. I wonder who he offended and why he'd actually end up like this."

"People like him deserve to go bankrupt," Claire replied with a cold expression on her face without an ounce of sympathy for a pervert like him who tried to take advantage of her.

At this time, Elaine sighed as she said, "So, do you know how risky it is to start your own business, Claire? If you start losing money, you might also be forced to take your own life!"

After that, Elaine looked at Claire and said, "I think you shouldn't be starting your own business. The risk is too high! You should just return to work for Wilson Group. Your grandmother has already promised me that she'll make you the director of Wilson Group and you'll have a fixed annual salary then. Wouldn't that be much better than starting your own business?"

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Claire was very puzzled when she heard her mother persuading her to return to work for Wilson Group again. Therefore, she could only ask her mother, "Mom, what kind of ecstasy did Grandma feed you? Why are you always forcing me to go back to work for Wilson Group?"

Elaine was very anxious at this time and she quickly replied, "If you work for Wilson Group, you'll be getting a fixed annual salary. Isn't that better than starting your own business? What if you lose all of your money because you chose to start your own business? What should your father and I do, then?"

Claire replied in a firm manner, "Mom, stop trying to force me! I'm never going to return to work for Wilson Group. Even if I have to beg for food on the streets, I would never return to work for

Wilson Group in this lifetime! I might have to beg for food but I'll never lose my own pride or dignity!"

Elaine glared at Claire before she said, "Are you doing all just to preserve your own pride or dignity?"

After Elaine was done speaking, she started crying as she complained in an aggrieved tone, "Wilson Group is about to go bankrupt. If it really does shut down, then your father and I will not be receiving our pensions! You should know very well that we'll have to rely on this pension for our retirement fund when we grow older! Moreover, even if your grandmother doesn't think highly of your father, he still has a stake in Wilson Group! If you refuse to return to the company, we'll also lose our dividends then! What are we going to do in the future?"

Claire blurted out immediately, "Mom! The Wilson family deserves to go bankrupt because they don't know how to manage their own company! Even if they go bankrupt today, I think they deserve it because they've brought it upon themselves!"

Elaine started to lose her temper at this time. "Claire! What are you talking about? We've already been part of the Wilson family for a long time and you've already worked for Wilson Group for many years. Don't you feel anything at all if Wilson Group goes bankrupt just like this? Claire, can you consider going back to work for Wilson Group for my sake?"

Claire replied immediately, "Mom, I've always done everything that you want me to do. You asked me to give you most of my salary and I obeyed. You asked to be put in charge of our family's finances and I gave in to you. Dad and I have never had any objections to you managing all our money. I've already given in to you all the time and I think you should show me a little respect. I really don't wish to go back and work for Wilson Group, and I want to start my own business and do something for myself. Can't you just support me for the first time in your life?"

Elaine knew that she was wrong but after listening to Claire's words, she sat down on the sofa and kept crying as she said, "Why is my life so difficult? I've worked so hard to raise my daughter and I thought that I could depend on her to marry a good and capable husband. Who can ever understand why your grandfather insisted that you marry someone like Charlie? Now, my daughter doesn't even care about me or bother to listen to my advice anymore. Tell me, what's the point of staying alive if my family doesn't even care about me anymore?"

Claire felt extremely angry and frustrated when she saw her mother complaining about how miserable her life was. Therefore, she started to lose her temper and she said, "Mom! Can you stop taking out your anger on Charlie all the time? Charlie is very promising now and he's taking good care of our family. Once the renovations are complete, you'll be able to move into the biggest villa at Thompson First because of Charlie! Can't you just be grateful and stop complaining already?"

Elaine continued crying as she said, "What do you want me to be grateful for? So what if we move into the villa? We have to live in fear because who knows when the White family will change their minds and decide to kick us out of the villa?"

Claire sighed before she said, "Mom, I can't tolerate this anymore if you are going to continue crying and complaining all the time. Please stop it or I'll move out of this house with Charlie."

"You..." Elaine started getting anxious at this time and she stood up and said, "Do you really want to live apart from us?"

Claire nodded before she replied, "Yes. Charlie and I have already been married for so many years. It's time for us to move out."

"No!" Elaine blurted out immediately. "Absolutely not!"

Claire looked at her mother with a serious expression on her face before she said, "Mom, if you're going to continue to force me to go back and work for Wilson Group, I'll move out of this house with Charlie immediately. If you stop talking about Wilson Group, then I won't move out. You can make the decision on your own."

Elaine looked at Claire and she could tell that she was not kidding. At this time, she suddenly realized that she was already testing Claire's limits by taking things too far.

If she continued crying and creating trouble for her daughter, she knew that Claire would definitely move out of the house with Charlie without any hesitation. At that time, she would have no choice but to fend for herself.

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If that was the case, she would not even have the opportunity to live in the villa that Zeke had given to Charlie after the renovation was completed.

Elaine gave in immediately when she thought about this.

At this time, she could only sigh before she said, "Okay, I'll choose to be supportive of you, then. I won't mention Wilson Group anymore, okay?"

Claire was finally satisfied and she nodded before she said, "Alright then, we won't move out, then."

Charlie could not stop himself from showing a thumbs up gesture at Claire when he witnessed her showdown with her mother.

His wife was really incredible. Even though it was not apparent, Claire was always very effective at handling all the critical moments.

Jacob did not say anything so far but when he saw his daughter who rarely lost her temper finally getting angry and frustrated, he came forward and said, "Look! Why should you be fighting? Isn't it good for the family to be harmonious and happy?"

Elaine glared at Jacob with a sharp expression on her face as she said, "You didn't even say a word before this and you suddenly have so much to say now? Even though Charlie is useless, he even got us a villa and we now have a new place to live in. What about you? What have you done for the family? All you know how to do is to play with some antiques every now and then. You're the most useless person in this family!"

“Hey!” Jacob got frustrated when Elaine started to push the blame to him. After that, Jacob quickly said, “Elaine! Don’t you dare despise or look down on me! Have you forgotten how amazing I was when I made a few hundred thousand dollars by selling some medicine?”

At this time, Elaine looked at Jacob with a disdainful expression on her face as she said, “If you get arrested for fraud, don’t expect me to save you or to take out any money to bail you out!”

“You are really a bitch!” Jacob yelled out angrily. “Can you stop looking down on others? I’m talented at investing in antiques, okay?”

After that, Jacob rushed into his bedroom before he brought out a pen holder and said with an arrogant expression on his face, “Look! I’ll show you what I found today! This item is worth at least a few hundred thousand dollars!”

Elaine replied in a disdainful manner, “When are you ever going to wake up and face reality? Do you really think it’s so easy to deceive others? Do you think that everyone is as foolish as you are?”

Jacob stomped his feet angrily at this time before he said, “Don’t look down on others if you have no understanding of antiques at all! This pen holder is from the Qing Dynasty and I only spent five thousand dollars to buy it. I’ve already sent a picture of this pen holder to Zachary and he’s willing to pay three hundred thousand dollars for it!”

Charlie glanced at the pen holder in Jacob’s hand and he was really surprised.

If the pen holder was really from the Qing Dynasty, then it might really be worth a few hundred thousand dollars. However, Charlie could already tell with just one glance that the pen holder in Jacob’s hand was obviously made with modern craftsmanship. It would probably be worth no more than a hundred dollars.

The seller was obviously treating Jacob as a fool when he sold him the pen holder for five thousand dollars.

Charlie could understand how Jacob would be so easily fooled. However, at this time, Charlie could not help wondering why Zachary, who was an antiques dealer, would actually pay Jacob three hundred thousand dollars for this pen holder. Zachary was the type of person who would invest in a cheap bargain and then try to rip his customers off instead. Since this pen holder was obviously fake, why would he be willing to spend three hundred thousand dollars on it instead of simply offering Jacob one hundred dollars for it?

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When Jacob said this, everyone looked at him with an incredulous expression on their faces.

Elaine asked Jacob in surprise, “Are you telling me that someone wants to spend three hundred thousand dollars for this tattered thing? I don’t think that you’ll even be able to sell it for fifty dollars!”

Jacob replied in a triumphant manner, "Why would I lie to you? If you don't believe me, why don't you take a look at my message history?"

As soon as he said this, Jacob took out his cell phone before he opened his text message and clicked on a voice note sent to him by someone called Zachary.

Zachary's voice sounded over the phone at this time. "Uncle Jacob, you've got a very good pen holder in your hands! I do think the pen holder is really from the Qing Dynasty! Why don't you sell the pen holder to me instead? I'll give you three hundred thousand dollars for it!"

Elaine was very surprised and she quickly said, "Oh my god! You were telling us the truth! Jacob, you're incredible. You bought the pen holder for five thousand dollars but you actually sold it for three hundred thousand dollars! If you do this a few more times, we'll be rich!"

Jacob hummed before he asked, "So, are you convinced now? Are you finally convinced?"

"Yes, I'm absolutely convinced!" Elaine replied immediately. After all, Elaine had always been a fan of money. She would always support anyone who had money. As soon as she heard that Jacob had sold the pen holder for three hundred thousand dollars, she quickly forgot everything that she had said and she simply smiled and said, "My husband is really amazing. I can't believe that you actually have such incredible skills in antique trading! It seems as though Charlie is still the most useless one in this family."

The expression on Charlie's face changed immediately. What had this to do with him now? Had Jacob already forgotten that he was the one who made the herbal pills that he successfully sold the last time round?

However, at this time, Charlie felt that he really had to look for an opportunity to ask Zachary who he was selling the pen holder to. What Zachary was doing was equivalent to giving his father-in-law money for free!

Jacob handed the pen holder over to Charlie with a look of excitement over his face as he said, "Charlie, please bring this with you to Antique Street tomorrow and help me pass this to Zachary. He said that he'll prepare three hundred thousand dollars in cash for you and you can bring the money home for me then."

Charlie nodded immediately. "Okay, Dad."

Jacob was very satisfied and he continued speaking, "Charlie, you should accompany me to more antique trades and events in the future. Perhaps if you keep following me, you will be able to develop an eye for antiques just like me. After that, we'll be able to make a fortune together! What do you think about that?"

Charlie could only verbally agree but all that he was really thinking in his mind was all the trouble that Jacob had caused him in the past. How could Jacob actually have the audacity to ask him to learn from him? Has he forgotten all about the antique vase that he broke in Vintage Deluxe? If Charlie had not been there with him at that time and if Charlie did not help him repair the antique vase, Jacob would have already been locked up in prison! How would he ever be able to afford to pay for the antique vase?

However, after thinking about it, Charlie felt that his father-in-law was just like a young boy. He only wanted to do anything that he liked and that made him feel good about himself.

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Early the next morning, Jacob called Charlie eagerly and asked, "Charlie, can you go and look for Zachary already? I want you to pass the pen holder over to him as soon as possible so you can collect my money for me!"

Charlie nodded before he asked, "Dad, you are not coming with me?"

Jacob replied, "I'm going to attend an event hosted by the Calligraphy and Painting Association today. They've invited me to attend the meeting and a conference! After joining the conference, I'm certain that I'll be invited to many internal auctions for paintings and calligraphy!"

Charlie could only reply helplessly, "Okay then, I'll go to Antique Street to look for Zachary, then."

Since Jacob had already instructed him to do so, Charlie would head to Antique Street to look for Zachary.

Claire was also taking a break from work today and since she was feeling bored, she told Charlie, "I'll go with you."

Charlie nodded and said, "Alright then, let's drive your car there."

Claire replied, "I'm tired, I don't feel like driving today. You can drive instead."

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"Okay, I'll drive."

The couple drove to Antique Street together.

Since it was the weekend, there were many people at Antique Street.

Zachary had already opened his stall for a long time on Antique Street. Therefore, he has his own permanent booth on the street. Charlie could find him as soon as he entered the Antique Street.

At this time, Zachary was holding a fake jade pendant in his hand as he was bragging to a foreign couple. "I am telling you that this jade pendant was worn by the emperor of the Ming Dynasty before he passed it to his grandson and the generation after that. After many twists and turns, the jade pendant finally fell in my hands..."

"Is it really that valuable?" the middle-aged man asked in surprise. "How much does this jade pendant cost?"

Zachary grinned before he replied, "Since we're fated to meet today, I'll sell this jade pendant to you for just one hundred and eighty thousand dollars. After leaving Antique Street, you can

actually sell this jade pendant to an auction house for at least one million eight hundred thousand dollars!”

The woman smirked before she replied, “If you can sell this jade pendant for ten times the amount out of Antique Street, then why didn’t you do that yourself? Do you really think we are fools? Come on, husband! Let’s get out of here.”

After that, the woman dragged her husband away from Zachary’s stall.

Zachary started cursing angrily at this time. “Damn it! When did all these foreign tourists become so smart?”

When Charlie saw what happened, he smiled before he approached Zachary. “So Zachary, are you still trying to cheat your customers?”

“Oh!” Zachary exclaimed when he saw Charlie. He quickly bowed before he greeted Charlie immediately. “Mr. Wade, why are you here today?”

After greeting Charlie, Zachary noticed Claire who was standing next to him. “Oh! This must be your wife, Mr. Wade. She’s such a beautiful woman!”

Charlie simply replied, “Stop flattering me! The reason why I am here today is because I heard that you want to pay my father-in-law three hundred thousand dollars for a pen holder?”

“Yes, yes, yes!” Zachary nodded as he replied excitedly. “Your father-in-law is really amazing to have found such a rare piece of treasure. That pen holder is worth at least three to four hundred thousand dollars! He’s really amazing!”

At this time, Charlie pulled Zachary aside before he whispered, “Zachary, stop fooling me. Everyone on Antique Street can see that this broken pen holder is a fake. The only person who doesn’t know that is none other than my father-in-law. Now, tell me why you are willing to pay three hundred thousand dollars for this fake pen holder? Come on, tell me the reason now.”

Zachary quickly replied, “Mr. Wade, I wanted to honor you because you’re a really incredible man. Not too long ago, your old man came to me with two magical pills and after reselling it, I managed to earn at least two million dollars. The more I thought about it, the more uneasy I felt. It would be inappropriate for me to keep all the money to myself when you were the one who made the pills, right?”

As soon as he spoke, Zachary continued smiling before he said, “That is why I thought of another way to share the profits with you. I know that money does not mean anything to you at all. Therefore, I thought that I’d be able to share the profits with you through your father-in-law instead.”

Charlie sneered before he said, “Yes, Zachary. You took the magical pills from my father-in-law and you paid him a few hundred thousand for it when you were making millions out of it. Do you really think you’d be able to atone for your sins by simply offering me three hundred thousand dollars for a pen holder?”

Zachary started trembling in shock as he replied, “Mr. Wade, please forgive me! If you aren’t satisfied, I’ll give you all that money. I don’t want anything else, I only want your friendship.”

Zachary knew very well that he cannot afford to provoke Charlie. After all, Charlie was a very powerful man who had connections with many powerful and wealthy people in Aurous Hill. Everyone regarded him as the greatest metaphysics master because he had actually destroyed a couple of metaphysics masters from Hong Kong. So, Zachary only wanted to please Charlie.

At this time, Charlie simply glanced at Zachary before he said, "Forget it. My father-in-law doesn't know the value of the pill and he felt that he had already taken advantage of you when you gave him five hundred thousand dollars for the pills. So, let's just leave it as it is."

After that, Charlie looked at Zachary before he said, "However, I hope that you won't hesitate to help me if I require your help in the future. Do you understand what I am saying?"

Zachary quickly smiled before he replied, "Don't worry, Mr. Wade. From now on, I'll do whatever you want me to for you!"

Chapter 259

Charlie nodded in satisfaction when he saw how obedient Zachary was.

In fact, Zachary was a very clever man and he would definitely be useful to Charlie in the future since he is indeed very capable and full of ideas.

After that, Charlie told him, "Zachary, I'll definitely treat you well if I'm satisfied with your behaviour."

Zachary hurriedly clasped his fists together before he said, "Don't worry, Mr. Wade. I'll definitely make sure you're satisfied!"

Charlie could not help but smile at Zachary's flattery. "Do you know that I really feel like hitting you because of how shameless you look right now?"

Zachary laughed before he said, "Mr. Wade, I know how ugly my face is but you should also know that money is never ugly!"

After that, Zachary took out a black box from under the seat before he handed it over to Charlie. "Mr. Wade, this is the three hundred thousand dollars in cash that I'm supposed to give your father-in-law. Please check if the amount is correct."

Charlie waved his hand before he said, "It's okay, I'm leaving now."

Zachary suddenly asked, "Mr. Wade, aren't you going to walk around Antique Street?"

"No, I won't be walking around the street today," Charlie replied immediately. "After all, nine hundred and ninety nine out of ten thousand items displayed on Antique Street are fake. What's the point of shopping here?"

Zachary nodded before he said, "Alright then, please have a safe journey. I'm about to close my stall too."

Charlie then asked out of curiosity, "Where are you going? Why are you closing up so early?"

After that, Zachary replied, "I'm going to the small commodity market to buy some goods. It seems as though no one is really interested in fake jade anymore. Therefore, I'm going to the commodity market to buy some copper coins instead. I can get the fake copper coins in the commodity market for one dollar each and I can sell it for one to two thousand dollars on Antique Street."

Claire was shocked when she heard Zachary's words and she exclaimed immediately, "You're buying them for one dollar apiece and you're about to sell them for one to two thousand dollars each? Isn't that exploitation?"

Zachary scratched his head before he replied, "Well, that is how things work on Antique Street. If I sell the copper coin for one or two dollars, the other stall owners on Antique Street will kill me!"

At this time, Charlie could only stare at Zachary as he said in a helpless manner, "Can't you do something that doesn't involve cheating or deceiving an innocent person?"

Zachary looked at Charlie with a bitter expression on his face. "Mr. Wade, if I don't deceive people on Antique Street for a living, I'll definitely starve to death!"

At this time, Charlie replied helplessly, "Alright then. Good luck to you."

Since the small commodity market was on the way back to their house, Charlie said to Zachary, "Why don't you come with me? I'll give you a ride to the commodity market."

Zachary really did not expect someone like Charlie to offer him a ride. Therefore, he was extremely excited and he quickly packed up as he thanked Charlie. "Mr. Wade, thank you for being so generous and kind. Thank you, thank you."

Charlie waved his hand before he said, "Okay, stop your nonsense and just get into the car already!"

...

As soon as they left Antique Street, the sky turned gloomy and after a short while, there was a thunderstorm as heavy rain fell from the sky.

It had been raining recently and the urban area would always be flooded because of the heavy downpour.

The rain was very heavy at this time and the traffic radio station also reminded all the car owners to avoid several main roads that had already been closed due to floods from serious water accumulation.

Therefore, Charlie could only choose to use a detour from the outskirts of the city.

Zachary was very anxious and excited as he sat in the back seat of the car. He secretly took a picture of Charlie's side profile while he was driving before posting the picture on his social media

profile with the caption, "I would never have imagined that I'd ever be fortunate enough to ride in Mr. Wade's car."

A lot of people began leaving comments below his post! Most of them were asking Zachary not to forget them now that he was actually in touch with someone like Charlie.

Zachary felt very proud of himself at this time.

Charlie was not driving fast and when he passed a secluded street, he suddenly saw a car that was parked on the side of the road.

The car was an old black Mercedes-Benz and it was parked crookedly on the side of the road. A woman walked out of the car in a hurry at this time.

When Charlie saw that both the front tyres of the Mercedes-Benz were already flat, he assumed that this was the reason the woman had stopped the car.

Charlie did not want to be nosy and he planned to continue driving. However, at this time, Claire looked out the window and she saw the woman who had just walked out of the Mercedes-Benz. She was stunned for a moment before she exclaimed, "Charlie! Stop the car! I think it's Loreen's car!"

Charlie stopped the car immediately.

Chapter 260

Claire pushed the car open before she hurried out of the car with an umbrella in hand.

Charlie rushed after Claire as soon as he saw her getting out of the car.

"What happened, Loreen?"

Claire asked as soon as she rushed over to Loreen.

"Claire? What are you doing here?" Loreen asked as soon as she saw Claire. She was trembling because she was drenched from the heavy rain.

She looked extremely surprised and embarrassed, as though she did not want her best friend to see her in such an awkward manner.

Claire held the umbrella over Loreen's head and she quickly replied, "I happened to pass by this road with Charlie when I saw you by the side of the road. What happened to you?"

Loreen quickly replied with an annoyed expression on her face, "Let's not talk about it anymore! My company sent me out on an errand today and they gave me a car to do so. That's the reason why I drove out to meet the customer in this car today. However, even before I could meet up with the customer, I realized that I had punctured my car tyres! Moreover, it wasn't only one tyre that was punctured, but two! I'm so annoyed right now!"

Charlie felt a little puzzled at this time.

It was normal to experience a flat tyre when driving.

However, under any normal circumstances, a flat tyre would only occur when sharp objects such as a nail or iron wires accidentally pierce the tyre. Therefore, generally only one of the tyres would be punctured.

It seemed a little suspicious that both sides of the tyres were punctured at the same time.

Therefore, at this time, Charlie simply said to Loreen, "The rain is getting heavier and heavier. It isn't safe for you to stay out here alone. I think it's best for you to leave your car here and hitch a ride back to the city with us first. We'll call for help to fix your car once the rain stops."

Loreen nodded before she sighed and said, "I guess that's my best option now."

As Charlie was leading them back to the car, Charlie suddenly heard the sound of something breaking through the sky in a very swift manner.

At this time, Charlie also saw a silver light bursting through the sky in the heavy rain!

Moreover, this silver light was coming straight at Loreen!

Charlie did not even think about it and he instantly stretched out his hand before pulling Loreen into his arms.

At the same time, he suddenly heard a loud crashing sound and a sharp dagger was pierced directly into the front hood of the black Mercedes-Benz!

The dagger was as thin as a willow leaf and it was extremely sharp and shiny.

Even though the hood of the car was made of hard metal, this extremely thin and sharp knife cut through it like it was bean curd!

There was total silence as everyone's eyes were fixed on the flying dagger.

Fortunately, Charlie managed to pull Loreen away on time. Otherwise, the flying dagger would have cut straight into Loreen's forehead. Since Charlie pulled Loreen away, the dagger brushed her cheeks a little and the sharp blade cut off a little of her hair. It was really thrilling!

Loreen came from a very powerful and wealthy family and even though she had experienced many storms in her life, she could not stop herself from screaming when she realized what was happening.

Immediately afterwards, two more daggers flew towards them and Charlie frowned as he held Loreen in his arms as he avoided the flying daggers in a swift manner.

The flying blades were really fast and Charlie would not have been able to avoid the daggers if he did not practice the exercises in the Apocalyptic Book. He would not have been able to save Loreen or protect himself!

Loreen was also extremely shocked at this time!

Unexpectedly, someone in Aurous Hill was after her life!

Moreover, what was even more unexpected was the fact that Charlie was the one who saved her twice!

At this time, Charlie held Loreen tightly in his arms as he raised his head in the heavy rain.

He could see an off-road vehicle parked not too far away. At this time, a person inside the vehicle was staring at him with a blank expression on his face, as though he did not expect Charlie to save Loreen from the flying daggers that were aimed directly at her.

“Who do you think you are? How dare you ruin my brother’s plan?”

At this time, two men stepped out of the off-road vehicle.

The two men were full of murderous intent as they walked towards Charlie.

Chapter 261

Among the two people who were walking towards them, the one standing in front was dressed in white.

He was wearing a white silk cloth and his clothes fluttered in the air. What was even more surprising was the fact that there was not even a drop of rain on him at this time.

The other man was dressed in black and he had a very strong and sturdy body.

Moreover, he could see that the two men had formed a barrier around their body, as if isolating the rainwater from themselves.

Charlie glanced at the two men and he realized that they could both fight very well.

At this time, Zachary, who was sitting in the car, looked out the car window and his face turned pale immediately, as though he had just seen a ghost! At this time, he opened the car door before he tried to run away.

Charlie had very quick eyes and he quickly grabbed hold of Zachary’s collar before he said, “Why are you running away?”

“The Butcher Brothers...they’re the Butcher Brothers!” Zachary yelled in panic as he struggled to set himself free from Charlie’s grasp. “Mr. Wade, please let me go. I don’t want to die in their hands...”

The sturdy man in black snorted as he said, “So, it seems as though you’re quite knowledgeable since you know who we are. However, none of you can leave before we get what we came here for today.”

“The Butcher Brothers?”

Charlie stared at the two men and he frowned as he thought about their identity.

He could vaguely remember seeing news about the Butcher Brothers, which was broadcasted on the television station when he was preparing dinner at home last year.

The news stated that they were a pair of vicious robbers who had kidnapped the son of the richest man in Lancaster before demanding a huge ransom of eighty million dollars.

However, the richest man in Lancaster refused to pay the ransom and instead, he chose to pay the armed forces one hundred million dollars to arrange for his son to be rescued from the kidnappers instead.

The armed forces in Lancaster were the top in the provinces and they had a very huge army at their disposal.

Moreover, the leader of the armed forces was also extremely famous for his combat skills.

At that time, everyone had expected the robbers to kneel down and beg for mercy after they were caught.

Unexpectedly, the armed forces could not find the richest man's son even after searching for him for seven continuous days.

In the end, the leader of the armed forces decided to dispatch the entire armed forces to search for the robbers. However, the robbers had managed to run away.

After the robbers escaped, they cut off one of the richest man's son's ear as a threat before demanding a ransom of three hundred million dollars instead.

From this incident, the strength of the Butcher Brothers were apparent and it seemed as though no ordinary person would be able to escape from their clutches once they had become their target!

This time, the Butcher Brothers had come for Loreen and it was obvious that they intended to kill her.

The expression on Loreen's face changed drastically at this time as she said, "I've always kept a very low profile in Aurous Hill and I have never fought with anyone here before. Why would you want to kill me?"

The sturdy man sneered before he replied, "We have no grievances with you and we don't know who you are. In fact, we're just doing what we're getting paid to do."

At this time, Loreen blurted out immediately, "Who is it? Who wants my life?"

The sturdy man smiled before he replied, "You're already a dead person, so why are you asking so many questions?"

Charlie stood in front of Loreen and his wife, Claire in a defensive manner before he said, "What? Do you really think you'll be able to kill her in front of me? Did you ask for my permission first?"

The man dressed in white replied coldly, "Who do you think you are? We've both already killed so many people. Someone like you doesn't even deserve to be killed by me!"

After that, the man dressed in white continued speaking, "However, since you're getting in our way and causing so much trouble for us today, you'll also die in our hands today!"

Claire and Loreen's faces turned pale immediately.

They were frightened because these two brothers were obviously murderers who had lots of blood on their hands.

At this time, Charlie turned around and said, "Claire, get into the car with Loreen and wait for me inside. Don't worry, leave this to me!"

Chapter 262

Claire was really unwilling and she did not want to leave Charlie behind. "No, I don't want to! I want to stay with you!"

At this time, Charlie replied in a cold manner, "Go now! If you stay behind with me, you'll only distract me and it won't be good if all of us get hurt then!"

Claire nodded before she led Loreen to their car.

Loreen staggered as Claire pulled her away and at this time, a white stone slipped out of her pocket and fell to the ground.

Charlie sneered as he stared at the Butcher Brothers. "You're both nothing but two ants to me and you're telling me that you're going to get rid of me? I guess you must both be really tired of living!"

The sturdy man smirked before he said, "Why don't we see who's the ant here?"

After that, the sturdy man rushed over to Charlie as he tried to punch him in the face. His fist was so strong and it felt as though he would smash Charlie's face directly.

However, Charlie saw the punch coming at him and he said lightly, "I guess you really don't want to live anymore."

After that, Charlie lifted his leg before kicking the man hard in his groin.

Even though the sturdy man dressed in black had very fast movements, he was not as fast as Charlie!

In an instant, he could no longer see where Charlie was and immediately after that, he felt a sharp pain in his crotch!

"What!"

The sturdy man started screaming as he placed his hands over his crotch. He yelled out in pain as he lay on the ground.

Blood gradually leaked out from his pants.

The sturdy man felt that he was going to faint because of the pain and he screamed, "Elder brother...my crotch...my crotch..."

The man dressed in white really did not expect Charlie to be able to dodge his brother's attack. What was even more incredible was the fact that Charlie not only escaped the attack, but Charlie even injured his younger brother badly with one blow!

The expression on his face changed immediately as he glared at Charlie.

He could tell that Charlie was also a very impressive fighter.

Moreover, he had very powerful inner strength.

Charlie seemed like a warrior who had been practicing how to fight for more than a few decades!

However, he was just a young man in his twenties. The man dressed in white did not know how to fight Charlie because he knew that even if he fought against him, they would probably end up in a tie.

At this time, Charlie stepped on the face of the sturdy man with the soles of his shoes before pushing his head into the muddy water as he said with a playful smile on his face, "Weren't you very arrogant with me earlier? So, why does it feel as though you've just lost your manhood?"

The gravel on the ground scratched the man's face and blood started flowing out from his cheek. He endured the pain and humiliation as he screamed, "Elder brother, cut him up! Cut this kid up!"

He was still feeling the pain from Charlie's unexpected kick earlier and if he was just an ordinary person and not a fighter, he would have already lost his life.

Now, he did not even care about his manhood anymore. All he wanted was Charlie's life!

The expression on the face of the man dressed in white changed when he saw Charlie stepping on his younger brother's face as he continued insulting him.

He did not care how powerful Charlie was. All he could think about was how he was going to kill Charlie to avenge his brother!

At this time, he roared in anger, "I'm going to skin you alive before eating your flesh!!"

Charlie smiled playfully before he replied, "You're going to eat my flesh? With all due respect, with your lousy skills, you are not even qualified to eat my shit!"

"You..."

The man in white was going crazy!

The Butcher Brothers were infamous in Aurous Hill. How could he possibly endure this kind of humiliation and insult?

He gritted his teeth in anger as he shouted, "I'm going to kill you!"

Chapter 263

In the next second, everything was a blur. The figure of the man dressed in white was now a phantom as he flew towards Charlie.

As soon as the man dressed in white punched the air, a wave of air set off around him as he forced the rain around him to disperse backwards involuntarily.

Whenever the rain drops touched his fist, the rain would immediately turn into steam.

“He was prepared to kill!”

Zachary was horrified and he wanted to crawl and hide under the car.

At this time, Loreen, who had just been pulled into the car by Claire, was also so frightened that she was holding her breath. She was extremely nervous and anxious at this time because she was afraid that her savior would die here today because of her.

Even though Claire was also feeling very nervous, she felt that Charlie would definitely be able to defeat the two men.

Charlie simply glared at the man dressed in white with a cold expression on his face.

He was not afraid of the deadly glare in the man’s eyes at all. As soon as the man dressed in white got closer to him, Charlie grabbed the man’s fist before twisting it a hundred and eighty degrees!

There was the sound of the crackling of joints, which was then accompanied by the violent howls from the man dressed in white. His entire palm was completely dislocated and deformed and his bones and veins were all broken. His entire wrist was drooping at this time.

“Elder brother!”

The sturdy man on the ground yelled immediately.

Charlie did not even look at him but he simply stepped on the man’s face again.

Snap!

The sturdy man’s chest hit the ground as he swallowed a few mouthfuls of muddy water. After that, he coughed out a mouthful of blood and his body shook uncontrollably for a short period of time before he suddenly stopped moving completely.

“Brother!” The man dressed in white felt as though he was going to collapse anytime soon. He felt that his eyes were about to pop out of his socket and he gathered all his strength to go in for the last blow.

At this time, the man dressed in white squeezed his right hand into the shape of an eagle’s claw before he flew around in the air, leaving the afterimage of a dozen hand shadows in the air.

However, Charlie did not move at all.

The man in white suddenly rushed at Charlie, as he prepared himself to attack Charlie in the eyes with his finger.

He had already concentrated all of his energy onto his finger so that he would be able to kill his enemy with just one blow!

He was prepared to poke Charlie in the eye socket and he was certain that this concentration of energy would pierce right through Charlie's eyeball, and since it would be pierced so deeply into his eye socket, he would be able to pierce through Charlie's brain!

Moreover, he was confident that this concentration of energy would shatter Charlie's brain like a watermelon!

At this time, Charlie simply glared at him with a cold expression on his face as he laughed.

"Unbelievable!"

Charlie raised his hand and casually slapped the man across the face. No one knew that Charlie had actually accumulated a lot of reiki in his palm and that this slap was in fact more ferocious than a car crash!

Boom!

The man dressed in white fell to the ground as soon as Charlie slapped him!

There was dead silence all around them.

Claire could not help but rub her eyes vigorously in disbelief.

Zachary was also stunned.

Were these two men really the Butcher Brothers?

Their strength seemed a little inconsistent compared to the rumors that he had heard!

How could someone as powerful as the Butcher Brothers fall to the ground when Charlie slapped him?

How was this possible?

The man dressed in white collapsed to the ground and he was shocked when he found out that he could not get up.

Chapter 264

Even though it looked like a simple slap, when the slap hit him, all the reiki that Charlie had been accumulating rushed and penetrated into his head, rushing along his body along the meridian as it burst all the important veins in his body.

Since his important veins had already burst, he also lost all of his skills!

The man dressed in white was horrified as he yelled out in pain.

How could anyone have such strong spiritual energy and reiki? He really could not fathom who Charlie was.

How was it possible for anyone in Aurous Hill to have such incredible skills?

Moreover, he felt as though Charlie's skills were incomparable.

Where did this guy come from?

He had come here with his brother to kill, why did it seem like they were the ones getting killed instead?

At this time, Charlie punched the man in his abdomen and with just one punch, the man in white felt as though he had become a completely useless person. He could not even move his hands and feet at this time and it felt as though he was one step away from death.

Charlie pulled the man up as he stared at him with a condescending and cold expression on his face. After that, he asked in a cold manner, "Who sent you here to kill Loreen?"

The man dressed in white felt completely defeated at this time. For a warrior like him, he felt that living was worse than death. He could feel his spirit and energy completely destroyed and he said in a desperate manner, "Just kill me! Let me die with dignity!"

Charlie replied in a cold manner, "Dignity? You don't deserve anything at all! If you refuse to tell me the identity of the mastermind who instigated you to kill Loreen, I'll break all the meridians in your body and make sure you cannot even blink your eyes for the rest of your life. After that, I'll hand you over to the police since you're a wanted criminal and I'll probably be able to trade you for a lot of money. I'll let you rot in prison until the day you die!"

The man dressed in white was horrified at this time. "Please, please let me off. I'll tell you who the perpetrator of the crime is if you just give me a way out."

Charlie replied, "Okay, tell me who it is and I'll give you a way out of this misery."

The man dressed in white hesitated for a moment before he blurted out, "The person who paid us to do this...is Loreen's cousin...he told us to make sure that Loreen doesn't make it out of Aurous Hill alive!"

Charlie nodded before he replied faintly, "If that's the case, then you can go to hell now..."

After that, Charlie punched the man and killed him directly.

Loreen was shocked after hearing what the man had just said. Her cousin wanted her dead?

What exactly happened at home? Why did he want her dead in Aurous Hill? Why was he so cruel towards her?

At this time, Zachary slowly crawled out from under the car and he noticed the white stone that Loreen had dropped on the ground.

He picked it up and he was about to hand it back to her when he realized what he was holding in his hand.

“Miss, isn’t this the peace and wealth pebble? Why do you have it?”

Loreen was shocked and she asked Zachary in surprise, “You know what it is?”

Zachary scratched his head before she smiled and said, “Of course! I sold this pebble to Mr. Wade. After that, he didn’t know where he lost it. He even came to me to ask me if I had another similar pebble like this. Unfortunately, this is the only peace and wealth pebble in the world. That’s why I could not find a similar one for Mr. Wade...”

Loreen could not believe her ears and she felt as though someone was ripping her chest apart at this time as Zachary’s words continued echoing in her ears.

Loreen murmured, “Are you sure that this is the only peace and wealth pebble in the world?”

“Yes, the one and only!” Zachary replied affirmatively. “There would never be two exact same leaves in this world, nor would there ever be two of the exact same pebbles in this world! I recognize the shape of this stone. This is definitely the peace and wealth pebble!”

After that, Zachary sighed as he said, “It’s really a pity I’ve not been able to find a similar pebble for Mr. Wade ever since he lost this.”

“Mr. Wade?”

“He kept it from me for such a long time...”

The savior that she had been longing for, the dream lover that she had secretly been in love with, turned out to be...him!

She was actually in love with her best friend’s husband, Charlie!

Loreen felt so desperate at this time and she felt as though she was going to burst into tears.

She wanted to scream and she wanted to ask what could possibly be more ironic than this in this world?

Chapter 265

At this time, Loreen felt as though she had just been struck by lightning!

She stared at Charlie and she felt as though she had just been placed in a really unexpected situation.

Charlie did not know that Loreen had recognized that he was her savior.

Charlie simply sneered after getting rid of the Butcher Brothers.

The Butcher Brothers? Even though their names sounded extremely cool, they were nothing more than a pair of wild dogs!

Zachary had a terrified expression in his eyes.

The Butcher Brothers had already gone on a rampage and killed countless people for so many years. Moreover, they had never lost any battles in their lives.

Everyone in the southern region was afraid of them.

Who would have expected the Butcher Brothers to actually die in Charlie's hands today? Zachary felt that this was really unbelievable.

Was Mr. Wade really that impressive?

At this time, Charlie glanced at the two bodies that had already turned cold on the ground before he turned around and looked at Loreen, who was in a state of trance. He gently reminded her, "Loreen, since your cousin has already hired the Butcher Brothers to kill you, I believe he'll definitely try to do it again. You should pay more attention to your safety these few days and it would be best if you can hire a bodyguard to protect yourself."

Loreen looked at Charlie with an extremely complicated expression on her face. After calming herself down and adjusting her breathing, Loreen bit her lips gently before she whispered, "How am I supposed to find a suitable bodyguard at such short notice..."

Loreen was struggling with the conflicts in her heart.

First, someone in her family, her own cousin, was trying to kill her. Secondly, the mysterious man that she had fallen in love with turned out to be her best friend's husband.

Loreen felt very tortured by the truth and she felt very miserable and helpless.

Moreover, Claire did not know that her best friend was actually in love with her husband.

Therefore, Claire stepped forward and hugged Loreen before she patted her on her shoulder as she comforted her. "Loreen, don't worry too much. Since Charlie can fight so well that he even defeated the Butcher Brothers, you could always ask him to protect you in the future. You can simply pay more attention to your own surroundings and whenever you don't feel at ease, you can always call him to protect you!"

Claire was just thinking that it was only natural for Charlie to help her to protect her best friend since he could fight so well.

She did not know that her best friend was in love with her husband.

Loreen initially felt very disappointed. However, as soon as she heard Claire's words, she felt her heart beating erratically and she was immediately filled with joy.

She did not feel depressed that the man that she was secretly in love with was Charlie, nor did she lose the feelings that she had for him.

On the contrary, she thought of Charlie as a superhero because he had saved her life again today. If not for Charlie, she would not have been able to escape calamity twice!

This was also the reason why her feelings for Charlie increased tremendously. She felt a lot more affection for Charlie now that she knew of his identity compared to when he was just a mysterious person to her.

Loreen knew that it was immoral and not right for her to be in love with her best friend's husband.

However, she also knew that Charlie and Claire were only husband and wife because Claire's grandfather had insisted on their marriage. Both of them did not have any feelings for each other.

When Loreen was chatting with Claire a few days ago, Claire even told her that they were both still sleeping separately despite being married. Claire would sleep on the bed while Charlie slept on the floor.

Chapter 266

So, did this mean that she would not be letting her best friend down even if she was in love with Charlie?

Perhaps her best friend would even be relieved if she got together with Charlie in the end!

As she thought about this, Loreen hurriedly said to Charlie, "Then let me thank you for the trouble in advance, Charlie!"

Charlie smiled at Loreen before he replied, "No, it's no trouble at all."

His smile made Loreen's heart beat even quicker at this time.

Even though reason told her there was no hope for her since Charlie was her best friend's husband, she could not help but to have all sorts of weird thoughts running through her head due to the emotional impulse she was feeling.

Charlie did not know of what was going through Loreen's mind at this time. Therefore, he gave Loreen his phone number without any hesitation.

At this time, Zachary stepped forward before he said in a flattering tone, "Mr. Wade, you're really incredible! Even someone as frightening as the Butcher Brothers could not defeat you at all. You're really a god among men!"

After that, Zachary quickly knelt down in front of Charlie.

Charlie looked at Zachary with a cold expression on his face as he said, "So, Zachary, did you try to run away earlier because you felt that I wouldn't be able to defeat the Butcher Brothers?"

"No! No!" Zachary replied and he turned pale immediately. After that, he hurriedly explained, "Mr. Wade, you've misunderstood me. Why would I possibly doubt your strength or abilities? I was just confused earlier so please don't take it to heart..."

After he was done speaking, Zachary trembled as he continued saying, “Mr. Wade, I think you’re really a god! I really admit it now. From now on, I won’t worship any gods from the sky or earth but I’ll only worship you alone, Mr. Wade!”

Claire could only shake her head helplessly as she looked at Zachary. After that, she asked Charlie, “So, what should we do now? You killed the Butcher Brothers. Should we call the police?”

Charlie thought for a short while before he replied, “Why don’t you get into the car first? I’ll resolve this matter immediately.”

Claire nodded before she got into the car with Loreen and Zachary.

After watching the three of them get into the car, Charlie took out his cell phone from his pocket and called Isaac, the spokesperson for the Wade family and the person in charge of Shangri-La.

As soon as the call was connected, Isaac greeted Charlie in a respected voice. “Mr. Wade, what can I do for you?”

Charlie replied in a calm voice, “I had an encounter with the Butcher Brothers. They tried to come at me, and now they’re dead and their bodies are lying by the side of a secluded road. I don’t want any trouble at all. Could you send someone to deal with this on my behalf?”

As soon as Isaac heard Charlie’s words, he could not help but gasp in shock. “Mr. Wade, you got rid of the infamous Butcher Brothers? They’re a pair of very famous robbers in the southern region! They’re extremely ruthless and cruel but no one is able to defeat them.”

At this time, Isaac was very excited as he said, “Mr. Wade, you’re really amazing. If the Wade family finds out about your strength, it will definitely cause a huge commotion!”

Charlie replied in a calm manner, “It’s enough that you know about it. I don’t want the Wade family to find out about this matter. Otherwise, I’ll never forgive you!”

Isaac respected Charlie’s request and he replied in a respectful manner, “Okay, Mr. Wade. You can rest assured that my lips are sealed. I’ll send someone to deal with it immediately.”

Charlie was satisfied and he hung up the phone before he walked towards the car.

After getting into the driver’s seat, Charlie started the car in a calm and composed manner as though nothing had happened.

At this time, Loreen, who was sitting in the back seat, could not stop staring at Charlie’s side profile.

The more she stared at Charlie, the more she felt that she really adored and worshipped him. She was completely in love with him.

Chapter 267

When they drove into the city, the terrifying storm gradually subsided as if nothing had happened earlier.

Then, a spring breeze dispersed the stormy cloud and a rainbow hung in the sky like a painting. Everyone looked upwards, mesmerized in nature's beauty.

Charlie stopped the car at the entrance of the antiquity commodity market and dropped Zachary off here.

As soon as Zachary got out of the car, he bowed at Charlie respectfully and said, "Thank you, Master Wade!"

Charlie looked at him and said flatly, "Zach, don't ever tell anyone about what happened today, do you understand?"

"Yes, of course! Don't worry, Master Wade," Zachary said in a gracious and serious tone. His face was full of admiration as he regarded Charlie as a godlike figure.

Charlie nodded and drove away. Zachary, on the other hand, stood on the same spot and watched him leave, not daring to move even when the car had disappeared from his sight.

Charlie sent Loreen, who still remained in the car, directly to the hotel.

Loreen had always lived in Shangri-La ever since she arrived at Aurous Hill. The hotel's security team was among the top in the city and it was one of the Wade family's properties. Loreen's cousin would never dare to attack Loreen here even if he borrowed courage from a lion.

Loreen shot a complex and complicated glance at Charlie throughout the journey even after she got out of the car, as if there was a huge boulder smacking her heart. She had a lot to say to Charlie. She wanted to thank him, apologize to him, and say how much she regretted looking down on him and misinterpreting him.

But she couldn't say all these in front of Claire.

There were a few times when her words were hanging by her mouth and she swallowed them back.

When Loreen walked to the lobby entrance, Claire hugged her and said gently, "Loreen, remember to call Charlie when you're in trouble, don't ever put yourself in danger."

Loreen nodded and replied, "Don't worry, Claire, I will."

Charlie was a little jealous when he watched Claire hugging Loreen. He could count on one hand how many times his wife had hugged him but she and her bestie had been hugging each other ever so often. He was utterly jealous.

What he failed to notice was Loreen's envious gaze at Claire.

Since Loreen was Claire's best friend, Charlie decided to give Loreen as much protection as he could gather. When the ladies were bidding farewell, he sent a text message to Isaac. "Send a message to Eastcliff's Thomas family on my behalf. If anyone dares to assault Loreen Thomas again, I'll wipe them off the face of this earth!"

As the Thomas family had much less power than the Wade family, he believed they would not dare to make a move for the time being.

As soon as they returned home, Claire hurried to the bathroom to take a shower and change into fresh clothing because she was drenched by the rain.

Charlie handed over all the money that Zachary had given him to Jacob.

Jacob took the three hundred grand and laughed triumphantly. "Haha! This is just the beginning! Next time, I'll use the same tactic and earn three million from him. Finally, it's my opportunity to provide a good and comfortable life for this family! Hahaha!"

Charlie smiled awkwardly and thought to himself, 'Sigh, my dear father-in-law, please spare Zachary from your stupor. I have no idea how much that dude can earn from the deceptions and scams, but he's lost three hundred grand to you alone! I bet he'll still buy scrap and junk from you since you're my father-in-law and he can't afford to piss you off, but you're going to make him bankrupt sooner or later!'

Although Zachary was a dishonest trader, he was not a bad person and it wouldn't be nice to always take advantage of him.

So Charlie cleared his throat and started, "Dad, I think you'd better not deal with Zachary so often. That dude is such a dishonest person and you'll get the short end of the stick one day if you keep mingling with him."

Jacob scowled disdainfully. "Hush! What do you know? You're always out fortune telling for those people and that's a scam! We're running a very serious and earnest antique business here! Don't be such a busybody if you don't know anything, just watch and see for yourself!"

Looking at the condescending Jacob who was walking on the path of no return, Charlie shook his head dejected and returned to his room.

Claire had already taken her shower and she put on lavender silk spaghetti pajamas.

Her pajamas exposed her shoulders. Her skin was so soft and smooth like the silk pajamas and the pajamas barely covered her back and hugged her figure snugly. Charlie felt his throat going unusually dry tonight as he stared intensely at Claire.

She was lying sideways on the bed. The thin and silky pajamas lay on the graceful curves of her body like artificial skin. The skirt covered her thighs and her long fair legs stretched out lazily on the bed.

Claire blushed timidly as she noticed Charlie's intense glare that she chided, "Stop looking at me like that, it's not like you haven't seen it before."

Charlie plastered a sheepish grin on his face. “Dear, you’re so beautiful that it’s never enough.”

Claire rolled her eyes at his ridiculous remark but there was a spark of delight in her eyes.

Charlie really surprised her today. All the while, she thought that Charlie had some menial skills in fortune telling as well as martial arts, but she never expected him to be so powerful and awesome.

He had even saved her best friend’s life at a critical moment like that! It was extraordinary!

She couldn’t help but ask, “Charlie, tell me, how did you become so powerful all of sudden? You can even defeat the Butcher Brothers so easily.”

Charlie grinned smugly. “It’s a secret, but I’ll tell you if you let me kiss you.”

Claire smacked her lips in slight annoyance and said with a blush, “Dream on!”

Charlie was aroused by the sight of Claire’s seemingly seductive posture. He quickly turned around and opened the closet to take the quilt, but was stunned by the sight.

The closet was empty and the quilt that he always used to lay on the floor had disappeared.

“Darling, where’s my quilt?” Charlie asked.

Claire gasped as if something struck her mind and said, “I threw it into the washing machine.”

Charlie was speechless since he did not have anything to lay on the floor for him to sleep on. He sighed, “I can’t sleep on the floor without the quilt. I’ll sleep on the sofa, then.”

“Idiot,” Claire teased. She went to her closet, took out her quilt, and gave it to him. “Use mine.”

As Charlie held the quilt, there was a faint fragrance wafting from the white quilt. Charlie said excitedly, “Dear, you’re so nice to me.”

Claire shot an ambiguous glance at Charlie and huffed, “Let’s go to sleep.”

Charlie nodded. Hugging Claire’s quilt, he smelled the faint fragrance on it and felt jittery and excited.

If they went on like this, he would be able to sleep with his wife soon, wouldn’t he?

Then, Claire said, “Oh yes, I’m going to be quite busy with my studio for these two days. I’ve already set up the office, it’s time to go and get some projects and work done. Stay at home and keep Dad company, don’t let him go to Antique Street and buy useless stuff, okay?”

“Why don’t I help you out at your studio? You don’t have to pay me, I can perform tasks like wiping the table, vacuuming the floor, and making coffee!”

Claire smiled. “You don’t have to. There’s nothing to do at the studio anyway and if there is, it’s going to be me drawing and coming up with the design drafts. There’s really nothing you can help me with, so you’d better stay at home and do the household chores.”

Chapter 268

Chapter 269

Claire went to her new office early the next morning.

Meanwhile, Charlie rode his electric scooter to the wet market.

As Claire was very busy with her office lately, he specially bought some nutritious ingredients in order to cook some nice dishes for her.

After he finished shopping, Charlie walked out of the market and stumbled upon Loreen.

“Charlie!” Loreen shouted his name, thrilled and overjoyed.

Charlie was surprised. “Hey, Loreen, what a coincidence!”

Loreen looked at Charlie and mumbled hesitantly, “Yes... erm, no... no, I... I...”

Charlie tilted his head, confused. “Speak slowly. Have you encountered any problems recently?”

Loreen’s face turned into a bright shade of red. Actually, she had waited for him outside Claire’s house early in the morning and had been following Charlie all the way.

Loreen cleared her throat, mustered some courage, and said, “I... I’m actually here to thank you for saving me yesterday.”

Charlie smiled. “It’s my pleasure, I saved you because you are Claire’s best friend, that’s all.”

He found her appearance out of the blue peculiar and he got the answer.

Loreen shook her head and continued firmly, “Charlie, actually... actually I know that you didn’t just save me yesterday. The other day at the Aurous Bistro, it was you too.”

Charlie’s heart skipped a beat nervously. How did she know about the Aurous Bistro’s incident? He was wearing a mask then, she shouldn’t know!

He quickly denied. “Perhaps you’ve gotten the wrong person? I’ve never been to the Aurous Bistro or whatever the name of the place is, it must’ve been someone else.”

Loreen glanced at him, complex feelings flooding her eyes and emotions. There was grievance, passion, and a slight resentment in them.

Why couldn’t he just admit it? Was she so worthless in his eyes? Why didn’t he want to admit that he saved her?

The complex emotions were replaced with tears as she started, "When Harold invited me to dinner at Aurous Bistro the other day, some rich guy came to bother me and Harold caused some trouble with him. Then, he got some gangsters to ambush us at the entrance of the restaurant. At the critical moment, Harold dumped me there and escaped, and there was this masked hero who appeared out of nowhere and knocked everyone down and saved me from them. Besides, you..."

Loreen's face was turning into a much brighter red. They had quite an intimate skinship moment where Charlie took off her pants...

Of course, she was fully aware that Charlie intended to save her life rather than to have some unspeakable and malicious thoughts.

Charlie's face, on the other hand, almost turned green. Holy crap, why would she go there and why did she touch a sore spot? Could he admit to such doings?

Of course not!

All hell would break loose if Claire found out about what happened between him and her best friend!

"Loreen, there must be some misunderstanding. Yes, I can fight very well, but that doesn't mean that I saved you."

Then, he quickly added, "Even if it did, I only saved you once yesterday!"

Facing Charlie's denial, Loreen sighed quietly and took out the peace and wealth pebble from her pocket.

"What about this pebble? How do you explain it?"

Charlie glared at the pebble in disbelief. Wasn't it the pebble that he had lost for some time and couldn't find anywhere? Why was it with Loreen now?

Could it be that he dropped the pebble when he rescued her at the Aurous Bistro and she picked it up?

Chapter 270

It was no wonder he couldn't find the pebble after that day, he had dropped it! Coincidentally, or rather, unfortunately, Loreen had picked it up...

How could he explain it? Damn...

Charlie bit his lips sheepishly and said in a casual tone, "What do you mean? It's just some ordinary pebble."

Loreen looked Charlie in the eyes and said sternly, “Don’t lie to me! Zachary has already told me that this pebble is yours—it’s the rare, one and only peace and wealth pebble!”

Charlie pursed his lips and looked away, silently cursing Zachary for spilling the beans!

Since Loreen had grasped the conclusive evidence, Charlie could only confess with a reluctant nod, “Okay, fine, I’ll admit that I was the one who rescued you at the Aurous Bistro, but I was simply around the neighborhood when I saw you! Please don’t tell Claire!”

He fell silent after confessing. They stumbled upon an awkward silence for a while.

Charlie felt quite embarrassed and awkward. He didn’t know how to face Loreen since his great effort of concealing his identity had been exposed to Loreen.

Loreen, on the other hand, felt a surge of turbulent waves crashing inside her. Her mind was chaotic with complex and troublesome thoughts.

Loreen stared intensely at Charlie. Her mouth gaped and shut several times and she was unable to blurt a word. Finally, she mustered up the courage, took a step forward, and stood about a fist away from him.

“Charlie, I... I like you!”

Charlie twitched his lips in shock. He took a step back and said, “Loreen, I’m your best friend’s husband, you...”

Loreen gritted her teeth and uttered, “So what? I know you and Claire don’t have any feelings for each other! You guys got married purely because of her grandfather. So, I’m not stealing my best friend’s husband—technically, I’m stealing her fake husband.”

Then, she grabbed his hand, placed it above her heart, and said in the most loving and passionate tone, “Charlie, I’m equally as beautiful as Claire is, my body is also quite hot compared to hers, and better still, I’m the eldest daughter of the Thomas family. I love you more than she ever will and I’m willing to do anything for you.”

Charlie snatched his hand away and said, utterly shocked, “Loreen, it’s absolutely impossible for us to be together, I can’t betray Claire. Besides, I believe it’s just a momentary impulse. Don’t have your mind on me, it’s not worth it.”

Hearing the rejection, Loreen said in a stubborn voice, “No, I had a thought about it all night. Charlie, I fell in love with you since you saved me the first time, and I’m hopelessly in love with you after the second time!”

Then, she screamed loudly, “I like you! I love you! Believe me, if you get together with me, I’ll never let anyone look down on you! I’ll be the companion who is always by your side and I’ll support you forever!”

Charlie managed a bitter smile upon her remark.

The only thing Loreen knew was that he was her savior, but she didn’t know that he was the chairman of Emgrand Group and the young master of Eastcliff’s Wade family. If he didn’t want to be looked down upon, he could immediately reveal his identity. The whole world would bend their knees upon him and worship him.

However, he couldn't care less about a tacky life like that.

Besides, he couldn't say it out loud either. It would hurt Loreen too much and risk exposing himself unintentionally.

Loreen kept a stubborn and affectionate gaze on him. "It doesn't matter if you reject me now, but I won't back down. I'll prove to you with my actions that I love you more than Claire, and I'm a more suitable partner than she is! I'm willing to follow you forever even if I can only be your secret lover!"

Charlie sighed helplessly. "Loreen, you aren't thinking straight right now. I think you'd better think about it carefully. I need to go now, I have some cooking to do at home. Bye."

Then, Charlie quickly started his electric scooter and rode away like he was running away from a venomous snake.

He figured that she was traumatized by the shocking incidents that had happened to her recently that induced such an unbelievable hallucination inside her head. As soon as he kept himself away from her for two days or so, she would drop that thought like a hot cake.

However, Loreen's eyes were still serious and firm as she watched him leave. She said to herself, "Loreen Thomas, don't back down, you can do it!"