

Chapter 143

William's palm was warm.

However, Felicity's tears were even warmer.

William felt as though the palm covering Felicity's eyes was scalded.

Hot tears oozed from the cracks between his fingers.

Felicity was crying.

She said in a doleful voice, "William, I trust you."

William could feel her shoulders trembling as she continued, "But, since you covered my eyes, why not cover my ears and my heart as well?"

She sniffled. "I can still hear them crying."

She bowed with a quivering voice, "I can still feel their grief."

All of a sudden, an vulnerable and helpless voice resounded.

It was Elder Li.

He was choked with sobs as his tears welled up in his eyes.

"I beg of you, Genuine Care Medical Center. We have been working very hard."

He put his hands together and rubbed them. "We're trying our best to be self-dependent, and

we're trying my best not to trouble our kids who are striving outside..."

He lowered his head as he squeaked, "We really have no other options..."

His words brought tears to the eyes of every conscientious individual at the scene.

These were the thoughts of so many lonely elders.

They were alone but they were never concerned about it.

Instead, they would think of their children, whether their children were suffering abroad...

They were weak, but their hearts were stronger than anyone else's.

"Genuine Care Medical Center, can you stand to watch these elders kneel without doing or feeling anything?"

This scene was captioned and posted on the Internet once again.

But the Genuine Care Medical Center remained hard-hearted, refusing to comment on the situation.

The whole scene had been stuck in a stalemate for more than two hours.

Throughout that entire duration, Felicity was crying..

In the end, the farmers compromised.

They gave the Heption Herbs as a pledge to the Genuine Care Medical Center at a low price.

Although it was said to be collateral, in reality, everyone knew that the herbs were going on a one-way trip. They were never going to get paid decently.

After they had reached an agreement, the farmers left one after another.

Their bodies trembled slightly, evoking empathy in the people who saw them.

Elder Li was the last to leave.

He saw Felicity in the crowd.

He slowly walked before her and forced out a forlorn smile.

In the eyes of the witnesses at the scene, these farmers' dignity was already shattered beyond repair.

"Director Bai, you're here too," Elder Li said as he choked with sobs.

His words filled Felicity with guilt. Out of the thousand words to choose from, she could only manage, "I'm sorry, I have disappointed you..."

Elder Li waved his hand and said with a bitter smile, "It has nothing to do with you. This is simply a stroke of bad luck that happened to fall upon Heption Village. We'll have to think about some other business in the future."

After that, he walked away.

However, when he was about to leave, he turned around abruptly and handed the ragged sack to Felicity. He said with a smile, "These are some sweet potatoes planted by our family. I brought it here for my son, but he said that he was busy with work and didn't have time to come. You can have it instead."

Felicity held back her tears; she dared not accept the gift in front of her.

This was because she felt guilty.

Elder Li forced a smile and shoved it to William, who was standing next to her. What he said next struck William and Felicity so hard emotionally that they were at a loss for words.

"Don't worry, this shouldn't be poisonous. We've been eating it for our whole lives..."

After that, he slowly marched away.

William's eyes turned red at his words.

"Elder Li, I'm sorry that you have to suffer for another three days..." he whispered inwardly.

"What you have lost, I will repay you a hundred times over!"

Money!

Dignity!

As well as the bliss Elder Li was supposed to enjoy in his golden years!

The Genuine Care Medical Center had completed its acquisition, under the condemnation of thousands.

Many restless pharmaceutical companies had already sold their herbs to the Genuine Care Medical Center.

Even the Bai family and Steven have unloaded their herbs to the Genuine Care Medical Center.

For a moment, there was not a single stalk of Heption Herb left on the market.

The Genuine Care Medical Center had already spent over a hundred million yuan on the acquisition.

Everyone was berating the Genuine Care Medical Center.

The Zhao family, on the other hand, was elated.

When they decided to save the patients, it was just an uncharted step. After all, no one could predict how the public would react.

However, it was fortunate that the Genuine Care Medical Center decided to act on the contrary, which helped to raise the Zhao family on a pedestal.

In no time at all, the prestige of the Zhao family reached the pinnacle, and their fame was incomparable.

Nathan almost laughed his head off.

"The Genuine Care Medical Center is so idiotic! Not only did they bring us up, but they've also lost more than a hundred million yuan and taken on the fury of the city in the process," Nathan thought in glee.

He could not believe that they'd dare to do something so detrimental to themselves.

"I really salute them!" Nathan exclaimed inwardly.

The Genuine Care Medical Center, however, was as calm as the eye of the storm, despite the chaos brewing around them.

Melissa's lips curled into a smile when she saw how Lincon haughtily castigated the Genuine Care Medical Center and the Bai family on the TV.

Hmph, did he really think they were stupid?

Did Lincon really think that it was a coincidence that they released the notice on this very day? How foolish the Zhao family would think that the Genuine Care Medical Center was helping them?

Hmph...

They must have forgotten how they had once flattered the Bai family!

"That little b*stard is going to give him a taste of his own medicine!" Melissa thought bitterly.

The Zhao family thought it was just a mere coincidence, but really, it was all part of William's plan.

There were still two days before the test results of the Heption Herb came out.

The Bai family and the Genuine Care Medical Center both received a notice from the Qena City Pharmaceutical Association.

Both parties were informed that it was compulsory for them to attend the press conference in two days time.

Everyone knew that the notice heralded the life-and-death judgement that would come to pass with the release of the test results.

Two more days, then the Bai family and the Genuine Care Medical Center would cease to exist.

The Zhao family would rise powerfully in their absence.

When the Genuine Care Medical Center received the notice, they did yet another despicable thing much to the surprise of everyone in Qena City!

They announced that patients would be treated free of charge for two days!

Besides, they were going to be treated by the famous doctor, Henry personally!

Henry was very well-known throughout the country.

Usually, when he treated patients, the consultation fee would easily surpass ten thousand yuan.

Yet now, it would be free of charge.

This would have been a great piece of news under normal circumstances.

Unfortunately, since it was the Genuine Care Medical Center who conducted it, it felt as though the deed was masked by the stench of corruption!

While the treatment was indeed free, the targeted group was only for the high-ranking officials and nobles in the city!

If they wanted the free consultation, they had to get a proof of transaction from the bank of at least ten million yuan!

This prerequisite riled up the public even further as they once again directed their anger at the Genuine Care Medical Center!

The Genuine Care Medical Center had just exploited the poor farmers from Heption Village.

Now, they wanted to trample on the weak and to flatter the rich!

Such pretentiousness and apathy! Hypocrite!

The storm surrounding the scandal crashed down on the Genuine Care Medical Center like a tsunami!

Seeing the fleet of luxurious and fancy cars in front of the clinic, the public roared their rage at the clinic.

Lincon, sitting at home, laughed sinisterly.

"The Genuine Care Medical Center must be run by fools. I can already guess why they did that."

Hmph, they only wanted to cling onto the wealthy and affluent, then use whatever connections they gained in these two days to save the clinic!

It was such a pity that they did not know that they were shooting themselves in the foot!

Did they think that this would not enrage the public?

"Hmph, you really have a death wish!" He muttered.

In no time at all, the whole city was berating the Genuine Care Medical Center.

Felicity, resting at home, looked at William, who seemed detached, and wanted to comfort him.

After all, he was an employee of the Genuine Care Medical Center.

She said, "William, shouldn't you talk to your superiors? Don't let them ruin their reputation and end up like..."

She stopped abruptly.

All of a sudden, it finally occurred to her.

She was so perturbed that she shivered all over!

She was about to finish her sentence off with 'me'.

However, only at this moment did it occur to her that in the past two days, all the public's focus was on the Genuine Care Medical Center!

No one mentioned anything about her!

She would have been notorious for breaking her promise!

When she turned to William for help, everything turned her away. Only William sided with her!

The world had been turned upside down!

It was as if an unseen hand silently shifted all the public's focus and attacks to the Genuine Care Medical Center!

To change the source of the calamity!

Just so that she could be peaceful for the rest of her life!

It was William's doing!

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Felicity looked at William in horror, as she tried to search for answers in his eyes.

However, William's eyes were clear, without a single bit of emotions in them.

The fire that kindled in Felicity's heart cooled down instantly.

No, that wasn't right.

"It must be that I was wrong," Felicity thought.

Although William's temperament was nonchalant, deep down, he was still a kind-hearted person.

He would never do such an evil thing to the clinic. It shouldn't be him...

Felicity let out a sigh as she looked at William, who was as gentle as lamb, in a daze.

The storm was still brewing.

There was one day left before the press conference by the Qena City Pharmaceutical Association.

That night, the Bai family had an uninvited guest.

Nathan from the Zhao family!

Nathan came to the Bai family gallantly. He was very satisfied seeing all of their dejected expressions!

"Huh, aren't all of you stubborn?" Nathan thought as he continued looking at the Bais.

"Didn't they humiliate me to their heart's content previously?"

Each and every one of them now only had hopelessness and listlessness left in their eyes!

Had they started to be afraid of the Zhao family?

"Or me?" Nathan hissed silently, "The Bais should have learned to respect us earlier!"

"Nathan! What are you doing here! You are not welcome here! You betrayed us even when I treated you as a friend, and placed my trust in you!" Steven was the first to shout out.

Nathan looked at Steven, his eyes full of sympathy.

In his eyes, Steven was but a good-for-nothing.

This time, he was here for William and Felicity.

"I'm here to offer the Bai family a way out," Nathan voiced mockingly.

Felicity, who was standing at a corner, paled immediately.

She knew what Nathan was going to say.

She braced herself ever so slightly against William's back.

When the Bai family heard Nathan's words, their eyes lit up at once.

Yasmine abruptly switched to a courteous demeanor as she faced Nathan and said, "Mr. Zhao, please tell me quickly! Our families have been friends for generations after all! Previously, it was our family who was at fault for being ignorant. We can treat the past like water under a bridge, right?"

Nathan glanced at Felicity before he arrogantly declared, "If you want my help, there are two conditions!"

He snorted and continued, "One, make that good-for-nothing kneel and kowtow a hundred times in front of me."

When the Bai family heard this, they all nodded in unison.

They did not care about William's feelings at all.

In their eyes, William was just a dog of the Bai family.

If William was all it took to buy peace for the Bai family, then they would not bat an eyelid if they had to kill him, even more so when the request was only for him to kneel.

Felicity's expression, however, changed on the spot.

She remembered the tragic ending that befell Fernando when he asked William to kneel.

Nathan stretched out his second finger and said,

"The second condition is to ask Felicity to apologize to me for the whole night."

The second request took the Bai family by surprise.

He wanted her to apologize to him for the whole night!

While he could have worded it differently, his intention couldn't be more apparent.

He wanted Felicity to accompany him for the whole night!

If things were as they were before, the Bai family would not hesitate in agreeing to it.

However, times had changed.

Felicity's status was now different.

Not only was she the head of the Bai family, she was also the president of the Bai Group.

More importantly, there seemed to be an eminent person supporting her.

If they agreed to Nathan's request, if the person behind her learned it...

Seeing the Bai family was hesitating, Nathan grunted and said, "I guess the Bai family isn't sincere after all! In that case, I'll take my leave."

Nathan pretended to leave, but in fact, he was playing hard to get.

Steven was the first to cry out, "Wait a minute!"

Nathan immediately stopped and looked at him. The faces of the Bai family turned extremely sour. So, were they going to agree to him or were they not?

Just as they were hesitating, William's voice rang out, "Get out."

His tone was forceful.

Nathan's face immediately darkened. "I dare you to say that again!"

Of course, William would not say it for the second time.

He would rather speak with his actions instead.

He threw a cup brutally at Nathan.

"If you don't leave now, I will shatter you like the cup!"

When Nathan heard this, his anger boiled!

"Well done, Bai family! I came here to give you a way out! I didn't expect you to be in such poor taste! Fine! We'll meet at the press conference tomorrow!"

Thereupon, Nathan strode outside.

The Bai family couldn't stop him anymore!

After Nathan left, everyone's anger turned towards William and Felicity.

"The two of you, bring nothing but disgrace to our family!" one of the family members shouted.

"Now that we have come to this point, what's the big deal if you sacrificed yourself just a little bit?" another member of the family chimed in.

"It's just for one night! It's not like you'll lose an arm or leg! I think both of you are just determined to destroy the Bai family!" Yasmine roared at them insensitively.

William pulled Felicity along with him and went out immediately.

He felt too disgusted to look at them any longer.

At the same time, a hint of malice flashed across Steven's eyes.

Since it had come to this, he knew that the Bai family would not be able to end the matter peacefully.

"Then let's do it!" Steven thought.

Desperate situations called for desperate measures!

Subsequently, Steven stealthily pulled Yasmine over and whispered, "Grandma, I have a plan, but I can't bring myself to say it out. But since they cannot tell right from wrong, then they shouldn't blame us for being cruel and merciless. Do you want to listen to my idea?"

Steven told Yasmine about the plan that he had been hatching some time.

Yasmine's brows furrowed. "You..."

"Grandma, the press conference will be held tomorrow! Do you really want to see our family and our hundred-year-old heritage fall into ruin? This is but a small sacrifice for the greater good! Don't you get this rationale?" Steven advised her softly.

After being in her own thoughts for a while, Yasmine sighed and voiced, "Fine. We'll do as you say. We can't completely put the blame on ourselves anyway. They can only blame themselves for being in cahoots with each other!"

Steven was overjoyed and immediately went ahead to execute the plan.

Night fell.

Countless people in Qena City had trouble sleeping on this very night.

Everyone was anxious in anticipation of the imminent storm.

The press conference the next day would probably be the most shocking one in the history of Qena City.

It was human nature to put their own life on the line in order to obtain money.

And, the citizens in Qena City should see the most nature of human instincts next day. They were eager to see who would turn out to be the winner.

A few people had been tossing and turning as

they furrowed their brows in unease.

Harper stood in front of the window, gazing at the starlight that filled the sky. He let out a sigh.

William was indeed still too young.

Now that things had escalated to this point, there was no turning back.

Forget it!

How could he let William suffer within his territory in Qena City? Even if he went against his promise to William's grandfather, he had to help William this time.

Finishing his train of thought, he said casually, "Janet, run an errand for me tomorrow morning, will you?"

Hugo, on the other side, felt pity, regret, and a little disappointed with William too.

Hugo pondered until late at night, then called Tyler over and said, "Tomorrow morning, help me with something."

The next morning, Nathan went out in a hurry.

He was going to personally invite three groups of distinguished guests to attend the press conference.

Lincon, on the other hand, had just finished his breakfast. When he saw that it was about time, he slowly marched out of the villa.

As soon as he walked out of the villa, he saw a

man standing in front of his house.

VAMP20 WORK

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"Look who's here? Isn't it Mr. Baxter from the North Wind Fund?" Lincon asked with a smile.

The North Wind Fund had been helping the Zhao family for years. Thus, even Lincon had to be respectful when he met Baxter.

Baxter looked at Lincon who was no better than a sly fox as his heart was consumed by various emotions.

Baxter had never regarded himself as a good person.

However, if there was one thing that could be said about him, it would be that he was astute and headfast!

From the very beginning, he had already acknowledged William as a person with countless potential.

He intended to associate himself with William.

Even though the clinic was presently in a precarious state, Baxter was not willing to give up on William just like that.

As a result, he sought out Lincon personally.

"Lincon, are you on your way out to attend the press conference?" Baxter asked.

Lincon nodded. "Are you interested in joining me?"

"I'm afraid I'll have to pass. I just dropped by to remind you to exercise restraint when dealing with the Bai family and the Genuine Care Medical Center at the press conference later. Otherwise, you will definitely regret it," stated Baxter.

Lincon's expression immediately changed.

So Baxter was here to beg for mercy on behalf of the Bai family and the Genuine Care Medical Center!

Hmph!

They truly knew no shame!

However, since the Genuine Care Medical Center started providing free treatment for the wealthy, Lincon had already expected that someone rich would come here to plead for them.

And, here he came, Baxter from the North Wind Fund.

If things were not as they currently were, Lincon would have been afraid of the North Wind Fund.

But now, the Zhao family was no longer a young, weak fledgling.

Even if the North Wind Fund retracted their support hereafter, the Zhao family would not have to worry about their finances at all!

Therefore, they no longer felt obliged to maintain this farce of a relationship.

Lincon feigned ignorance as he nonchalantly

made a few remarks in reply.

Baxter was a shrewd man. He understood Lincon's intentions immediately.

Hence, he turned and left without another word.

However, the spark of rage within him had been ignited.

"F*ck, Lincon, how dare you play mind games with me!"

"I can't beat you, but I can annoy you to death!"

Baxter thought, as he made a phone call.

As Lincon continued his leisure stroll in the residential area, he encountered yet another person soon after.

It was Frank!

"Director Chien? H- h- how are you still alive?"

Immediately, Lincon scrutinized the person before him, as if he was mistaken.

As soon as the words left his lips, Lincon realized that he had made a grave mistake.

When Lincon and Vinson saw Frank in the hotel room previously, bloody and on the precipice of life, they instinctively thought Frank was dead.

Lincon wondered, "How is he alive and standing in front of me right now?"

Frank's face darkened in an instant.

He had also given it some thought the night

before.

William saved his life, which made him owe William a great favor.

Although he did not know what William's purpose was in the Genuine Care Medical Center, as long as he was an employee there, Frank would definitely help the clinic as his way to return the favor.

Frank hissed coldly, "Let the Genuine Care Medical Center and the Bai family go. If you do that, the exclusive sponsorship of my new movie will go to the Zhao family."

After saying that, Frank left.

Lincon was dumbfounded.

He had been coveting to be the exclusive sponsor in Frank's new movie for a long time.

He had even lost two million to that old man Henry for it.

Yet, for the sake of the Genuine Care Medical Center and the Bai family, Frank took the initiative to approach him!

What the f*ck!

"Director Chien, wait a moment. Let's discuss this properly," Lincon shouted after Frank.

As Frank continued to walk away, he added icily, "There is nothing to discuss. Whether you want it to happen or not, it'll all up to you."

After Frank left, Lincon flared up with anger. "Who the heck does he think he is! He think's he's such a big shot, huh? It's not like I want the sponsorship rights anyway! He's not even from Qena City, why would I do business with him?!"

However, despite his fury, Lincon still could not shake off the uneasiness in his heart.

First there was Baxter, then there was Frank.

Each of them came to him to plead for the Bai family and the Genuine Care Medical Center. Why?

Moreover, one came to drop him a reminder while the other left after threatening him.

What gods had he angered?

Lincon shook his head, trying his best to ignore the thoughts that plagued him out of nowhere.

Before he even managed to walk two steps, two more people approached him.

A flicker of annoyance sparkled inside him at once.

Could it be that they were here to plead for the Genuine Care Medical Center and Bai Family too?

What the f*ck!

"I will not give in today!" He thought.

"You two! I don't even care who you are! Scram!" Lincon roared at them.

The two people from a distance steadily approached him, neither too fast nor too slow.

Finally, they came face to face with Lincon.

Lincon's anger subsided promptly as a shiver spread throughout his body at the sight of them.

"Y-yo-you two..."

A man and a woman stood in front of him

The man was Tyler, Hugo's favorite grandson!

The woman was Janet, Harper's confidant!

Even if only either one of them showed up, Lincon would still be shivering in shock!

This was because they represented the prominent figures in Qena City, Huog and Harper!

Lincon could not believe that Tyler and Janet had actually come to him together!

Seeing their presence was no different than meeting Hugo and Harper personally!

Lincon's legs turned to jelly.

"I thought I heard you say you didn't care who we were? Do you still want us to get lost?"

Tyler said mockingly.

"I-I-I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I didn't do it on purpose! It's my despicable mouth that acted on its own!"

Lincon raised his hand and slapped himself in the face.

The Zhao family had merely gotten a small

achievement.

Even if the Zhao family owned the most assets in Qena City, they were still nothing in the eyes of Harper and Hugo!

In their eyes, the Zhao family were no better than pests!

"I didn't realize it was the two of you, please pardon me for my insolence. Do come to my humble abode and have a seat..." Lincon performed a right-angle bow as he asked for forgiveness.

"There's no need for that. We're only here to pass on a message from the two elders. Be modest in your achievement. Anyone can make mistakes, so forgive them when you can," Janet said coldly.

When she was ordered to come here, she was hesitant to do so.

This was because her impression of William was very bad.

He was but a brat, full of himself.

Now that something had gone wrong due to his arrogance, he couldn't even clean up after himself. Even Harper had to come forward and plead for mercy.

William was beyond help.

However, an order was an order, and Janet could only abide by it.

After Tyler and Janet relayed the message, they left together.

Lincon was left behind, shivering from head to toe.

Both Harper and Hugo were in the same boat, and they were with the Genuine Care Medical Center and the Bai family!

Was it the Genuine Care Medical Center who was hiding an ace up their sleeves?

Or was it the Bai family that was keeping their own counsel?

"Anyone can make mistakes, so forgive them when you can."

Lincon's entire body shuddered!

The press conference!

The press conference later was intended to send the Bai family and the Genuine Care Medical Center to their graves!

Now it seemed that if the Zhao family made any wrong remarks or moves later, they would find themselves being hunted by the whole city!

"No, I can't let that happen!"

The Zhao family cannot afford to do anything drastic during the press conference!

"Nathan is a smart boy, but he's quite petty. He would seek revenge if he was offended in any

way. Oh no!"

Lincon knew he had to rush to the venue immediately!

Driving at top speed, he left the residential area!

However, as soon as he left the district, he cursed out loud immediately!

For as far as his eye could see, rows and rows of cars filled up the road!

All of them were luxurious supercars!

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