This Time, I Will Get My Divorce, Mr Chapter 1021-1025

Chapter 1021 Luxury Mal

As Toby's personal assistant, Tom knew very well how much he loved and worried about Sonia. Whenever Sonia called and sent a message, when did Toby not reply immediately? Even if he was in a meeting, he would break the rules he had set to answer Sonia's phone calls or reply to her messages, and he had never missed any of them.

This time, however, Toby was clearly not busy, and he had also seen that it was Sonia who was calling, but he chose to ignore her coldly. If this didn't mean that he was having relationship problems, what else could it mean? After all, if they weren't having any problems, Toby would never treat Sonia like this.

However, Tom had no clue what happened between the two without him knowing that could make Toby act like this all of a sudden. The two of them were still deeply in love yesterday, and Toby was still working hard to deal with all kinds of troubles Sonia was facing that day, making it clear that his feelings for her had not faded in the slightest. So, did the problem lie with Sonia?

Tom rubbed his chin as he pondered. That seemed to be the case, but he had no clue what Sonia did to offend Toby to the point where he refused to answer her calls.

Suddenly, a vibrating noise sounded in the quiet atmosphere, breaking the creepy silence. Tom looked down, only to see the sound had come from Toby's phone again, but this time it was not a phone call, but a text message instead. The sender of the text message was still Sonia.

Tom immediately raised his head and snuck a peek at Toby, who was sitting with a fountain pen in both hands, not showing any intention to reach out to get his phone. However, this time, he didn't deliberately ignore his phone, but looked at the screen as if deep in thought.

Seeing this, Tom couldn't help but purse his lips. "President Fuller, I don't know what happened between you and Miss Reed, but it's not a good thing for you to give her the cold shoulder. If Miss Reed knows that you deliberately didn't answer the phone or read her text, your previous situation will be even worse, so you should take a look," he advised sincerely.

He was well aware of how much Toby loved Sonia, and knew how Toby had even nearly given up his life just to get her back. Hence, he didn't like how the couple would let a misunderstanding build up without dealing with it immediately, causing their conflicts to grow even worse and making Toby regret it even more in the future. That would do more harm than good, and there was no point in it either.

Toby could naturally tell that Tom was saying these things for his own good, so he did not get angry at his suggestion. He just frowned, then waved his hand and said, "This is my business, and I will take care of it myself. I don't need your reminders. You can leave first."

"Yes, sir." At Toby's words, there was nothing more Tom could say. Thus, he nodded before picking up the documents he had processed and turning around to leave.

Soon, Toby was the only one left in the office. At that moment, his phone screen had turned dark again. He pursed his thin lips with a stiff expression, as if he was struggling or hesitating. After a while, he let out a small sigh and decided to pick his phone up.

Yes, he knew that Sonia had called him, but he chose not to answer on purpose. Sonia refusing to tell him her problems and choosing to ask others for help rather than looking for him made him extremely angry, and at the same time, he felt like a failure. He was her lover, but why did she always go to other people instead of him? Was he an unreliable person in her heart?

Hence, he had deliberately ignored her call with the intention to give her the cold shoulder and silently show her that he felt unhappy and that he had complaints. He wanted to let her know how uncomfortable it was to be deliberately ignored by one's lover. However, he was also aware of how childish his approach was. After all, Sonia didn't know that he ignored her on purpose. Therefore, she wouldn't be able to experience the feeling of being ignored by the man she loved. In other words, by giving her the cold shoulder, he was only torturing himself in the end, and he couldn't get back at Sonia at all.

Toby's thin lips twitched as a self-deprecating smile appeared at the corner of his mouth. Even if he was angry and wanted to ignore her on purpose, he still gave in and was unable to continue his actions. Clearly, he had barely lasted a moment before he picked up his phone again. At that thought, he realized that he was quite useless at times.

Toby rubbed his forehead as he unlocked his phone with his other hand and tapped on the text message from Sonia. 'Sorry, I didn't know you were busy. Did I disturb you with the call earlier? You don't have to call me back. I just wanted to ask you a question, but if you're busy, it's fine. I'll just ask you when you come home at night. Also, what time will you be back? If you'll be too late, just tell me and don't let me worry. Of course, it's best if you can come back earlier. I'll cook you your favorite dishes.'

Though the message wasn't particularly warm, it was full of concern.

The furrow between Toby's brows loosened and his expression eased. Then, he replied with a text, 'I'll go back earlier.'

In the end, he was still the only one who was angry, and his anger had decreased rapidly after a few words from her. He was truly stuck with her for the rest of his life.

On the other end, after Sonia sent the text, she did not receive a reply after a long time, just like her phone call. However, she did not feel downcast as she had already confirmed that Toby was too busy to check his phone, and that he would definitely reply once he saw her text. Hence, the moment she sent the text, instead of waiting for a reply, she cleverly turned off her phone and held it in her hand as she leaned against the car window and closed her eyes to take a nap, just like Charles.

Probably because she had also drunk a lot, she felt a little dizzy at this moment. However, it was not as serious as Charles, who was completely drunk and was deeply asleep. On the other hand, she didn't feel like sleeping much.

Not long after Sonia closed her eyes, the phone in her hand suddenly buzzed. Caught off guard, her hands suddenly trembled, and if she hadn't reacted in time, she would've subconsciously thrown her phone out.

She opened her eyes and sat up straight, turning her phone to face her. Upon seeing that there was a text from Toby, she immediately smiled and tapped on it quickly. However, he had only sent a short sentence that was no longer than ten words, which was far shorter than her lengthy text, and it made her feel a little disappointed.

However, she quickly regained her composure. No matter how long his text was, she should be satisfied if he was able to take the time to reply to her amidst his busy schedule.

Sonia smoothed her hair that had become messy from leaning against the car window and replied, 'Okay, then I'll wait for you. Stay safe when you come back.'

After sending the text, Sonia thought that Toby would be too busy to reply again, so she placed her phone in her bag before peeking out slightly to say to the driver, "Sir, when we reach Bayside Residence, please send me to the luxury mall nearby. I'm planning to get some groceries. After that, you can just send him back to the Lane Residence. You can leave my car there without sending it back."

"Yes, miss," the driver answered with a smile.

Sonia nodded and leaned back on the seat again.

Half an hour later, when they arrived at the luxury mall in Bayside Residence, Sonia got out of the car and instructed the driver to call her after he had sent Charles back. Then, she turned around and entered the mall.

Chapter 1022 It's Not a Big Deal

That night, she wanted to stock up on groceries and make a feast for Toby to make up for her neglecting him during the past few days. At the thought, Sonia smiled as she pushed the cart around the fresh food section.

By the time she finished shopping and came out, it was already past six in the evening, and the sky had already turned dark. With two large bags in her hands, Sonia swayed left and right like a penguin as she walked toward Bayside Residence.

Due to the amount of heavy groceries, her speed was extremely slow, and the bags would also hit her calves from time to time, which hindered her from walking. Fortunately, Bayside Residence was not far away, and it was just a short walk from the mall. Finally, about ten minutes later, Sonia successfully returned to the apartment with the groceries.

After she placed the things in the kitchen, she let out a sigh of relief and leaned against the wall, panting heavily from exhaustion. Because she had been wearing high heels while walking back with two bags of heavy groceries, not only did her feet hurt, but her arms and shoulders were also sore.

Leaning against the wall, she bent over and rubbed her calves for a moment, then straightened her body to knead her shoulders before her body finally felt much better. Then, she started to go through the bags and use the ingredients to start cooking.

At the same time, Tom parked the car at an empty spot in the parking lot of Bayside Residence and turned to look at the resting man in the back seat. "President Fuller, we're here."

The car lights were not turned on, so the back seat was completely dark. Though Tom couldn't see Toby clearly except for a part of his body, the man who was concealed in darkness like this gave off an extremely pressuring aura.

When Toby heard Tom's words, he opened his eyes slightly, and a dark glint flashed in his gaze as he hummed in reply. However, he still remained seated with his legs crossed gracefully and his head leaning on his hand that was resting on the armrest, showing not the slightest intention of getting out of the car.

Tom turned on the smallest lights in the car and was finally able to see Toby's current expression. When he saw him looking blankly at the empty parking lot outside the car window, Tom said in surprise, "Miss Reed's car isn't here. Hasn't she come back yet?"

"She has," Toby indifferently replied.

When she sent him a text message in the afternoon, she said that she was back to Bayside Residence, and he believed that she would not lie to him. As for why her car wasn't parked here...

Toby pursed his thin lips. "Check if her car is at the Lane Residence."

"Huh?" Tom was taken aback for a moment, but when he looked at Toby's cold handsome face, he shivered. Not daring to delay any further, he quickly took out his phone and made a call, providing the other end with Sonia's car's license plate. After around two minutes, he acquired the desired answer.

He put down his phone and looked at Toby in surprise, giving him a thumbs up. "President Fuller, you're right on the money. Miss Reed's car is really at the Lane Residence, but how did you know that?"

"They went for lunch together. After Charles sent her back, he took her car with him," Toby replied, slightly lifting his gaze.

Tom said in realization, "Right. I forgot about that."

He couldn't help but swat at his forehead. Then, he thought of something that caused his eyes to widen, and his mouth gaped as if he wanted to say something. However, he held back and remained silent.

Toby's eyes narrowed. "What do you want to say?"

Seeing that his hesitation to speak had been discovered, Tom could not hide it anymore and could only voice out his guesses. "President Fuller, are you treating Miss Reed so... weirdly because she went out to eat with Mr. Lane?"

However, it didn't seem quite right. During the day, when Toby found out that Sonia was going for lunch with Charles, although he was a little jealous and was rushing to pay the bill, his attitude toward Sonia wasn't like this.

Besides, he had also said at that time that Charles was going to help Sonia, so it was normal for her to invite him to a meal, and he would not be jealous for such a reason. Hence, he thought that his guess seemed a little wrong.

However, apart from this reason, he really couldn't figure out why Toby was suddenly giving Sonia the cold shoulder. He could only say that love was a confusing thing, and it was fortunate that he had not experienced it yet.

Toby glanced at the panicking Tom and nonchalantly replied, "No."

Tom blinked in confusion. "No?"

He couldn't believe he had guessed wrongly.

Meanwhile, Toby pursed his lips and didn't reply.

At the sight, Tom mustered his courage and asked again, "In that case, what happened between you and Miss Reed, President Fuller?"

Toby rubbed his fingers together, showing no intention of answering.

Tom sighed helplessly. Toby really was stubborn. Once he had something he didn't want to say out loud, he would never say it. Tom had still been considering helping Toby come up with a solution, but as he refused to say a word, Tom couldn't come up with any ideas either.

While he was deep in thought, a cell phone rang in the car, interrupting Tom's inward grumbling. He looked at Toby, realizing that it was his phone that was ringing.

At the same time, Toby had already taken his phone out of his pocket and was looking down at the screen. Although Tom was in the driver's seat and was a little far away from his phone, he was able to see the contents on the screen by stretching his neck out slightly. The call was from Sonia.

Tom's mouth gaped open again before he looked at Toby, wanting to see what he would do this time. Would he choose to ignore her on purpose like he did earlier, or would he pick up the phone? Tom didn't have to wait long before he received his answer.

He watched as Toby put his hand down from the armrest and straightened his head before he gently swiped at the screen with his thumb and put the phone to his ear.

He picked up! He actually picked up the phone! Tom's eyes turned wide in surprise. Toby did not ignore Sonia's call as he had done during the day, but chose to answer. From the looks of things, the situation between the two did not seem to be particularly bad. He thought it made sense.

After all, if it were bad, why would Toby choose to go back to Bayside Residence instead of going back to his residence? It seemed that he didn't have to worry too much.

Tom breathed a sigh of relief and smiled in reassurance as he quietly listened to Toby talking to the person on the other side of the phone.

"Hello?" Toby answered in a low voice. His tone was still a little cold, and it was completely different from the usual gentle and doting voice he usually used when he talked to Sonia.

However, Sonia was cooking at the moment. She sandwiched her phone between her head and her shoulder while her hands busied themselves, one of them holding the handle of the pan while the other held a spatula as she stir-fried the ingredients in the pan constantly. The sizzling sounds were loud, and it covered the indifference in Toby's tone.

Hence, she didn't sense anything wrong and spoke to him as she usually did. "Are you done with work? When are you coming back?"

On the phone, Toby naturally heard the sounds of cooking on the other end, and he began envisioning the sight of Sonia in an apron and busily cooking for him in the kitchen. Just the thought of it filled him with a warmth that only a lover could bring about. Toby's frown relaxed, and the apathy in his tone instantly disappeared. The usual gentleness of his voice returned.

Chapter 1023 Carvin

"I'm already downstairs. I'll be back soon," Toby replied in a warm voice.

Hearing that, Sonia smiled. "That's great. I was just finishing up the last dish and was worried that it won't taste good if it gets cold. Hurry up, it's almost time to eat."

Toby nodded and hummed in reply.

After the call ended, he put down his phone and uncrossed his legs as if he was finally ready to get out of the car. Sure enough, as soon as he put his phone away, he immediately opened the car door and bent over to exit.

Tom hurriedly lowered the window at the driver's seat and called out to the man who was about to walk toward the elevator. "President Fuller."

Toby stopped and frowned, as if he was displeased with Tom stopping him from going home. "What is it?" He pursed his lips, his tone clearly impatient.

The corners of Tom's mouth twitched. What now? Blaming me for keeping him from going home? He rolled his eyes inwardly. Who was the one who stayed in the car and refused to move earlier? Toby wasn't rushing to get out of the car and go home just now, but now that Sonia had called him, he immediately wanted to rush home. Ha, men will always be men!

Although he was ranting in his mind, Tom didn't show it on his face and asked with a smile, "Do you need me to pick you up tomorrow?"

"What do you think?" Toby asked expressionlessly.

Tom glanced at Sonia's empty parking space and fell silent. After a few seconds, he spoke again. "I understand, President Fuller. What time should I arrive tomorrow morning?"

"Eight o'clock." Toby thought for a moment before giving him a time.

Tom nodded, making a note of it in his head.

Then, when Toby turned around and was about to leave, Tom suddenly recalled something and extended his hand from the car window, calling him again. "President Fuller!"

Toby was getting a little angry this time, and he turned around with a dark expression. "You'd better have something important, or you can go back to the company to work overtime now."

Tom fell silent as his breath got caught in his chest. This man really was vicious!

"President Fuller, I want to say that no matter what happened between you and Miss Reed, I hope that when you go back tonight, you will have a good talk with her and try to resolve the misunderstanding as much as possible so that it wouldn't cause you any problems in the future. After all, you almost gave your life to pursue Miss Reed, and I don't want you two to break up because of a minor issue. President Fuller, d-do you understand what I'm saying?" Tom looked at Toby and asked cautiously.

As an assistant, it was out of line for him to be involved in his superior's private life. However, he really couldn't bear to see Toby falling back into his pain after breaking up with Sonia. Hence, he plucked up the courage and boldly gave his advice, hoping that Toby wouldn't blame him.

In fact, Toby really didn't mean to blame Tom. He was not the kind of person who didn't know any better of himself. He knew that Tom was worried about him when he said those words, so he would not punish him indiscriminately for stepping out of line.

"I don't need you to tell me that. I was going to do that myself." The displeasure on Toby's face disappeared, replaced by an indifferent calm.

His expression showed that he was no longer angry about Tom stopping him earlier, and he wouldn't care about Tom's rude behavior in meddling in his private life either.

Hearing that, Tom was relieved. After patting his chest, he laughed. "That's good. In that case, I won't delay your reunion with Miss Reed anymore, President Fuller. I'll leave now and come back tomorrow morning."

After Toby hummed in reply, Tom rolled the car window up and backed the car before he turned and left.

While massaging his eyebrows, Toby entered the elevator. Two minutes later, he opened the apartment door and walked in. As soon as he stepped inside, a mouth-watering aroma filled his nostrils. His

expression softened even more at the scent and the air around him turned relaxed. He was no longer as cold and indifferent as he was in the parking lot just now.

Toby changed his shoes and walked into the living room. There was no one there, except for a few dishes that were placed on the dining table. When he saw the dishes, his eyes flashed with surprise. The dinner tonight was so lavish! Usually, as it was only the two of them, they would prepare a small meal that was delicious but not large in proportions. Sometimes they might even have leftovers if they didn't have much of an appetite. However, Sonia had prepared so much tonight, and the entire table was filled with food. Did something good happen for her to prepare such a feast?

Toby took off his coat and hung it on the shelf on one side, then turned and walked toward the kitchen. As Sonia wasn't in the living room and there was still movement in the kitchen, it was clear where she was.

Toby treaded lightly, making almost no sound as he walked. When he arrived at the kitchen entrance, he saw Sonia standing behind the kitchen counter with her head down, busy doing something seriously. However, her hands were blocked by her body, and Toby couldn't see what she was doing.

Still, this did not prevent him from leaning against the door frame as he stared at her figure with folded arms. She had a good figure, and with her height of five feet five, though she wasn't considered tall for a female, she wasn't short either. In particular, her proportions were good, making her look tall and eyecatching. Coupled with her curves and her slender waist, along with her long legs, she was a beauty that made people unable to move their gaze away from her.

Toby kept looking back and forth between the woman's waist and her firm hips with a dark expression, as if he was about to suck everything into his eyes, making it difficult for one to return his stare. Perhaps he had been staring too openly as Sonia faintly sensed something, and she paused in her movements to turn around, just to come face-to-face with Toby's deep and intense eyes.

"Ah!" Her body jolted in shock.

At the sound of her shout, Toby immediately returned to his senses and strode over to her in one big step. He then grabbed her shoulders with both hands, asking urgently, "What's wrong?"

Upon seeing his nervous expression, Sonia said with an amused smile, "I'm fine, you just scared me. Anyone would be scared if they turned around and saw someone at the door, right? You should've said something if you're back. The way you don't even make a sound when you enter, who wouldn't be scared?"

When Toby heard this, he let out a sigh of relief. "Sorry, I just wanted to see what you were doing, but I didn't expect that I'd scare you."

He really didn't mean to do so. After all, he hadn't expected that she would have such a big reaction after seeing him.

At his apologetic expression, Sonia patted his arm lightly. "All right, I'm fine. It's not entirely your fault. It's also because I was too focused just now that I got startled so easily."

"What were you doing?" Toby stepped past her and looked behind her.

Sonia turned around and replied, "I'm carving."

She picked up the pumpkin she had carved in half and smiled sheepishly. "I need to set up the last dish for it to look good, but I forgot to buy an orchid, so I planned to carve one by myself. When I followed a tutorial online, it looked simple, but it was difficult when I actually started doing it myself. I didn't expect it to turn out so bad after all that work. It's all crooked, and it doesn't look like a flower at all. It looks like a pool of mud instead."

Toby laughed under his breath. "It does, but it's still salvageable."

"This pile of mess? Salvageable?" Sonia's eyes widened in shock.

Toby nodded and answered confidently, "Yes!"

Chapter 1024 Almost Lost It

"Really?" Sonia looked at Toby with wide eyes.

He nodded. "Yes. If you don't believe me, why don't you let me try?"

She handed the carving knife over without saying anything. After he took it, he took two steps forward and stood where she had just stood before he picked up the mud-like pumpkin she had carved and inspected it carefully, as if he was wondering where he should start from.

Sonia didn't know what he was thinking. As she watched him remain motionless with the knife in one hand and her carved pumpkin in the other, she thought that he finally realized that things were not as simple and easy as he had said they were at the beginning. Just as she was about to laugh at him for boasting, she saw him move all of a sudden. With his long fingers wrapped around the carving knife, he carved onto the pumpkin little by little. His movements were deft, and he didn't seem like a novice at all, more like a master with many years of carving experience.

Her red lips opened slightly in surprise. "You're so good at this. When did you learn how to carve? Did you pick it up when you learned to cook?"

Even though food carving was a part of culinary arts, there were not many people who would learn it, and it was mostly those who dreamed of being a hotel chef or a chef in some high-end restaurant who would learn it. After all, it was only in a situation like this that food carving would come in handy. The average chef in a small restaurant would only know some simple dishes, but there was no need for any complicated food carvings in those dishes. Although Toby had been learning cooking recently, he was mostly learning home-cooked dishes from major cuisines instead of any exquisite and beautiful dishes. Therefore, it surprised her greatly that he knew food carving.

"I never learned it." Unexpectedly, Toby's answer was that he hadn't learned it.

Sonia walked to his side in surprise. Looking at the movements in his hands, she looked even more astonished. "You never learned it? Then how did you know how to do this? You even look so good at it!"

Toby focused on his carving and did not look up. He only replied with a chuckle, "I studied jade carving for a bit during high school."

"Jade carving?"

"Yeah." Toby raised his chin slightly. "At that time, I wanted to give my grandmother something special for her birthday, but I didn't know what to give her. Later, Tom suggested that I give her a carved statue."

"Oh, I get it now." Sonia clapped her hands. "Grandma likes these things, so it's a good gift for her."

Toby hummed in assent. "Yes, but Grandma has many statues that were all made by famous sculptors. If I gave her another one, it wouldn't be anything new to her, and she wouldn't be amazed by it."

"So, you went to learn jade carving just to make Grandma surprised by your gift?" Sonia guessed, touching her chin.

Toby smiled. "Something like that. Besides, I couldn't do many things because of my heart condition back then, and I felt useless. Because of that, I was always angry and depressed. Learning jade carving was not only for Grandma's gift, but it was also a form of self care. It requires great patience and carefulness, so if I wasn't in a good mental state, I wouldn't be able to pick it up at all."

"In other words, if you hadn't learned jade carving, your heart might take a bigger burden due to your anger issues to the point where you might not have held on long enough to replace your heart?" Sonia bit her lip and asked.

Toby nodded. "That's right."

Sonia felt her heart stop. Then, she slowly took a step back and went behind him to embrace him, burying her head on his sturdy back.

Toby's body jolted and his hand stopped carving; he was obviously shocked by her sudden behavior. He placed down the carving knife in his hand and turned his head slightly to look at the woman behind him.

As she was hugging him, he couldn't turn much, so he couldn't see her entire body and only saw a part of her body and her side profile. Even so, his gaze was still gentle and doting as he asked, "What's the matter? Why are you so affectionate today?"

"I'm not." Sonia lifted her head to roll her eyes at him, before she lowered her head again and rested her head on the middle of his back, her red lips opening as she spoke in a sad yet grateful tone. "I was just glad that Tom recommended you to give Grandma a statue back then. If not, you wouldn't learn jade carving, and if you didn't, you wouldn't be able to calm your heart down, and then..."

She couldn't continue. Her voice trembled and choked with fear. She was afraid that if he had not studied jade carving to calm his mind, he wouldn't be able to last long enough to find a suitable heart and would've died back then.

Sensing that she was feeling down, Toby placed the pumpkin in his hand down and turned around to hug her tightly, rubbing his chin against the top of her head as he softly comforted, "All right, I'm fine now, aren't I? Don't be scared. That's all in the past. I'm all better now."

Saying that, he caressed the woman's hair. He put in more strength than usual to let her know that he really was fine at the moment, that he was right in front of her, and he wasn't an illusion. He wanted her to stop overthinking and stop being afraid.

When Sonia raised her head, her eyes were a little red. "I know you're fine now, but what happened back then was still really scary and dangerous. It was such a close call. If Tom hadn't advised you back then, or if you hadn't accepted his suggestion, you... you wouldn't be here now!"

Toby's face was filled with a smile as he said, "But what happened was that Tom made a suggestion, and I accepted his suggestion, right?"

"What if you didn't?"

"There is no what if," he replied seriously.

She pursed her lips. "What do you mean?"

"Don't forget that you and I were already pen pals back then." Toby pinched her face gently. "I remember that at that time, we had been pen pals for two years. Although I hadn't fallen in love with you, I was already interested in you. I always knew that I needed to calm my mental state instead of being angry all the time, so when Tom suggested that to me, I immediately thought of learning jade carving and fixing my anger issues. Only then would I be able to live longer and hold on long enough to find the right replacement for my heart in order to meet you in the future."

"So, what you're saying is that because you wanted to meet me, you wouldn't refuse Tom's suggestion, right?" Sonia sniffled as she looked at him.

He lowered his head and dropped an extremely gentle kiss on her wet eyes, replying in a low and pleasant voice, "Of course. So, do you feel better now?"

Sonia huffed and rested her forehead against his chest, falling silent in tacit agreement. Toby chuckled and wrapped an arm around her waist while he placed the other on the back of her head and caressed her gently as if he were coaxing a child. Sonia leaned in his embrace with a slight smile, enjoying his doting actions. After all, which woman wouldn't want to live like a child and be spoiled like one by their lover? In any case, she liked it.

However, she knew that she couldn't keep hugging him like this. Hence, after he had embraced her for about two minutes, she took the initiative to come out of Toby's arms and looked at the man who was still a little startled with a smile. He seemed to be wondering why she wasn't letting him hug her anymore.

Chapter 1025 I'll Teach You Step by Step

"All right, it's getting late. You'd better hurry up and finish carving the rest of the orchids. After you're done, we should eat before the food gets cold," Sonia said as she fixed her ruffled hair.

On the other hand, Toby felt relieved after finding out why she left his embrace. He had thought that she didn't want him to hug her anymore.

"Okay, I'll speed it up." Toby nodded slightly and turned around, picking up the pumpkin and carving knife he had just put down before he continued to carve.

Sonia stood next to him again, watching him carving obediently. "I really didn't expect that after you learned to carve a jade statue, you would even know how to carve an orchid."

Hearing that, Toby smiled. "A jade statue is a big object. I wouldn't have been able to carve it from the beginning. Although I have money and I don't care how much jade is wasted, the master I was under the tutelage of cared and felt sorry for the jade shards and asked me to use scraps of jade to learn carving, starting from some simple small objects. Orchids were one of those objects. After I learned some carving techniques from carving small objects and I became better at it, he started to teach me how to carve larger objects."

"I see." Sonia nodded in realization. "But this was all so long ago. I didn't expect you to remember it and still be so proficient at it. If it were me, I would've become a novice again a long time ago."

A glint flashed past Toby's eyes, but he did not reply, whether consciously or not. However, Sonia didn't sense anything wrong, and looked at the pumpkin in Toby's hand with bright eyes. She had turned the pumpkin into a mess earlier, and it barely looked like anything, much less an orchid. It was so ugly that she couldn't even bear to look at it directly. Now, however, after Toby gave it a makeover, it was already starting to look like an orchid at a glance.

She gasped, "You're amazing. So it really was salvageable. You're so amazing, Toby!"

Her praises made Toby overjoyed. His smile grew even wider, and his chin was lifted even higher than earlier. Clearly, he enjoyed her compliments, and he subconsciously became proud.

However, he still acted nonchalant on the surface and replied indifferently, "This is nothing."

Sonia wasn't aware that he was just being humble, and she felt unhappy at his nonchalant answer. She pursed her lips and said, "You call this nothing? To me, this is amazing. I can't believe that you were able to do this. You've never mentioned this to me before." She looked at him with admiring eyes.

Feeling a little embarrassed by her expression, he pursed his lips and coughed softly, pretending to be calm as he replied, "This is not something important, so I never told you in the past. As for now, I've already forgotten about it myself. If it weren't for you, I wouldn't have recalled my carving skills."

As he spoke, he lowered his eyes, covering the glint that flashed through his gaze.

However, Sonia didn't notice anything and said gleefully, "Does that mean that I helped you rediscover your skills?"

At the sight of her proud expression, Toby extended a hand and lightly scratched her nose. "That's right."

Sonia's smile became even brighter. "It seems that I have to look for more new things in the future. That way, I might discover even more of your talents."

Toby raised his eyebrows. He hadn't expected her to be so mind blown by his skills. However, she was right about one thing—he did have some skills that he hadn't told her about or shown her yet. After all, as a part of the Fuller Family, he was destined to become the heir from the moment he was born, and he naturally had a lot to learn. Although he was not skilled in all areas, he still knew a little about everything. In short, to this day, he was still unsure what skills he had.

"All right. I'll be looking forward to the day you rediscover all of the skills that I know," he said dotingly.

Sonia nodded heavily. "Okay. Just wait, I'll make sure of it."

"Yeah, I believe you." He nodded as well.

Then, Sonia let him do his thing and fell silent.

After Toby carved the pumpkin for a while, he saw how seriously she was watching him and pondered for a moment before he stopped his movements and asked, "Do you want to try it out?"

Sonia straightened her body in confusion. "Me? Try it out?" She pointed at her nose.

Toby nodded. "Yeah."

"No way. I can't do it." Sonia hurriedly shook her head while waving her hand, indicating that she wasn't able to do it.

Toby looked at her. "Why not?"

"You already saw how badly I did earlier, and I'm different from you. I'm a novice, and this is my first time trying this, while you have learned this since a long time ago. You've already fixed the pumpkin from what I've done to it. It would be a pity to ruin the orchid that you painstakingly restored again," Sonia spread out her hands and said.

Toby looked at her, then at the orchid in his hand, and finally chuckled. "It's okay. If it's ruined, then so be it. Either way, it's just the two of us, so you don't have to be scared of anyone laughing at you. Besides, with me here, I don't think it'll be ruined. Come here, I'll teach you."

He beckoned at her.

Sonia looked at the orchid in his hand, her thoughts still wavering. In fact, after seeing how easily he restored her hideous work, she had been curious and wanted to give it a try. However, she knew her level, so in order not to make a joke of herself, she held it in. But now that he brought it up himself, he stirred her urge again.

At the sight of her eager yet hesitant expression, Toby immediately stretched out his hand and grabbed her wrist to pull her over to his side. As Sonia was struggling to make a decision, she was caught off guard when he pulled her in front of him, and she let out a scream.

Toby placed his index finger on her lips. "Don't be scared. It's just me."

Sonia blinked before pulling his hand away from her lips, saying angrily, "I know it's you, but you scared me by suddenly pulling me over."

Toby smiled. "I'm sorry. I saw that you wanted to try, but you didn't dare to, so I just helped you make a decision. All right, come and try it out. Don't worry, I'm here, and I'll teach you. I won't let you ruin it."

As he spoke, he tugged her in front of him while he stood behind her, then stuffed the pumpkin and carving knife in her hands and held them from behind, slowly teaching her the carving steps.

With Toby guiding her step by step, though Sonia was cautious at the beginning, her movements became more natural at the end, and she ended up laughing happily. "Toby, do you see this? I know how to do it too. Even though you only taught me the simplest steps, I actually managed to learn them."

She looked at the man behind her, her face turning red from excitement.

Seeing that she was so ecstatic, Toby laughed along as well. "Not bad. You're smart."

"Of course." Sonia raised her chin triumphantly, then jabbed the man behind her with her elbow. "You can let go of me."

"What's wrong?" Toby asked, looking confused.

Sonia snorted. "Obviously it's because I already know how to do it, and I want to finish the rest on my own. I don't need you anymore, so you can let go of me now."

Toby fell silent as his lips twitched before he questioned, "Are you sure you don't need me to teach you the rest?"