

Chapter 414

Christina hadn't contacted Crystal for a while since she came back from Switzerland.

"How have you been lately?"

Christina spoke to her on WhatsApp, "Old Master Hopkins stayed outside for a week. I found that he seemed to have lost some weight, but he was still very tough."

Patrick had previously said that grandpa was afraid that she would be angry, but it turned out that's not the case at all. Old Master Hopkins had just come back for half the day and then began to fight for the babies with her.

Christina was a little excited at the thought of the twins, and she said in WhatsApp, "I find that the younger baby is one kilo heavier than the elder baby. Maybe this is because the younger one likes to cry a lot and drinks a lot of milk powder after that, so he grows fat more easily."

Crystal also smiled and asked her, "Christina, are you going to be a full-time mother at home in the future?"

Christina thought for a moment. Since she had decided to come back to the Hopkins family, her first job was to take care of the babies. Otherwise, what else would she have to do?

"I'm going out to find a job outside." Crystal told her without waiting for her to reply.

"Does Chandler agree? Aren't you going to stay at home and take care of the daily meals of the Stephenson family?"

"Chandler asked me to work out. He said that if I stay at home as a cook, I will lose my social connections. He also said that women nowadays have better have their own ability to survive. He said that there have been a lot of marriages where one side is poor and one side is rich, and women in this kind of marriage are easy to suffer losses."

Christina listened and came to a conclusion, "Crystal, you're right to get married to Chandler. He's quite good to you."

Crystal's voice was also filled with happiness, "Chandler also asked me to sign some donation agreements, saying that if something bad happens in the future, I will own that jewelry and shops. I don't agree to sign such things. I think he's thinking too much. How can we have so many troubles if we live peacefully?"

"Does Chandler often communicate with you?" Christina's tone became a little strange.

"It's such a long journey for a couple to complete in life. It's better for a couple to share and discuss things together."

Crystal had been living a very comfortable life recently. She was a happy little woman. She did not notice Christina's strange tone. She added sweetly, "Although I am not smart, I can also make suggestions about work and life. But most of the time, it is Chandler who lectures with his vicious tongue."

"Couples need to communicate with each other, right?" Christina asked seriously.

"Of course... Let's chat later. I am going to pick up Geoffrey from school."

After chatting with Crystal, Christina looked a little serious. She found a problem, that was, couples in other families would communicate with each other. But the icy man Patrick, her husband, was not willing to spend more time talking to her at all.

As usual, dinner time was 7 o'clock in the Hopkins family.

Members of the Hopkins family were all here. Old master Hopkins stayed outside for one week, saying that he went to visit his old friend. After he came back, he did not give his grandson a nice look. He looked grim. But it did not matter anyway, as grandpa had always been so serious with a grave face.

But Patrick soon noticed that tonight his wife didn't seem to be nice to him either.

Old Master Hopkins was old but shrewd. He suddenly noticed that Christina was in a bad mood tonight. He glanced at his unfilial grandson opposite him again. Old Master Hopkins immediately regained his appetite and ate an extra half bowl of rice.

"Why are you eating so little tonight?"

Patrick asked. After dinner, the busy man Patrick was originally going to the study to handle documents. Tonight, instead of getting up immediately, he asked the woman beside him, "What do you want to eat? Ask the kitchen to get it for you."

Christina said angrily, "No."

Patrick stared at her with a serious expression.

Old Master Hopkins immediately lost his temper, "She's full of anger. What else do you want her to eat?"

Christina was obviously angry. She pushed Patrick, "Aren't you going to the study to have a video conference with someone? Go on. Don't tell me who you're going to video with and what the project plan is. I'm not interested in it and I don't want to know."

Patrick frowned at Old Master Hopkins and Christina, "What...happened?"

"Grandpa, let's go to the living room to make tea."

"Okay."

Old Master Hopkins and Christina had a tacit understanding. They ignored Patrick and left.

Patrick went to the study with a sullen face. During the meeting, the regional president was unlucky enough to speak to Patrick when he was upset. As a result, Patrick criticized his proposal seriously.

At 12 o'clock at midnight, Patrick finished his urgent business in the study.

Before that, Nanny Faang had brought him a cup of ginseng soup. He then asked her to bring Christina some supper snacks. Nanny Faang then reported helplessly that Christina insisted that she would not be hungry and refused to eat.

Patrick frowned when he returned to the master bedroom, "What happened tonight?" He found out that Christina was still up so late.

"I just can't sleep, what's wrong?" She retorted in a stubborn tone.

Patrick suddenly quieted down and looked at her bright and beautiful face. When she was angry, she was still in high spirits. He really didn't understand how a woman thought of things, but he couldn't possibly be angry with her.

"Why didn't you eat tonight? Are you feeling unwell?" He softened his tone.

Christina sat cross-legged on the big bed, turned her face, and turned her back at him. She was unwilling to talk to him.

Originally Patrick was a little angry, But when he looked at her childish acts, his thin lips curled up and he smiled helplessly. He strode towards the bed, "Let's ask the servant to cook supper snacks. What do you want to eat?" He sat down beside the bed.

He was sitting right behind her. He was so close that Christina didn't dare to be so presumptuous. After all, this man was powerful and dominating. She hesitated and then answered, "I'm not hungry. Don't look for those cooks. They also need to rest."

"I'll cook."

Patrick put his hand around her waist and touched her flat abdomen. She obviously didn't have much food in her stomach. He then said with more confidence, "I'm cooking beef noodles. You have to finish it."

As he spoke, he did not hesitate at all and quickly went downstairs.

Christina was still bragging, "Who wants to eat..." But her stomach growled.

In the early morning, members of the Dickens family were still awake and someone happened to Christina.

"Auntie, why are you still up so late? What are you discussing?"

Betty sighed, "It's all your father's fault. He's always worried about you. He said he was worried about you in the future... He is afraid that you would meet those skillful mistresses and won't be able to deal with them or anything. The older Donald gets, the idler he becomes. He's always thinking nonsense. Tonight, he even asked me and your grandmother to have a meeting to discuss countermeasures..."

Since she was a child, Christina had heard a lot about those mistresses calculating and competing for assets in famous and powerful families. Especially those successful men in their middle ages, when they became more and

more arrogant.

"My father is getting more and more annoyed. Tell him to make peace with life as it is, and as his daughter, I am a black belt in karate..."

Her father yelled through the phone, "What's the use of this black belt? You don't usually think things carefully, and you do not know it when you are set up. If Patrick wants to set you up, you still won't realize it and will believe he is helping you."

"Donald, I'm talking to Christina on the phone. You old man, go away. You are too idle that you are worrying over nothing every day." Betty began to find the old man too annoying.

Betty snatched back her phone and asked gently, "Christina, are you going to bed? Is Patrick here? I want to talk to him..."

"Patrick is cooking supper snacks downstairs."

There was a long silence on the other end of the phone.

"Patrick cook supper snack for you?" Betty's tone was a little strange.

"My cooking skills suck, and I don't want to ask the cook at this late hour. Patrick used to learn from a professional chef. He can even steam, fry, stew, fry with oil..."

Christina said it very naturally. After thinking for a while, she did not forget to add, "I have tasted the fried soft-shelled crabs he cooked. He cooks very quickly. Maybe he just likes to cook."

The junior Mr. Hopkins was so good at cooking that no one would believe it if he said it out. Maybe it was his peculiar hobby.

There was silence again on the other end of the phone...

"Christina," Betty spoke in a serious tone this time.

"Hmm?"

"Christina, a rich family can draw more attention, and also attract more women easily. It's useless for us to worry you... In terms of husband and wife, if Patrick doesn't like to explain, then you shouldn't worry too much. You can take the initiative to trouble him and ask him to do something for you. Tell him directly what you want..."

"Also, women have to learn to act coquettishly from time to time." It was more difficult than landing on the moon to expect her niece to act coquettishly.

"What coquettish act? Why should my daughter act like a spoiled child to the man in the Hopkins family?" Donald was the first to object.

"Don't let yourself suffer in the Hopkins family anyway. You can claim back as much as you have given Patrick."

After the warm words of the Dickens family, Christina fell into deep thought.

Patrick brought up two bowls of beef noodles and asked her to eat at the small table, "You must finish it."

Patrick originally thought she was throwing a tantrum and refused to eat. He saw she was in a daze and did not know what was on her mind. She was also eating the noodles and beef and then finished the whole bowl.

Before she even said she wasn't hungry.

"Patrick, we just had enough to eat, so it's not suitable to go to bed right away." Christina suddenly approached him and her tone was a little sweet and sounded a little naughty, "How about I massage you?"

Patrick looked at the woman seriously. She changed so quickly that he was a little not used to it.

"I'm good at massage. I've learned it."

She pressed him into the chaise longue in the bedroom and massaged his shoulders and neck with proper force. Although it was not that comfortable, Patrick was content.

However, Patrick did not enjoy it for long. In just ten minutes, Miss Dickens stopped and sit in the chaise lounge. She then said to him seriously.

"Patrick, it's your turn to massage me now."

He was really surprised. Looking at her serious expression, he deliberately asked her in a long voice, "Do you want me to massage you?"

"Yes."

"The same ten minutes?"

"Yes."

The handsome Patrick seemed to be distracted and tempted by what she had said, and his voice became low and hoarse, "Christina, I will suffer some losses. How about I massage you for one night..."

"What?"

Stunned, Miss Dickens had not yet realized what was going on. She then was pulled to the big bed, her clothes were stripped off, and Patrick was on her...

The lights at the bedside were dim, the bedsheet was messy, she was entangled with him. When Patrick was in the mood, he even whispered in her ear, "Baby..."

Ah, who suffered losses?

Christina blushed while making love with him. She tried to push him away, but she couldn't have that strength. She hated it the most when people called her baby by her childhood name.

"You are my baby. No one else is allowed to call you like this..."

Chapter 415

At 1 a.m.

The phone in the pocket of his suit jacket on the hanger kept ringing. Christina usually didn't check her husband's phone, but it kept ringing, which was annoying.

"Patrick is cooking supper." She took the phone and said directly.

The person on the other end of the phone paused a second hearing her voice.

That was Charles. He laughed at her, "Christina, you've been asking Patrick to cook supper for you all day. What a sweet couple..."

"Charles, don't corrupt him because you are single. He has been very busy recently. Patrick will have a few meetings tomorrow. He doesn't have time to go out. That's it. Bye!"

Mrs. Dickens hung up the phone.

He didn't say anything. She was so protective of him.

Charles was very depressed. "If Patrick kept spoiling her like this, she will be king of the world one day."

Chandler sat next to him. They used to work hard during the day and drink at night to relax. But recently, Patrick had been staying at home.

"A married man does have a sense of belonging. Charles, hurry up and find someone to marry. Give birth to a few more children and serve the country."

Chandler teased him with a smile.

"You see, Patrick has been in a good mood recently. He has a lovely wife and a pair of cute twins. No matter how busy he is at work, he feels fulfilled..."

Charles took a sip of half a glass of brandy and complained, "Can Christina be called a lovely wife? I say she is trouble... Patrick Hopkins' life went too well, so god appointed Christina to abuse him."

In fact, everyone knew that Patrick cooked supper for Christina first, and then he could have her. Ha ha ha...

Charles was really depressed by thinking about it.

"Chandler, Patrick is obviously the coldest and unsentimental person. Normally, he should accept his elders' arrangement to marry a lady from a big family and respect her."

On the other way around, Patrick was so happy now, as if he had volunteered to serve her.

At first, Charles gloated, but after a long time, he realized that it was good to have a wife like Patrick does, and then he felt a little envious.

"How come can't a handsome, handsome, gentle, and considerate man like me find a wife? It's not reasonable, isn't it?"

"Don't you have enough girlfriends, Mr. Shepherd?"

"Those women are different. You don't want to marry them. They are only with me for money..."

When Chandler saw he was half drunk, he felt touched. He guessed that he was forced to marry by Mrs. Shepherd.

It's time to show his brotherhood. Chandler patted him on the shoulder. "Next week is Geoffrey's birthday. I'll ask Crystal to introduce you to a few girls..."

Every year, the Stephenson family spent a lot of effort to hold a birthday party for their precious grandson, and Patrick Hopkins was invited to be there with Christina.

The Stephenson family was a traditional scholarly family. Outside a simple courtyard, there were many colorful balloons. It was very festive to have a small party at home.

All the students in Geoffrey's class came, and the whole courtyard was filled with childish laughter.

Christina got out of the car and followed Patrick into the courtyard. She could not help but smile as she watched kids running around in the yard. They were all dressed as little princesses and princesses. They were very cute and lively.

Several people in teddy bear costumes were invited over to greet kids with soda and desserts. Everyone was very happy.

"Mrs. Hopkins."

Geoffrey, the birthday boy, was wearing a serious black suit and a red tie today. He looked especially energetic and handsome.

Once he saw Christina, he rushed over.

Christina handed him a large transformer toy. "Happy birthday."

Geoffrey hugged the gift with his little arms and smiled shyly.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson came over. They greeted Patrick, then looked at Christina and shook her hand. They smiled warmly.

"Geoffrey always talks about you. He worships you very much... Thank you so much for saving Geoffrey the last time in Switzerland

"You're welcome." Christina replied with a smile.

Outside the door, a bright voice came. "Geoffrey, your uncle is here. Come out and welcome me." It was Charles.

Everyone laughed. Chandler and Crystal walked in.

Charles was also very generous and brought over several birthday gifts. "This is from me, and this is from my mother, and this is from my father..." After saying that, he ruffled Geoffrey's handsome hair.

Everyone looked at his large and small gifts. Some kids looked at him with sparkling eyes. Charles had a trump card. He turned to sign the driver to carry a large bucket of chocolate candy and followed a group of kids to share.

"Charles prepares a bunch of gifts for kids in advance every year. He likes to send gifts like Santa Claus. Actually, he really was if he wore a red coat and some white beard."

Chandler smiled. "He bought the chocolate from a special candy factory in Germany..."

Christina went to join the fun and grabbed two pieces of chocolate. She put it in her mouth and it melted. As expected, it was expensively delicious.

She handed a piece to Patrick. Patrick didn't like candy very much. Seeing that she was so happy, he bit a small piece. It was very sweet.

Charles was busy handing out candies. Seeing this happy atmosphere, Crystle chuckled. "Look at him. It's like Master Shepherd is handing out wedding candies."

Chandler can't miss the chance to make fun of him. "He just wants to send the wedding candies. Spring is coming and he is in heat."

The group burst into laughter again.

Of the best friends, Charles had the best temper, and he liked children the most. Strictly speaking, the Shepherd family's upbringing was special.

The kids were playing in the yard, and Patrick and other adults went into the living room to drink tea.

Christina took the chance of Charles' absence and asked in a low voice, "Are Charles' parents very strict?"

Chandler answered indirectly, "Mrs. Shepherd is a very interesting person."

As she spoke, Charles hurried to Geoffrey and held the phone to his ear. It was Mrs. Shepherd who wanted to talk to Geoffrey. Geoffrey thanked her for the gift that she gave every year.

"Chippy, Geoffrey said he hasn't cut the birthday cake yet. I'm going to go over with your father now..."

Geoffrey handed the phone back to Charles. When Charles heard this, he immediately became vigilant.

"Mom, it's troublesome for you to come uninvited. You can't let so many people wait for you to cut the birthday cake."

Mrs. Shepherd thought about it and had no choice but to give up. "Forget it. I'll go next time."

"Are the Hopkins there? Remember to tell Patrick and his wife the twin babies are related to the Shepherd family. At least you need to be their godfather and ask Patrick and his wife to bring the twins to our house sometime."

Mrs. Shepherd was so excited that her voice came out of the phone.

Everyone looked at Charles curiously. Charles looked embarrassed and agreed, "I see."

The Shepherd family members were simple and clear. A grandfather, father, mother, eldest brother, second brother, third brother, and Charles were fourth.

The Shepherd family had always been dominated by males. Charles didn't even have an aunt.

Charles' mother did not believe it. She insisted to give birth to four kids. All of them were boys. She was so angry that she almost wanted to cut her youngest son into a daughter.

"Chip, I can only count on you now."

It could feel her resentment through the phone. "Your unfilial eldest brother is like a rock. He only knows to work and has business trips all day long. As for your second brother, he said that he might like men. And your third brother went to Egypt to dig an ancient tomb and said that he was not interested in women and would rather marry a mummy..."

"Chippy, you are as old as a bottle of wine. When are you going to marry..."

Charles was so angry that he didn't know what to say. Is there a mother who called her son a bottle of wine?

"Most of your friends have married and had children. If you don't marry this year, I won't be able to make it. The doctor said I might get depression..."

Charles sighed deeply. "Mom, it's Geoffrey's birthday today. Let's not talk about such a heavy topic first. I'll hang up."

"Charles, you are so close with your mommy." When Christina saw him hang up the phone, she immediately laughed at him. "Chippy, a bottle of wine, hahaha..." She laughed out loud.

Every family had its own difficulties.

Charles' nickname for "Chippy" was as cutesy as Christina's nickname for "Chrissi."

Charles was extremely embarrassed and glared at her with a sullen face.

He was the youngest one, so his mother always used to call him Chippy. Every time Charles heard this nickname, he got goosebumps. Unfortunately, his repeated protests were ineffective.

However, Charles had a good temper and soon he figured it out that fortunately, he was called Chippy instead of Dicky which most families would call their fourth kid.

Chandler could not help but laugh when he saw his friend's aggrieved look. "Charles has been beaten up by his mother since he was a child."

Christina held Patrick's hand and trembled with laughter.

Patrick also smiled.

Chapter 416

After Geoffrey's friends ate the birthday cake, they were sent home. In the evening, the Stephenson family invited Patrick and the others to a big hotel for dinner.

"I was going to cook it at home. Patrick didn't come to Geoffrey's birthday last year. Just now, my mom said that she was afraid that you wouldn't be used to the food."

They arrived at the hotel they had booked. Crystal and Christina went to the bathroom and had a chat.

After all, Geoffrey was a child. Patrick was cold and hated socializing. It was normal for him not to attend these small engagements especially. In contrast, Charles and the others were more approachable.

"Actually, people in Hopkins family are not as difficult to get along with as you think." Christina muttered.

Crystal smiled. "Compared to a high family like the Hopkins family, the Stephenson family will feel the pressure."

"Crystal, is there any pressure for you to marry into the Stephenson family?" Christina asked with concern.

"I think Chandler's parents are easy to get along with. How do they treat you? Do you have any problems with your mother-in-law?"

Christina thought of Patrick's mother. Although she had little contact with her and they didn't have a conflict for the time being. In fact, Christina and Judy didn't get along well. They would get the pleasantries when they met.

The relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law was always difficult to handle.

Crystal almost swore, "Chandler's parents are definitely the best and rarest in the world. They never make things difficult for me and always think of me, much better than my own mother. I like them very much."

After washing her hands, Christina took a tissue, wiped her wet hands, and turned around. Seeing her loyal look, she felt funny and patted her on the shoulder.

"I'm glad that you have a good life in the Stephenson family, don't hold back and tell me if you feel uncomfortable."

Crystal and Chandler got their marriage certificate quickly. Crystal's family was complicated, with the heartless mother and stepfather, and stepbrother. Christina was glad to see she marry a good man.

However, Crystal had used to enduring. Whatever happened, she had always wronged herself.

"Chandler is not bad and he is smart, but..."

Christina looked at her and said frankly, "I think Charles is better than Chandler. If you marry Charles, there's nothing to worry about."

Charles definitely loved his wife.

"It depends on fate. Mr. Shepherd has so many beautiful girlfriends. How dare I covet him? He is like a brother."

Crystal couldn't help but laugh when she thought of Charles being urged to marry by his mother.

Christina smiled. "That's true. Charles is a playboy who had so many girlfriends. He has done his own evil. He will definitely be despised by his wife."

"My mother-in-law just said that she hoped to find a nice girl for Charles, saying that he used to be playful. The men who like children and animals aren't bad-natured. If he got married, he would be a good husband."

As Christina and Crystal teased Mr. Shepherd, they walked out of the bathroom side by side to the private room.

Seen afar, the door of the private room was open, and the waiters were serving the dishes one by one.

In the corridor, Mrs. Stephenson, holding a bowl and spoon, chased after Geoffrey, who was running ahead. "Geoffrey, be good. Have another sip."

"No." Geoffrey complained that the medicine soup was bitter.

Seeing this, Crystal rushed over and stopped him.

Crystal said sternly, "Geoffrey, go back to your seat and drink the medicine soup on your own. Don't run around in public. Don't you know the rules?"

Geoffrey stopped, unwilling, and he resisted in a low voice, "I'm not sick. Why do you let me take the medicine? I won't drink it."

"There are a lot of students who are sick in the epidemic season. Drinking this can improve immunity. Otherwise, your grandparents will worry about you if you are sick."

Crystal looked like a serious parent. "Don't let your grandmother run after you, holding a bowl. You have grown up. Your classmates will laugh at you if they found this."

In the past, Crystal thought that Geoffrey was smart with some arrogance. She usually indulged him. But after she married Chandler, she felt that the Stephenson family had spoiled him so only she could teach him a lesson.

"Crystal, this medicine is bitter. It's difficult for the child to drink."

To avoid his grandson being wronged, Mrs. Stephenson quickly came over to smooth things over.

Crystal took the bowl of medicinal soup and handed it directly to Geoffrey. She ordered with a straight face, "Take it. Go back and sit down. Then finish it."

Geoffrey seemed to have been dealt with before. With head down, he had no choice but to run back to the private

room, holding the bowl.

Seeing that he was obedient, Crystal turned around. "Mom, Geoffrey is smart. He knows that drinking this is good for his health. He sees that you are soft-hearted and refuses to drink it."

Looking at the grandson's unhappy figure, Mrs. Stephenson sighed without saying anything.

Seeing this quietly, Christina felt strange.

The Stephenson family was a scholarly family and should know the etiquette, but Mrs. Stephenson was doting on her grandson. In contrast, Old Master Hopkins seemed to have dealt with Patrick back then. How could she be so indulgent?

The luxurious private room was about 100 square meters and spacious. As this hotel was under the Hopkins Group, so it was easy to have booked for a VIP room. There was a hanging crystal lamp at the entrance. The living room was on the left, with a fruit platter placed there. The beautiful waitress was making tea. Charles and the others were chatting and drinking tea.

The dining room was on the right. There were 38 various dishes placed on the table. The six waiters pulled out their chairs, waiting for the guests to sit on.

"Stop running around. Come in for dinner."

Chandler called out to his son. Although his expression was a little serious, his tone was gentle.

Mr. Stephenson, who was in the living room, stood up and walked towards Geoffrey. He took the bowl from his little hand and looked at his grandson's unhappy face. He smiled kindly, coaxing and educating at the same time.

"Does this black medicine soup taste bitter?"

"Yes."

Geoffrey was close to his grandfather, so his tone sounded aggrieved.

Mr. Stephenson carried Geoffrey and put him in the child's chair. "Grandpa will drink it with you, sharing the bitterness."

Geoffrey saw his grandfather take an empty bowl and pour half of it. He felt awkward and had to drink following the rule.

The others took their seats one after another. Christina was surprised to see how Mr. Stephenson taught his grandson.

She muttered to herself, "Fortunately, Geoffrey is not spoiled by his family."

Charles, sitting on her left, heard her words and complained. "I heard that Miss Dickens was even worse when she

was a child. She fought with her classmates whenever they didn't agree with her."

Christina had a glorious childhood when she was doted on by her grandfather. So she was stubborn and willful and picky about food. Most importantly, she liked to fight. The parents of the kindergarten students were afraid of her.

Christina knew that she was not a good child when she was young, so she decided to shut up and eat.

Patrick, who was sitting on the right, picked up a piece of fish for her and glanced at Charles.

Patrick said coldly, "She fought because those people deserved a beating."

When Charles heard this, his expression was complicated.

Hearing what Patrick said, Christina immediately became confident and snorted at Charles.

"On the first day of kindergarten, those people pulled my braid. My grandfather taught me not to cry when you were bullied, you should fight back. Besides, they often bullied Derek. They deserved to be beaten up." When she was a child, she mostly fought for Derek.

Patrick was a little taken aback when he heard her suddenly mention the name "Derek".

Charles realized that Christina's grandfather used to be protective of her, and the scariest thing was that her husband, Patrick, was so.

In short, it always was others's fault. His wife was absolutely right.

Alas, he shouldn't have offended Christina.

Charles was complaining in his heart while eating.

At the table, the Stephensons first asked Geoffrey what he liked and coaxed him to eat more green peppers and carrots.

"It's my birthday. I don't want to eat these." Geoffrey was trying to decline.

Crystal was direct. She put a spoonful of stir-fried carrots and kidney beans with lilies in his bowl and said, "Eat."

Geoffrey became unhappy. He glanced at Crystal's serious expression and stared at a large bowl of carrots with a sullen expression. "I don't want..."

"Geoffrey, you always don't eat carrots and green peppers..."

Just as Crystal was about to speak, Chandler took his son's small bowl and ate it for himself. "It's okay if he doesn't like it. Anyway, it doesn't affect his health if he doesn't eat it."

Crystal looked a little angry. Even Chandler doted on the child like this. Then she heard Chandler say, "Look,

Christina is pickier about food. She's good."

Crystal looked up, speechless.

Christina was trying to take out all the red dates in the soup. She didn't like the red dates that had been cooked.

"What?"

Christina felt that everyone was looking at her and she even asked without feeling ashamed.

Everyone smiled.

Christina took a big lobster for Geoffrey and smiled. "Try it. It tastes good."

Geoffrey had a bright smile. "Thank you." He liked seafood.

"Christina, you'd better not raise your twins on your own, or what will they become when they grow up."

"What do you mean?"

Charles picked her up. "You have to know yourself. Don't set a bad example for your sons."

He stopped in mid-sentence.

Patrick suddenly took away a special stewed abalone dish in front of Charles.

It was the most famous in this hotel and it was Charles's favorite. Mr. Shepherd was never picky about food, but he had his favorite.

But now, Charles watched as Patrick took it away. Patrick said firmly in a low voice, "Charles doesn't like this. Help him." He forked the abalone and put it on Christina's plate.

Christina was happy and ate with relish.

Charles's face darkened.

As expected, Patrick defended Christina.

"Patrick, don't you think it sounds a bit strange?"

Christina leaned in to ask him in a low voice. After they had finished the main meal, the waiter removed the plates from the table and served the desserts.

Patrick didn't reply and moved the mango pudding to her front, then he gave her a tender look as a hint that she could continue talking to him after finishing the pudding.

Mango pudding was Christina's favorite, so she began to enjoy it using a spoon although she was very full now.

"Well, frankly speaking, I feel that people from the Stephenson family were a little bit strange." She mumbled while eating.

At that time, Charles sat beside them and kept silent.

According to his observation, Patrick intentionally tempted Christina to eat more to make her gain weight. Charles guessed that maybe Patrick thought that Christina was too skinny and wanted her to be stronger.

Christina leaned over again and whispered to Patrick, "It seems that Chandler is too protective of Geoffrey. From my point of view, Chandler does not like Geoffrey's father."

Normally, Christina would be told to mind the table manner, but she was filled with excitement and joy recently that she totally forgot that she shouldn't talk while eating. Anyway, Patrick didn't mind.

The only thing that Patrick noticed was that Christina would get close to him and whisper to him now. Hearing her words, he smelled the fragrance of mango. Although Patrick was allergic to mangoes, he wasn't so disgusted at them now. He would kiss Christina if they were not having a meal with the Stephenson family at this point.

"Be cautious, or you will choke."

Patrick was not interested in the things about the Stephenson family. He was worried that Christina would choke.

Christina got used to the way in which Patrick talked to her, so she continued to speak in a low voice.

"For example, sometimes you play a trick on our son at home. However, Chandler is too kind to Geoffrey, he is close to Geoffrey but their relationship doesn't look like the relationship between you and our son. It's weird. Don't you think so?"

"What? Did you just say that I am bullying our son all the time?" Obviously, Patrick missed the point that Christina stressed.

Christina glanced at him. "You hid the baby's bottle of our little son yesterday and left him crying for such a long time. He refused to go to sleep without his bottle, and our elder son began to cry upon hearing his brother's crying. Do you want to deny it?"

Their sons had been crying for quite a while in the nursery of the Hopkins family yesterday. It was such a mess that the nurse and the maid had to spend a long time getting the twins to sleep.

Patrick remained calm and retorted, "I don't want our son to carry a baby's bottle all the time."

"Your son is only half a year old!"

Christina got angry with Patrick and she thought that he didn't shoulder his responsibility as a father.

During the meal, Chandler received a phone call and he said that he would go downstairs to pick up a friend. Senior Mr. Stephenson asked Patrick to leave with him to discuss some issues, so they began to rise from the chairs. Patrick brought a glass of kiwi juice to Christina before he left, "Drink it." He said to Christina.

Christina looked at Patrick's tall figure. Although she was annoyed and full of complaints, she chose to keep her mouth shut and drink the juice as he required.

As soon as Patrick left, Charles didn't remain silent anymore and then he edged closer to Christina.

Charles joked at her, "Christina, what were you talking about just now? Did you flirt with him or discuss what to eat for dinner?"

What he said was quite offensive and rude.

Christina knew that Charles and his friends had been making fun of her because she and Patrick once made a fool of themselves at dinner. Christina thought that Charles was annoying, "He should spend more time on his work." Christina thought angrily.

Charles sighed when he noticed that Christina didn't want to respond to him, "Christina, why can you marry such an excellent man? You are a lucky dog, aren't you? You are so lazy and stupid. It's totally unbelievable."

"You have so many girlfriends. Just take one home, ok? Stop nagging."

Christina was not polite to him at all.

Charles shot her an angry glance. However, he immediately behaved himself when he noticed that Patrick was glaring at him and observing them from the balcony.

Charles signed mysteriously, "Christina, I have my own difficulties."

He knew that it was not a good way to take a tough stance with Christina, and he'd better show his weakness to her for sympathy.

As he expected, Christina asked him in a gentle voice upon seeing his embarrassment, "What's the problem?"

"I have a chameleon at home."

Charles somehow mentioned his pet.

Christina stared at him in confusion. Charles sighed and then continued, "My mother warned that she would put the chameleon on my head if I take my girlfriend home."

"What? Why?" Christina was surprised.

Charles replied with self-deprecating humor, "My family firmly believes that the chameleon will definitely change color on my head if I bring my girlfriend home, which means that she has an affair with another man."

Christina burst into laughter.

"Why are you laughing out loud? Isn't it a sad story? Jesus."

Charles was very upset because he indeed regarded her as his close friend.

"I'm so sorry, Charles, forgive me. It's hilarious and I couldn't control myself." Christina was still laughing.

Christina doubled up with laughter when she realized that Charles was trying to hold back his anger and he didn't dare to fight back. She couldn't figure out why a cold and distant man like Patrick would make friends with such a fool like Charles.

"What are you talking about?" Crystal saw her laughing so happily and then asked curiously.

"Charles told me that he had a chameleon as his pet in his house."

Crystal couldn't understand what Christina said and then turned around to look at Charles, who was in a bad mood now.

Charles snorted angrily and he knew that Christina was laughing at him. However, he was very happy today, so he didn't want to take it seriously.

"I mean, I'm afraid that my wife will betray me and sleep with another man after our marriage."

Suddenly, an idea popped up in Christina's mind. She grabbed Charles's arm and asked him seriously, "You have been dating so many girlfriends for many years. It turns out that you are actually the one who has been picking up by those women. Poor Charles."

"Charles, you are afraid of getting married. You are such a coward. You're really killing me." Christina almost laughed her head off.

People sitting around the table heard their conversation, and even Senior Mrs. Stephenson couldn't resist laughing.

Charles was speechless and he was in despair now.

He roared, "Damn it, I'm worried that my wife will cheat on me. What's wrong with you? Women are realistic and there is nothing they can't do for their interests. Jesus."

As they were laughing, the door opened and a sexy woman with smokey-eye makeup came in.

Christina and Charles stopped making fun of each other and they were surprised by the sudden arrival of Erica.

Everyone felt a bit awkward at this point.

In fact, Chandler was forced to divorce Erica because she slept with other guys. Erica was the kind of woman that Charles talked about, and she showed up while they were talking about such a topic. It was an extremely embarrassing moment.

Then, Chandler followed her and came in. Apparently, it was Chandler that took Erica here.

After all, Erica was Geoffrey's biological mother, and she had the right to come here to celebrate Geoffrey's birthday. So the Stephenson family was not strongly against Erica's arrival. In the past, Erica would celebrate Geoffrey's birthday even if she was reluctant to meet with the Stephenson family.

"Happy birthday! Geoffrey."

Erica smiled and took out a small gift from her white LV bag and gave it to Geoffrey.

Geoffrey sat beside Crystal. He looked up at his mother, hesitated for a while, and then said in a low voice, "Thank you." He was a little bit nervous.

Then, Geoffrey lowered his head. It seemed that he didn't dare to have eye contact with his mother. However, he held the gift tightly in his hand and never let it go.

Everyone in the Stephenson family knew that Geoffrey wanted to be on intimate terms with Erica, but he was disdained by his mother for so many years. The Stephenson family felt pity for what Geoffrey had been through these years, but there was nothing they could do to help.

The waiter immediately came over and then added a seat to this table when he saw that a woman came in.

"Crystal, could you change your seat and let Erica sit beside Geoffrey?" Senior Mrs. Stephenson spoke out in a low voice.

Christina and the other guests heard what Senior Mrs. Stephenson said although her voice was quite low, then they all looked at Crystal. Erica, who was standing in front of them, also stared at Crystal. At that time, everyone was waiting for Crystal's reaction.

Crystal was not used to being looked at by so many people. She knew that Geoffrey was longing for Erica's love. When she heard her mother-in-law's words, she was a little embarrassed.

"Sure." Crystal managed to force a smile and then rose from the chair.

The waiter added a new chair to the table and then Erica sat down. She was sitting beside Geoffrey and Chandler. The whole family gathered together now. Crystal tried not to look at them.

Christina looked at Erica angrily. She thought that Erica was not supposed to come. She could not hold back her anger anymore and was about to smack her hand down onto the table when she was stopped by Charles. He warned her not to be impulsive and make trouble, then he dragged Christina out of the room.

"What the hell are you doing? Why did you take me out?"

Christina was dragged out of the room and she still glared at Erica.

"Erica is such a shameless bitch! She had an affair and didn't take care of her son. How could she come to Geoffrey's birthday party when Crystal is present? Just because she is Geoffrey's biological mother? Ridiculous! I have never seen such a hateful woman before. Did she want to humiliate Crystal using this dirty trick? Why did Senior Mrs. Stephenson ask Crystal to offer her seat to Erica? That is completely ridiculous!"

Christina could scarcely keep in her indignation and cursed loudly.

Christina wanted to question Chandler why he let Erica come in and whether he didn't care about Crystal's feelings at all. She would rush in and bark questions at Chandler immediately if Charles didn't grip her as tightly as he could.

"Calm down, please. Christina." Charles tried to persuade her not to act on impulse.

Christina was outraged at the way Crystal had been treated. She shouted at Charles, "Do you think that Crystal should make room for Erica as well? What the hell? Crystal is Chandler's wife now. Why is Erica invited to attend Geoffrey's birthday party? It is absolutely a humiliation to Crystal. The Stephenson family goes too far!"

Christina got furious now, "I will ask the waiter to remove the chair. If Erica refuses to leave, I will ask Patrick to stand, then let's see how the Stephenson family deals with it."

"Listen, Christina. Don't be impulsive."

Charles got anxious. He thought that Christina would screw it up.

"It is quite clear to me that they are bullying Crystal now. I must argue with them. Let me go!"

Christina wouldn't allow her friend to suffer shame. Her feelings were at a high pitch of indignation.

"If you make a big fuss about this, it will be difficult for Crystal to get on with the Stephenson family in the future. Whenever you feel like criticizing any person, you should remember that most people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had. Crystal has to sacrifice part of her interests for the peace and harmony of the Stephenson family. You can do whatever you want because you are lucky, but you need to put yourself in others' shoes. Do you understand?"

Charles stopped her gravely.

"When a woman gets married, she and her husband will form a new family, and she may not be under the protection of her parents as before. Also, she is regarded as an outsider to his husband's family. Although Crystal may feel deeply wronged today, the Stephenson family will compensate for her tolerance. Most women have been through a similar process. You were also a little bit gauche when you just married into the Hopkins family."

Christina gradually calmed down when she heard what Charles said. However, she was still discontented with the measure that the Stephenson family took, so she retorted stubbornly.

"Although I was pretty cautious when I just married Patrick, he didn't embarrass me in this way. The Stephenson family was too tolerant of Erica."

"Although the Stephenson family is more prestigious than Crystal's family, she never coveted anything. She didn't even tell her mother about her lightning marriage because she was afraid that her stepfather and stepbrother would blackmail the Stephenson family. She became a stepmother at such a young age and tried her best to take care of the whole Stephenson family. The Stephenson family was of great importance to Crystal. I couldn't understand why the Stephenson family invited Erica to come here to make Crystal feel embarrassed."

Noticing that Christina was so indignant, Charles sighed with sarcasm, "You don't pay much attention to your own business. I couldn't sort out why you are getting mad with things related to Crystal when she herself didn't think it is a big deal."

"Although the attitude of the Stephenson family was kind of inappropriate just now, I know that Chandler cares about Crystal and would shoulder his responsibility. Your friend is fine and you don't need to be worried about her."

Finally, Christina agreed to what Charles said and calmed down.

She made her displeasure obvious when she returned to the table.

Patrick and Senior Mr. Stephenson also returned to the table. Patrick glanced at Erica, who came here unexpectedly. Then, Erica smiled and greeted him. Patrick remained expressionless as usual. However, he found out that Christina was obviously in a bad mood after he returned to his seat.

"What's happening?" Patrick asked.

Christina was reluctant to respond to her husband. The people of the Stephenson family felt uneasy upon hearing the question asked by Patrick.

Chapter 418

Although the party ended smoothly, the participants felt it was strange.

Because of Erica, the uninvited guest, Christina looked unhappy all the time. Charles tried to cheer people up, while Crystal tried to look well, but everyone had mixed feelings. After dinner, they left after drinking some tea.

Chandler's parents realized that although Chandler and Patrick had a good relationship, they both would be affected by their wife's words, especially Patrick who would always listen to Christina...

Being left behind, Mrs. Stephenson reminded Crystal of something important in a low voice.

"Crystal, we are not so close to the Hopkins family like the Shepherd family. Chandler and Patrick have been friends since they were young so that he could get close to Patrick. You should be more careful when speaking with Christina from now on..."

Crystal had been thinking about Erica today. Now, hearing Mrs. Stephenson's order, she looked up uneasily. "Mom, actually, Christina..."

Crystal guessed that Mrs. Stephenson disliked Christina's unwillingness and indifference.

"I know you are good friends, but now that you are married. Besides, since we have different standpoints, we need to think from different perspectives."

Mrs. Stephenson gently instructed Crystal, "I know Christina is kind. She saved Geoffrey before and I am grateful to her, knowing that she treats us well."

"But she's now the granddaughter-in-law of the Hopkins family. Sometimes it's inevitable for us to have a conflict. If she says something on impulse, it will have a great impact."

Mrs. Stephenson said it implicitly.

Just now, Mrs. Stephenson found that Patrick denied Christina nothing, letting her lose her temper at will.

The Hopkins family did not need to please others, while others were careful when dealing with the Hopkins family. Plus, the Hopkins family was always united while Christina was direct. Therefore, people would get in trouble if they say something wrong to offend Christina.

Looking at Mrs. Stephenson, Crystal nodded after a while. "I see."

Mrs. Stephenson had had two sons, but since the death of her eldest son, Chandler became the real support of the Stephenson family. Although it was not good to let Crystal alienate Christina, it was also for their stable life.

"We don't have as many rules as the Hopkins family and the Shepherd family. Our relatives and ancestors didn't make many achievements, but we have been wealthier than average people. Your father and I have been teaching and doing research at college for most of our lives. As Chandler's wife, you don't have to be stressful. We just need

to try our best to support him."

Crystal was relieved to hear Mrs. Stephenson admit that she was Chandler's wife.

Although Crystal had got a marriage certificate with Chandler, she was always uneasy. The lightning marriage made it like a dream. Every time Crystal met Chandler's ex-wife, she wasn't confident enough.

It seemed that the Stephenson family was finally satisfied with Crystal, so she was a little relieved.

Mrs. Stephenson patted Crystal on the shoulder. "Get downstairs to say goodbye to Christina and Charles." After all, the dinner tonight was to celebrate Geoffrey's birthday, and they had to act decently.

When Crystal trotted there, she saw Chandler on the stairs behind the elevator.

"Here's a check for five million. Take it first. If it's not enough..." Chandler handed the check over.

"It's enough."

In fact, Crystal didn't mean to eavesdrop. It sounded that Chandler was talking to Erica. Hearing it, Crystal unconsciously stood still, wondering what they were talking about.

Chandler and Erica have known each other and married for so many years, and she had given birth to a son for him. They indeed were intimate.

Then, Crystal witnessed on the spot that Chandler gave Erica the check with no hesitation, which was not a small amount for the Stephenson family.

Thinking of Chandler who always stayed up late at work and had a stomachache, Crystal felt that Erica was too greedy, even asking her ex-husband for money after getting divorced.

"I'll pay you back." To Crystal's surprise, Erica suddenly said.

Not only Crystal but also Chandler looked a little surprised.

Previously, Erica had been stubborn and arrogant. After the divorce, she was only to be gentler.

"You don't have to do so." Chandler was generous to his ex-wife.

Then, the man turned around and was about to leave.

However, staring at his back and watching him walking away, Erica seemed to be emotional, with her right hand clutching the check.

The next second, she called him.

Hearing Erica's eager voice, Chandler turned around calmly, eyeing her. "What's the matter?"

Gazing at the man, Erica asked hysterically, "Chandler, tell me, are you happy now?"

Sobbing, the woman uncontrollably raised her voice. "You're finally divorced from me. Are you happy that you don't have to be responsible for me anymore..."

"It was you who asked for a divorce."

Expressionless, Chandler replied and left.

Erica stood there alone, leaning against the wall, and burst into tears regardless of the image.

Hiding in a corner, Crystal was shocked when looking at Erica who was crying sadly. She had always thought that Erica was so arrogant and domineering that she would never cry so miserably.

Seeing it, Crystal had mixed emotions. It seemed that Erica was not a bad woman. Their strange conversation just now seemed to show that Erica didn't want to leave Chandler at all.

When Crystal took the elevator down to the lobby, Christina and the others had already taken the car home.

Crystal had no choice but to make a phone call as a courtesy and tell a lie as an excuse.

"Today is Geoffrey's birthday party and Chandler told me yesterday that Erica would come over. After all, Erica is Geoffrey's biological mother. Chandler asked me for my opinion, and I agreed, but I forgot to tell you."

Crystal knew Christina was a loyal friend, and she had always been at odds with Erica. Just now, she had resisted her anger for not troubling the Stephenson family. As a result, Crystal decided to lie to her.

As expected, after hearing it, Christina seemed to be happier.

"You knew Erica would come? Why are you so generous? We were enjoying ourselves just now and it was obvious that she wanted to offend you."

Charles who was with her couldn't help saying acidly. "I've said that you are too nosy and worried."

"Who is too nosy? You?"

"Gentlemen negotiate instead of having a fight. Damn, Patrick, teach your wife to be polite..."

Listening to what had happened at the other end of the phone, Crystal couldn't help laughing. Outsiders said that the Hopkins family and the Shepherd family had many rules, but actually, they cared less about rules.

"Christina, let me tell you someone else's bad luck to cheer you up. The white LV handbag that Erica took was produced last year, and although she wore heavy makeup today, the corners of her eyes exposed her haggardness. It seems that her life is tough recently..." Charles said.

"How did you know it was last year's LV handbag?"

"I bought a set of four colors for my girlfriend last year..."

"It turns out that you, Mr. Shepherd, don't forget to serve your country and stimulate the economy after having a girlfriend."

"Don't blame me for that. I've been single for half a year!"

Crystal decided to hang up.

It seemed that Christina and Charles would have a long quarrel. The elders wanted a dignified and modest daughter-in-law, but Patrick never asked Christina to change hers, which made her remain forthright.

After going back home in the evening, Crystal took care of Geoffrey as usual. She helped the little boy brush his teeth, wash his face until the little boy fell asleep in his small room. The elders had already rested after the busy work.

Turning off the lights in the living room, Crystal returned to her bedroom.

Chandler was writing a new project plan in the study and Crystal made a cup of hot tea before putting it on Chandler's desk. They were used to it. Crystal entered the study, put down the cup of tea quietly, and left without bothering him.

After a hot bath, Crystal lay on the bed, thinking about something. At the beginning, Crystal had worked as a nanny in the Stephenson family. After being Chandler's wife, it seemed that she was still a nanny rather than a wife.

Therefore, Crystal was concerned, feeling that she and Chandler lacked the deep emotional foundation without dating before.

Oh, why would she marry Chandler for no reason?

"Not asleep yet?"

The door was opened and Chandler took off his coat as he entered.

The Spring Festival had just passed, and the night in early spring was still a little cold, making it easy for someone to catch a cold.

Crystal rolled over on the bed and said, "You'd better take off your coat after entering the bathroom. It took you a week to recover from a cold and fever last time..."

With the coat on his arm, Chandler walked to the bed and looked at her with a faint smile. "Your husband is fit enough. I had antibodies after the cold last time. At worst, you can serve me for another week to take Chinese medicine."

If she had heard Chandler say "Husband and wife" before, Crystal would have blushed shyly. Now, she was used to the man's occasional teasing.

She also learned to refute. "You and Geoffrey secretly poured out the medicine that I had cooked for a long time. If you get sick again, I won't take care of you."

Crystal's voice was soft, making her refutation powerless.

Chandler sat by the bed with a wider smile on his handsome face. "If you really don't take care of us, Geoffrey will come and ask you tomorrow that if you are going to abandon us."

Geoffrey really had asked the same question innocently, "Do you abandon me and my dad?"

Thinking of it, Crystal wanted to laugh. Looking at Chandler who seemed to be a big child, Crystal scolded him coquettishly. "You've been teaching Geoffrey bad lessons all day. He looks like an adult now."

"Erica was cheated of five million dollars for investing online."

To Crystal's surprise, Chandler initiatively told her what had happened to Erica in a cold voice, "She's Geoffrey's mother and I have to help her. Plus, She suddenly called me before coming over."

Crystal looked a little surprised and gazed at Chandler silently. In fact, she didn't expect him to explain to her so much.

Chandler patted her on the head and asked, "Are you angry with Erica's appearance?"

Crystal just shook her head.

Chandler seemed a little disappointed and sighed deliberately. "How generous you are."

In fact, Crystal was sad and she was not generous either. She just understood that someone needed to give in to maintain the marriage. If Erica didn't trouble her, Crystal would try to get along with her peacefully.

"No wonder Charles said you were a good wife. I don't have to worry about the home affair anymore."

After the praise, Chandler stood up and went to the bathroom to take a shower.

After he came out, Crystal quickly got out of bed to get a hairdryer after seeing his wet hair.

"I've told you before. Don't keep your hair wet, or you'll get Toufeng syndrome one day." Crystal mumbled as she helped Chandler blow his hair.

"OK," Chandler sat upright and enjoyed the service.

The couple was chatting when Chandler suddenly asked Crystal, "Have you found a job?"

Crystal paused for a moment with the hairdryer in her hand and looked hesitant. After a while, she said, "Not yet."

"You don't have to worry about the housework. We'll just hire a nanny. Don't stay at home all day. Go out and meet more friends. Find a job that's not tiring and learn more, so that you won't be so bored." Chandler said softly.

In fact, Crystal was worried.

She retorted slowly, "Actually, I used to work outside, but I think a lot of my so-called colleagues aren't sincere at all, and I cannot make true friends. So I'd better stay at home..."

"You are still so young but sit around at home. Aren't you afraid that if you can't keep up with the times, I will despise you?"

Chandler was joking with her, but Crystal was more worried after hearing his words.

After Crystal turned off the hairdryer, they lay on the big bed.

Chandler quickly hugged Crystal in his arms, about to do something romantic.

As an introverted girl, she usually blushed and wouldn't cooperate unless the lights were off.

But tonight, she proposed, "Could you not use the condom?"

Chandler was surprised and stopped moving his hand to turn off the light and gazed at Crystal's blushing face through the dim yellow light. It seemed that Crystal had mustered up enough courage before saying so.

He leaned closer to her ear and whispered, "We've agreed before that we won't have a child until Geoffrey grows up. If you're pregnant now, I'm afraid he will hate us."

Crystal agreed.

In fact, she wanted to say that she didn't want to go to work because she wanted to have her own baby. But she was satisfied now. The Stephenson family treated her well, making her willing to give in.