

The next day, Christina flew back to A City after she had lunch with the Dickens family.

Betty packed many things in Christina's bag as usual.

"Here are some tea biscuits for Old Master Hopkins and this little bag contains pictures and videos of you in your childhood..."

"I don't need these pictures and videos. Just put them back in my room. Plus, there's nothing useful in them."

Pictures in the two big albums recorded some memorable moments in Christina's childhood, such as her first birthday party, her first day in kindergarten and at school, the first time she won a prize, and so on. The videos recorded those talent competitions she participated in at school, which reminded her of the pain when she was forced to learn piano.

Betty chuckled and stuffed the bag into her hand. "Take it. Patrick asked me to make sure that you took them back home. He probably wanted to see the embarrassing moments you had in your childhood."

Christina looked up, sighing.

"Live a happy life with Patrick and don't lose your temper at him. I know you must be tired of handling all the relatives of the Hopkins family. Living with such a big family can never be easy, but as long as you and Patrick trust and respect each other, nothing will stand in your way."

Christina got into the taxi and waved her hand, comforting Betty, "I'm a mother now. I know what I should do. Don't worry."

Betty stood still, sighing at the car that was driving away.

Donald walked out slowly with a walking stick, who stared at the car and snorted, "Finally she is aware that she is a mother."

Betty looked back at him and complained, "I'm tired of nagging and reminding her of all kinds of things every time she comes back. You know her personality. How is she supposed to handle the Hopkins family... Your daughter is too unreliable."

"Betty, you're the one who raised her up and educated her personally. Take the credit." Donald had been more humorous recently.

Then the two of them looked at each other with a smile. It was natural for parents to worry about their daughter.

When Christina arrived at the house of the Hopkins family, the living room was crowded. Old Master Hopkins, Judy, and Brianna were all sitting there. Patrick was also back from work.

"Grandpa, these are the tea biscuits from my auntie..." Christina walked over with her package as usual.

After a glance at her, Old Master Hopkins took over the present and then sniffed it carefully. "Smells good. Tell me your aunt I like it. Thanks a lot."

The old man seemed to have forgotten that Christina had run away to her home in A City yesterday.

He looked up and said to the butler, "We'll eat earlier today. Serve some soup first."

"I'll let the servants know." The butler nodded.

Judy suddenly spoke to them in anger, "Dad, she lied first. She asked for sick leave from the company and went to A City without telling anyone. Patrick was so worried that he rushed back from abroad..."

Judy had expected to see Christina being scolded. To her surprise, everyone seemed to have forgotten about what Christina had done. As for Christina herself, she fawned on Old Master Hopkins with that cheap tea and then acted as nothing had happened. Why would she think the Hopkins family could be bought off by those stupid things?

Old Master Hopkins was too biased. Judy had never been treated so well as the daughter-in-law.

Instead of scolding or punishing Christina, he told the servants to prepare for dinner now and serve the soup first. Did he think Christina was too tired after the flight and needed some water first?

Judy couldn't wait any longer, so she put on an air and scolded her. "Kneel at the ancestral hall for a day if you dared to do this again!"

The ancestral hall of the Hopkins family was located in Western Garden. Christina was afraid of ghosts, so she never got close to Western Garden by herself. She would rather let someone beat her up than kneel down in the ancestral hall for a day.

Old Master Hopkins said, "Your son is here. It's up to him how to deal with Christina this time. Mind your own business."

Judy was not reconciled. "But, dad, it was her fault this time. Why can't I..."

"Are you really going to make a fuss?"

Seeing that Judy was stubborn, Old Master Hopkins shouted with a stern face, "It's common that young people make mistakes. She will learn her lessons. What are you going to do? Punishing her? Have you ever considered her as our family?"

The whole living room was in silence. Judy, who was still unreconciled, didn't dare to talk back at Old Master Hopkins.

Judy had always been careful about what to say and do before the elders and only lost her composure today because Christina had really irritated her. She couldn't wait any longer to teach Christina a lesson in front of Old Master Hopkins and Patrick.

"I will let you know if I leave C City again in the future," Christina promised Old Master Hopkins, trying to make the situation less awkward.

The old man snorted, "Again? You're already planning to leave again, huh?"

Scared by his words, Christina sat up straight.

The old man glanced at her angrily and then walked towards the kitchen with a cane. Patrick, who had been silent for a long time, followed him up immediately. The rest of the crowd also followed them, not daring to make any sound.

As usual, chatting while eating was considered rude at the dinner of the Hopkins family, especially nonsense.

Christina couldn't help but remember how relaxed she had been when she was eating with the Dickens family yesterday. Then she took a glance at Brianna expressionlessly.

She didn't want to provoke these relatives in the Hopkins family. After all, Brianna was Patrick's sister, who was also doted on by Old Master Hopkins.

Therefore, she couldn't accuse her of anything without solid evidence.

Christina couldn't help but feel antipathy against Brianna every time she thought of how Brianna had informed the Hopkins family of the sick leave Christina had yesterday.

"Christina, it's not like that."

Christina called Crystal back when she returned to her bedroom. When Christina mentioned how the Hopkins family had discovered about her trip to C City, Crystal said guiltily, "It was me. I called the Hopkins family for you. Nanny Faang noticed that you weren't at the company, so she reported it to Patrick..."

"Brianna has nothing to do with it. She's so introverted. How could you suspect her?"

Crystal's words reminded Christina of the innocent appearance of Brianna. Maybe she shouldn't have imagined her so bad.

"Well, it's true that she doesn't look like those who will plot against me so viciously..." Christina muttered to herself on the bed.

"It is her that has plotted against you!"

A soft and low voice came from nowhere, "It is Brianna!"

Christina was the only one in this spacious bedroom...

She tensed up and then lowered her head slowly. The voice was from her pocket...

"Ahhhhh!"

She screamed in fear. Hearing her shouts, Patrick rushed in immediately. Christina jumped into his arms with a pale face and then wrapped her arms around his neck tightly. The ancient coin in her right hand had been thrown far away.

Startled, Christina pointed at the coin with trembling fingers. "Patrick, it, it can talk!"



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An illusory and ethereal man's voice echoed in the room...

It was cold and gloomy, lingering on her ears.

Christina was so frightened that she grabbed Patrick tightly. She stared at the Ancient Coin on the floor with a pale look and shouted hurriedly, "It, it's talking..."

Patrick just frowned without feeling anything strange.

And the cold and hollow voice came again, "If you dare to throw me into that dirty pool again, I will never let you go!"

Christina stiffened.

"What's wrong?" Patrick looked at her.

Christina's brain had stopped working, "It, it's really talking..." Even she did not know whether the sound she heard was her illusion or not.

Seeing her solemn face, Patrick turned to look at the Ancient Coin on the floor. He wanted to pick it up to take a closer look, so he let go of Christina's hands and strode towards it.

"Don't go over!"

Christina held him tighter subconsciously to keep him away from the coin. It was too odd.

The voice was sarcastic, "It's useless. He doesn't believe you."

Christina tightened her grip on Patrick and insisted, "It's really talking. I'm not lying..." She raised her head, looked at Patrick with suspicion in her heart, and asked.

Patrick, can't you hear it..."

His heart melted when he saw her in such a panic, then he reached out to hold her tightly, covering her face with his chest, and gently stroked her long hair, "Don't be afraid."

"I, I'm not..." She was hugged by Patrick tightly but depressed inward. He didn't believe her at all.

Patrick actually called some neurologists and psychologists over, and they diagnosed that she got auditory hallucinations.

The doctors gave her some medicine with sedative effect, and the female psychologist insisted on talking to her for an hour. None of them believed her words.

People who were too anxious or stressed were likely to have illusions.

"Is it just an illusion?"

Although Christina had experienced such an incredible thing herself, she couldn't help but wonder if she was really just hallucinating.

She asked for another week's leave from the company. Patrick didn't allow her to go out, as if she was seriously ill.

She followed the doctor's words to take medicine and had to receive therapy from the psychologist every day. The maids also watched her closely to ensure that she slept on time every day and strictly controlled her diet.

When the doctors asked her if she was still hallucinating, Christina was silent. Patrick put away the Ancient Coin. She did not know where it was, so she did not hear the voice again.

"I heard she's been neurotic and hallucinating recently... Is there something wrong with her brain?"

At five o'clock in the afternoon, the afterglow was casting light golden haze. The breeze was blowing the back garden of the Hopkins family. It was the best time for taking a walk.

Ms. Hopkins came back to stay for a while. She and Judy were taking a walk along the path, chatting with each other.

The rules of the Hopkins family were strict, but many neurologists and psychologists appeared in the house last week, the servants couldn't help but secretly guess what was going on.

Patrick didn't scruple to take care of Christina and tolerate her temper. He also asked Nanny Fang to modify her daily diet. Even Old Master Hopkins had asked the doctor about her situation personally, urging the doctor to give her the best treatment.

Everyone in the house was very surprised. They held the bowl with great care when they served Christina.

They were just doubting that she was such an optimistic person and she didn't seem like someone who would be depressed. Yet, they did not dare to say anything.

At this moment, the person who dared to mock openly with the words of "Something's wrong with her brain," only could be hot-tempered Ms. Hopkins.

Ms. Hopkins, the third daughter of the Hopkins family, was the one who looked like Old Madam, who had passed away, the most. So Old Master Hopkins has somewhat revealed a preference for this daughter.

Judy's said coldly, "What healthy girl can Mary's daughter be? It's probably a genetic disease..."

It also made Ms. Hopkins recall what happened before, "Mary, she was very popular among men back then. At that time, my brother was fascinated by her. He even contradicted my father for her. But he thought he couldn't give her happiness because of his poor health. Otherwise, maybe she would be Mrs. Hopkins..."

Hearing this, Judy's face darkened.

Only a few people knew about the inside story, including the daughters of the Hopkins family. If Victor had been healthy, he would divorce Judy and married Mary.

In fact, Judy did not get along well with the daughters of the Hopkins family. Most of the relationships in the rich family were fake, especially associated with these daughters of the Hopkins family, who always look down on others.

Ms. Hopkins turned to look at Judy and pretended to comfort her, "Judy, don't blame me for being too straightforward. My father and my husband love me too much, I didn't learn how to be tactful." Her tone wasn't apologetic at all but full of arrogance.

Judy had tasted her arrogance before, and she put on a fake smile too, "I know."

"Anyway, Mary is really scheming. You almost lost to her back then, and now... Her daughter has come to our family again..."

The daughters of the Hopkins family treated these things as a joke.

It was out of their capabilities to control their arrogant nephew's marriage, so they could only scold the shameless mother and daughter.

At this moment, they did not know that Christina was squatting in the bush and listening to them clearly.

For the past week, she had been trapped in the house. Apart from taking medicine and sleeping, she was also monitored by servants when she went to the bathroom. She had to chat with the doctor on time every day, which made her crazy. She finally sneaked into the backyard to breathe some fresh air, but she met them.

Christina wanted to pretend that she didn't hear it, but they went too far, especially Ms. Hopkins.

"Please don't comment on others." She couldn't help but suddenly stand up from the bush

Judy and Ms. Hopkins were shocked.

When they saw it was Christina, they got angry immediately, "Why are you hiding here?"

Ms. Hopkins's voice was shrill and unpleasant, "What an ill-bred girl! You actually eavesdropped on others."

Judy was even angrier when she thought of Christina had been carefully served by people in the Hopkins family recently.

"Did you inherit your mother's mental illness and do things so stealthily?"

Damn it, these women said she was mentally ill.

"It's not your business to worry about my mental health." Christina was so angry.

Judy glared at Christina angrily, but ever since Christina came over, the whole family had treated her well. And Judy was always in a cold relationship with her son. Even she wanted to give her daughter-in-law a lesson, she couldn't do anything.

It was infuriating.

Judy was angry but didn't say anything. Ms. Hopkins, who was standing beside her, felt strange and took a step forward to Christina.

She said, "How dare you talk to your elders like this?"

Christina looked at the arrogant Ms. Hopkins and turned her head with an expression of indifference.

Ms. Hopkins was even angrier when she saw the young lady ignore her.

"You are the daughter of the Dickens family, which was the richest family in C City before, right?" Ms. Hopkins sneered.

"Your father, Donald, who was lucky to marry Mary, a dirty woman, and became the richest man in C City for a few years. But you really think you're the princess? Your father is just an incompetent poor boy who relies on the Eisenhower family. After the Eisenhower family declined, the Dickens family was just in the limelight for a few years, which has long been out of the league now."

Ms. Hopkins purposely turned to look at Judy and tutted, "I really don't know why Patrick stuck with her..."

Christina hated people who belittled her family. She did not show any weakness to Ms. Hopkins and shouted at her.

"Whether my family is poor or rich, it has nothing to do with you!"

There were many rules in rich families, the most important one was to respect elders. Everyone abided by it, but Christina had been married to Patrick for so long and no one had asked her to abide by these stupid rules. She was not afraid of offending Ms. Hopkins.

Seeing that Christina dared to shout at her, Ms. Hopkins was furious, "How dare you shout at me?"

Ms. Hopkins had two sons, and her two daughters-in-law were quite respectful to her. If she was unsatisfied with them, she would ask someone to slap them and teach them a lesson. This ignorant little bitch dared to be so unruly. She deserved to be slapped.

She turned around and shouted angrily at the maids, "Come here, grab her, and kneel her down!"

"Slapping her hard until I asked you to stop. How dare this little bitch offends me. Are you all deaf? Go grab her and slap her.."

How dare these servants in the Hopkins family slap the young madam. A maid standing behind hurriedly went to look for the butler.

Seeing that the servants did not listen to her, Ms. Hopkins was so angry that she turned around and caught a maid. She raised her hand and slapped the maid, "Who is the owner of the Hopkins family? Who paid you? How dared you to stand on her side?" Then she kicked the maid with the high heels on her feet.

"Don't go too far!"

Christina was so angry, dragging the maid who had fallen to the ground behind to protect her.

This maid was assigned to serve her in the Eastern Garden. The maid had been watching her take medicine and sleeping on time recently. No matter how cruel Christina was, she would not allow others to bully her maid like this.

[Ms. Hopkins is a married daughter. She is just a guest coming to stay at the master's house for the time being. Don't forget her identity.] The illusory and ethereal voice came into her ears again.

Christina was probably too angry. Following the voice in her ear, she also shouted angrily at Ms. Hopkins, "You are a married daughter. A guest coming to stay at the master's house for the time being. Don't forget your identity. It's not your turn to discipline the servants in the Hopkins family..."

Ms. Hopkins didn't expect Christina to retort like this. She roared angrily, "You, you shameless woman. Who do you think you are?. I'm the daughter of the Hopkins family..."

Since Ms. Hopkins got married, she had less contact with her family. But her identity as the daughter of the Hopkins family was her greatest confidence.

Christina was not good at arguing, but now that voice was teaching her.

[Ms. Hopkins went home to accompany Old Master Hopkins to ask for money. Her husband lost 500 million dollars in investment a year ago. At that time, she cried and asked the Hopkins family for help. This time, her eldest son was caught in making fatal road accident last month. Her second son's mistress was pregnant and playing suicide. All of this required money to make exceptions...]

"... You feel that as long as you could get money out of the Hopkins family, your son and husband would be obedient to you. You only think that the Hopkins family was an ATM. You are not a good daughter, neither a good wife and nor a good mother. You are selfish and only care about yourself."

Christina scolded what she had heard in one breath.

Ms. Hopkins was shocked. She didn't know how Christina knew so much about her family, but she gritted her teeth in anger.

At this moment, the butler rushed over with Old Master Hopkins.

Meanwhile, they also heard Christina's indignant words clearly. Old master Hopskin was holding a crutch and looked at Ms. Hopkins with a wrinkled face.



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Ms. Hopkins immediately burst into tears, "Dad, this is no longer my home. I haven't come back for a long time, but how could she insult me like that when I return? She's a junior, but she said those mean words to me... I know it! Everyone looks down on me..."

Christina slowly came to her senses and met Old Master Hopkins's thoughtful eyes.

As if suddenly breaking herself from a trance, she tried to explain herself with a guilty conscience, "I, I didn't mean it..."

She didn't mean to insult Ms. Hopkins like this, and she didn't usually quarrel with people.

"Dad, you heard it just now. She..."

Ms. Hopkins seized the opportunity, said righteously with an aggrieved expression, "Although Christina gave birth to a pair of twins for our family, you really can't pamper her anymore. Look at her now, she would even insult me at home! I can just bear it, but if she acts the same way outside, our reputation will definitely be ruined by her..."

Old Master Hopkins knew his daughter's character too well, so he snapped, "What reputation! Why should you mind how others think of you? You wouldn't care about how others define you if you're excellent enough!"

Ms. Hopkins and Judy were full of dissatisfaction, for they were unresigned that he actually taught them, instead of Christina, a lesson.

Ms. Hopkins gave up her pretense and retorted angrily, "Dad, you're getting more and more muddled as you get older! That Dickens is but an outsider in our family, and I'm your biological daughter. I'm a Hopkins! Why do you always favor this little bitch..."

Old Master Hopkins's face darkened and he chided loudly, "Shut up!"

However arrogant Ms. Hopkins was, she did not dare to challenge her father's authority. After a farce, everyone left with a darkened mood.

As the old man passed by Christina, he rumbled in a cold voice, "Be careful with what you say."

Christina tensed up and watched Old Master Hopkins walk away slowly. The old man was majestic and firm, and as she looked at him, she suddenly felt a little sad.

Christina knew that she had disappointed the old man.

When she retreated to the bedroom, she secluded herself in the room for a long time. She reflected on herself, trying to figure out if she indeed had been spoiled and gone too far, but Ms. Hopkins's words were so unpleasant that she couldn't help but retort.

She sat cross-legged on the bed with a dejected expression.

When she turned around and looked at the nightstand, Christina's eyes lit up. It turned out that the old coin that Patrick had gathered up was there.

"Damn it, I know it! It's the one who instigated me!"

Suddenly, Christina understood everything. Her face was tinged with anger as she felt that she had been fooled by this ancient coin.

Christina was furious and grabbed the coin and flung it to the floor. "You little trinket made them suspect that I was crazy. How dare you play tricks on me!" She lifted her foot in her cotton slippers and was about to trample down on it.

The ancient coin was very spiritual as it seemed to perceive her next move, and it immediately became furious. "No!"

Christina was not afraid of it at all at the moment. She insisted on trampling on it and did not show it the least mercy. Were it not an ancient coin, it would have been flattened.

How could it dare to deem her as a pushover? "I'm going to throw you into the manure pit with the dungs," Christina warned fiercely.

"You crazy woman!"

The ancient coin seemed to have a fetish for cleanliness. Once it heard the vulgar words such as "manure pit" and "dung", it immediately fumed with rage and its cold and ethereal voice echoed throughout the room.

"There are so many villains in the Hopkins family. What do you like about Patrick? How could he be compared to Derek, you blind woman..."

The ethereal voice reverberated like the bass of music.

Christina ignored that the coin had scolded her for having poor taste. What surprised her was another fact, "You know Eric?"

She stopped trampling the coin and stared at it warily.

The old coin seemed to be still furious, as the voice that shook in her ear was still cold and gloomy. "If you want Derek and Peter to survive, you have to listen to me..."

Christina was stunned. What did it have anything to do with Derek and Charles's brother?

Derek had been out of contact for a long time before the New Year, and even his uncle Larry couldn't find him. And Charles's eldest brother went out of touch too after he went on his business trip last month.

"What do you know?"

Christina felt like she was acting like a psycho, as she was actually asking nervously the ancient coin questions.

"You're forbidden to put money and cosmetics around with me. Prepare a small bag, which is clean, sterile, fresh and odorless."

However, the ancient coin suddenly raised some seemingly baffling requirements, as if it was very dissatisfied with the current environment it was in.

"Your coat pocket is very dirty. You have to wash your clothes every 12 hours later. Also, you can't touch me directly with your hands!"

What!

Christina's face gradually darkened. She had never encountered such an unreasonable ancient coin, so she was fairly irritated.

Her clothes were all custom-made and were regularly cleaned by servants. How dare it despise them? Even kings would not be so picky.

"Who do you think you are? Let me show you what kind of attitude you should have when your fate is within my hands..."

Christina descended upon the ancient coin on the floor to grab it. "I'll throw you into the iron pot and melt you." However, the coin flew up and went into her coat pocket.

When Patrick suddenly pushed the door open and walked in, he was taken aback outside the door for a second. He frowned as he saw Christina wringing her big coat with a twisted face in a fury.

When Christina heard the sound of the door opening, she looked up at him. In an instant, she stopped her hand and did not know how to explain it.

She couldn't say that she had a quarrel with a coin...

"Did you take the sedative?" Patrick didn't seem to mind her strange behavior, as he walked up to her and asked her if she was taking her medicine on time.

Christina slouched her head and looked at the coat in her hand. She had mixed feelings because they did not believe her.

Patrick looked at her face which was tinged with disappointment and vexation, so his voice softened even more, "Don't mind my aunties." Then he held her in his arms.

As soon as he got home, Nanny Faang immediately informed him of what had happened in the garden in the afternoon.

He knew too well what his aunts were like, especially Ms. Hopkins. Usually, Christina would not quarrel. He also heard that his grandfather had chided her and warned her to mind her words this time, so he naturally deemed that she must have gone back to her room and wringed her coat to vent her anger.

"I'm not sick... There's no need to do this. You're like hugging a puppy," she lowered her voice and muttered.

Seeing that she was pretending to detest him, Patrick smiled, "You look very unhappy."

Christina was always stubborn, "I'm not unhappy."

She recalled what had happened in the afternoon and guessed that he came to her bedroom in a hurry probably because of her quarrel with Ms. Hopkins in the afternoon. "I didn't mind my words. They are elders. I won't do it in the future..." Yet she did not sound guilty.

It was not her fault, so he couldn't expect her to pretend to be kind and apologize to them. At most, the next time she met them, she would avoid them like a plague.

Patrick didn't say much and just smiled, "You won't do it again?"

He did not blame her, as if he had clearly seen through her temperance long ago. The next time, if they provoked her again, she would probably do the same.

Christina detected his teasing tone and argued, "What? Do you think your wife is so bad? I didn't want to argue with her today, but she went too far."

Patrick nodded, "That's too much." He adhered to his consistent principle and indulged her.

Originally, it was just a small conflict between women in the afternoon, but Ms. Hopkins seemed to be trying her best to resist. At dinner, she did not go to the Main Residence to dine, and she even threatened that she was married so she did not dare to dine on the main table.

She was going to confront Christina to the end.

Christina ate the meal in a bad mood and felt her heart laden. Although it was just a small matter, she really wouldn't deal with the strife between these women. She was depressed.

"Christina."

Brianna suddenly called out to her in a low voice and slowly pushed a sponge cake in front of her.

Christina suddenly raised her head. She was not in the mood to care about the cake, only staring at Brianna warily.

How could she forget Brianna?

The ancient coin said that it was Brianna who had attacked her.

Whether others believed it or not, she really heard the ancient coin talking. So even if there was no evidence, she was still very vigilant against her.

Brianna finally mustered up the courage to approach her, but Christina responded with only vigilance. Those present saw clearly their different emotions and they were very confused.

Nanny Faang knew that Brianna was introverted and sensitive, so she was afraid that Brianna would feel hurt. She immediately explained to Christina, "This is the sponge cake that Miss Brianna made in the kitchen this afternoon. She wants to share it with you."

"Oh." Christina was still rather indifferent.

She couldn't pretend to be a friendly sister-in-law.

Judy glanced at Christina and said at the right time, "Brianna is getting along well with the people in the kitchen. She made this cake herself, and the cake chef who instructed her said that she was very patient and not as afraid of strangers as before. Everything goes well with her internship outside as well. The girl finally has learned to grow up slowly."

Old Master Hopkins rejoiced at the news, "Let me try a cake made by Brianna."

Although Brianna was brought back from an orphanage, they had lived together for so many years and she had called him grandpa for twenty years. The old man loved this quiet and autistic granddaughter and hoped that she could live a normal life as soon as possible.

Even the Old Master said he wanted to try a cake made by Brianna, so everyone had a piece. Even Patrick, who didn't like sweet food, took a spoonful and tasted it.

Christina, on the other hand, held a spoon and looked at the sponge cake in front of her as if she was staring at a poison.

Patrick clearly perceived her weirdness today.

He reached out and pushed the cake away from her, then said with an unperturbed expression, "She's taking medicine, so she can't eat anything too sweet."

It was obvious that Christina was not willing to eat this cake, and Patrick gave her a dignified reason.

Why couldn't one have anything sweet while taking medicine?

But Judy did not dare to say anything, stifling her anger. Old Master Hopkins looked at Christina thoughtfully, as if he was blaming her for acting improperly.

Christina was usually very close to the old man. If it was anyone else, she did not care. But she was scolded by the old man with no righteous reason, so she got even more depressed and frustrated.

She really hated the rules of these prominent families, especially those relatives. She didn't know how to cope with them.



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Late at night, in a noisy bar.

Patrick hardly came to the bar for entertainment after he got married. It was a rare day to go out for a drink with Charles. He came as promised but in a daze.

Chandler arrived first and asked about Peter. "Is there still no news from your brother?"

Thinking of this, Charles immediately gave a distressed expression and shook his head. "No."

"Long before the new year, Peter said he was going on a business trip and would be back on January 1st, but then he called my mother that he couldn't make it to the new year party. Mom scolded him at that time. He once told me helplessly that he needed to help a friend urgently. I asked him who he was, but he didn't say..."

Patrick sat down and heard Charles complaining.

The bartender came up to ask him what he needed with a careful smile. Patrick ordered a red wine and drank it absent-mindedly.

Charles continued, "After that, we didn't call him again. The manager received two messages from him a week later. One said that he had something else to do and would be back after two months. Another said that he transferred the operating rights of a branch to a new shareholder."

At this moment, Patrick asked, "Is the company where Christina works now?"

Peter was the most hardworking and motivated of the four sons of the Shepherd family. He liked to invest in new companies and owned a lot of shares.

Chandler felt weird. "Peter is missing not too long and then he transferred the operation rights. Is it related to that person?"

Crystal also worked in that company, so Chandler paid more attention to her.

Charles sullenly picked up the glass on the table, took a sip of wine, and then scolded, "Damn. He never shows his fucking true face. I can't find out anything."

"The manager said that the man had only been to the company once with documents that Peter had signed and stamped. After that, he had never come again. We couldn't find him even if we had to ask him for something. Last time, it was me who signed the contract of IP&G."

Chandler frowned. "Is there no surveillance camera?"

"The company was reorganizing and all the electricity were cut off back then. The workers were still repairing." Charles was frustrated.

Recently, his mother was no longer in such a hurry to force him to go on a blind date. Instead, she forced him to find Peter quickly. Charles felt a heavy load.

According to the current information, only the new shareholder could know the news about Peter.

"That manager is also a fool. Last time he didn't leave the originals of files that Peter signed personally."

Charles couldn't help but scold, "How dare he tell me that he is Italian? That idiot can't even understand his Italian name. He just said that he looked not that like Italian but like a mixed-race with beautiful features. He is tall and thin with blue eyes..."

Blue eyes.

Hearing this, Patrick was originally in a daze but he subconsciously thought of another man.

"Do you think of someone?"

"My brother mentioned a person who was his friend, so we both likely know him."

Charles was anxious. After all, Peter had been out of contact for almost half a month with his cell phone completely unavailable. The employees who went together with him had already returned to work.

Although Peter had always been a workaholic, and it had happened before that he delayed his return for even half a month because of his business trip, it was really strange this time.

The whole Shepherd family was anxious, afraid that something would happen to him.

"I'll send someone to look for Peter too."

Patrick always had a good relationship with the Shepherd family. "His last stop was Italy, but he bought a plane ticket and returned home that day. I think he should be in the country."

"Well, I don't know what he wants to do." Charles scratched his head in annoyance.

"Once he gets busy, it's possible for him to go into seclusion. I still remember that when I was in high school, my mother suddenly called me home and said that Peter might have died. How sad we were at that time. In the end, that bastard crawled out of the basement unhurriedly. He had been doing some bullshit research in the basement for almost one month without going out."

Chandler knew the story and patted Charles on the shoulder with a chuckle. "You don't have to worry too much. We could find him soon."

Charles thought for a moment and felt relieved. "Maybe he will appear next week." Anyway, the members of his family had always been unreliable.

"Patrick, what are you thinking?"

Charles had been upset recently because of Peter, but now he found that Patrick seemed to be more preoccupied than him.

Patrick was looking at a crystal wine glass in his hand. His long, fair fingers matched with the dark red wine inside. His eyes fell on the slightly swaying liquid in the glass, but his mind drifted far away.

"Christina said that the coin spoke." He spoke suddenly in a deep voice.

Chandler was surprised. "Can a coin talk?"

Charles wanted to argue it immediately, but he thought for a while, "Christina told me before that she had an Ancient Coin, but she doesn't know where it came from. She kept holding it... I threw it into your lotus pond."

Then he muttered, "Is she possessed?"

Chandler believed in science. "What did the doctor say?"

"Hallucination."

Chandler felt that this was more reasonable. "Excessive mental stress does lead to hallucinations."

"Do you think she's under too much pressure?"

Patrick asked. He did not believe that Christina would be stressed out. It was just incredible that she said the coin could speak so that he preferred the explanation of auditory hallucination.

Charles immediately said, "She told me that she often had nightmares in her childhood. She always felt someone talking by her bed in the middle of the night."

As he thought, he spoke. "She's quite lucky to have grown into the personality she has now, as the average person might be a bit gloomy. She's not Donald's real daughter. No matter how hard he tries, he won't treat her like his own daughter. Christina's biological mother is mysterious. She grew in a quite complicated environment. Maybe the depression has accumulated since childhood."

Patrick stared at Charles gradually in thought.

It sounded that Christina was more willing to share her past with Charles.

Charles was too dull to feel Patrick's conflicted emotions at all. He sighed, "I think Christina has something on her mind. She is independent and she won't beg for help. She is more guarded against others than we are. Perhaps she didn't tell us the truth for not trusting us."

He was more excited as he spoke. "After giving birth, she was depressed and almost broke down. Thanks to Crystal and Derek, otherwise, I have no idea what will happen..."

Chandler was speechless. Charles didn't have to bring them up.



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Chapter 443

In the early morning, the bar was lively and noisy. Patrick and his friends were drinking, laden with anxiety, and did not feel sleepy at all.

Christina, who was in the Hopkins family's residence, was very sleepy and wanted to sleep, but she was disturbed by a voice.

"You want me to go to Italy?"

She turned on all the lights in the bedroom. Only in this way could she face this strange coin at ease. It was egging her on to go to Italy.

"Why should I listen to you?"

She lay on her side in bed, tightly wrapped in her quilt. After it instigated her to have a fight with Ms. Hopkins this morning, she didn't seem so afraid anymore.

However, for safety's sake, there was an emergency bell at the right of the head of the bed. She could ring it to inform the servants to save her if there was danger.

Christina occasionally pinched her thigh to see if she was dreaming. All of this was too strange.

A slightly hoarse voice echoed in the bedroom...

"I need you to go to Italy yourself. You'd better leave now. Remember not to let your relatives and friends know. They would only drag you down."

It sounded so righteous.

Damn it!

Christina couldn't fall asleep because of it. It didn't seem to hurt even if she beat it up.

Why did it choose her?

"Do you think I want to choose you?"

It seemed to be able to see through other people's minds, and its tone was filled with disgust.

Christina got up from the bed and said angrily, "I'm warning you. You'd better behave yourself, or I'll throw you into the kitchen oven and have you melted!"

It wasn't scared. Instead, it said, "You have nothing in common with Mary."

Christina became alert. "You know my mother?"

She had always thought that her mother was depressed because of Connie and had committed suicide then. Only recently did they tell her that her mother was not dead, but had been sent away by her father.

"Of course I know her. We are close." It was mocking someone or something.

Christina discovered a fact. "You seem to know the people around me very well..."

"You don't have the right to talk to me about this. Get ready, and go to Italy." It interrupted her in a cold and commanding tone.

He then tried to bribe her. "This is a deal. When it's done, I'll fulfill one wish of yours..."

"Do you think you are the magic lamp?" Christina asked with disdain.

"I'm not going," she said, Then she thought for a moment and made a request. "Unless you tell me the whole story. I don't want to be treated as a lunatic."

In fact, Christina now felt that she was almost crazy because she was negotiating with an ancient coin.

"You don't want to know about Derek and Peter?"

It seemed to know what she cared about and threatened her.

Sure enough, Christina got nervous. "Do you know what happened to them? Where are they now?"

"When you arrive in Italy, I will tell you." Its voice was cold and deep, and then it stopped talking.

"Hey!"

Christina hurriedly shouted into the air. "Hey, come out! I have something else to ask you..."

There was no response.

Every time it wanted to talk to her, it appeared. And Christina found that no one could hear it except her...

Why? What was her relationship with it?

"Am I dreaming?!" She complained, but for some reason, she felt that what it said was true. Did that mean Derek and Peter were in danger?

In the middle of the night, Christina called Larry, Derek's uncle.

She clearly remembered that during the new year, Larry had been to the Dickens family's residence for her. At that time, Larry was looking for Derek anxiously. He seemed to have lost contact with Derek.

"Did you have any news about Derek?" Larry asked in a happy tone the minute he answered the phone.

"No."

Christina was sure that Eric had been missing for a long time, and Larry was the only relative who cared about him.

Larry was disappointed and then asked, "Then why are you calling me?"

"Is something wrong with Eric?" she asked.

Larry's voice turned cold. "That is none of your business." He paused and said sarcastically, "You're no longer his friend. You're the young madam of the Hopkins family now and Patrick's wife."

Then he hung up the phone.

Larry was still angry about Christina marrying Patrick.

Christina was upset. It seemed that one would lose something as he or she was growing up. She threw herself into the quilt and decided to think about everything when she woke up.

When the dawn came, she habitually looked at the other side of the bed. No one was there.

She was not sure whether Patrick had been out all night last night or just got up early. She had slept too soundly last night and thought too much.

Nanny Faang and the others always asked her to take the medicine on time. She looked at the herb soup and put on a wry smile unconsciously.

She then called Charles. "Have you found Peter?" she asked.

Charles had drunk too much at the bar last night and had just woken up. He sounded sleepy and hoarse. "No."

At this moment, there seemed to be some noise around Charles. It sounded like his mother was urging him to get up now...

"My mother is forcing me to have a blind date..." Then he hung up.

"Forcing you? Do you feel aggrieved now?" Mrs. Shepherd glanced at Charles with great authority.

"No, of course not," Charles said obsequiously.

He was more awake now after being yelled at by his mother.

Why did Christina suddenly care about Peter?

Today was Saturday. Patrick seemed to have something urgent to do and left early. Brianna had been working at the

company for a week. Everything went well. It seemed that she had adapted to the group life of the company.

"Everything is going well with Brianna. She can communicate with people normally. There's no need to worry, and they don't work today..."

"I informed them last night. They should be preparing too. We'll be there soon..."

On the sofa in the living room, Ms. Hopkins was chatting with Old Master Hopkins and Judy. The elders looked concerned.

When Christina went to the living room, Ms. Hopkins looked at her with anger and disgust as she had always done.

Ignoring Christina, Ms. Hopkins asked, "Dad, what do you think of my plan?"

"Is it too urgent?" Old Master Hopkins frowned.

"No, that young man of the Shepherd family is so outstanding. This is about Brianna's future and happiness. Dad, we have to do it now." Ms. Hopkins was impatient by nature.

When Christina heard this, she asked, "What are you talking about?"

Although Judy didn't like Christina, she still told her, "Dad wants a connection by marriage with the Shepherd family."

They thought someone from the Hopkins family was a perfect match for someone in the Shepherd family. Christina was not a suitable match for Patrick.

Christina looked shocked. She didn't know whether the news was good or bad.

They were urging Brianna to marry Charles?



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Kezia Betrue

stop dragging out the story line

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