

Chapter 151

"I see..."

"Then I'll see you at the hotel," Christina said anxiously as she was about to hang up. "Patrick, remember to come earlier."

The man on the other end of the phone was startled by her nervous tone.

"Hum."

One 'Hum' was counted as a promise.

Christina looked at her phone, which had been hung up. Her expression became a little gloomy.

What? We had decided to come to F City together, but they all wanted to

break the promise...

"Young Madam, this is the suite that was arranged for you. Is there anything you are not satisfied with?"

The hotel manager, who had been standing quietly on the other side, after seeing Christina's call was over, came over to ask in a soft voice, "If you need anything, you can tell me directly. Mr. Shepherd asked us to prepare some soup for you. What kind of taste do you like..."

"Never mind. I'm not hungry now."

Christina took her room card and went straight in.

This was the best hotel in F City, and suite 10008 on the top floor was the

best room here. It was exquisite and luxurious, but she didn't have any requirements for a room. She just felt the room was too big and cold.

Charles brought her here and left without telling her where did he go. Patrick was still in A City, saying he would be late for seeing her.

"Young Madam, you could rest first. If you need anything, please call the service number. We have someone on duty 24 hours a day..."

Naturally, the female manager did not dare to belittle her. Even though she was the proprietress of their hotel herself, she was still supposed to politely speak to the guest and carefully close the door.

The suite was quiet and was full of a faint lavender scent, leaving the impression of being clean and comfortable.

The flight made Christina a little tired, so she went straight to bed to rest.

She put her phone on the bedside table and checked the volume of the phone in order to hear Patrick's phone call.

It was in the late summer season, so she slept deeply

By the time she woke up naturally, the setting sun had already fallen from the French window, and the night had just begun.

F City's pace of life was slower than A City's, and the air quality and

environment were good. It was once ranked as the top ten most suitable cities to live in.

But Christina didn't like F City very much.

When she was young, she was very courageous. She had sneaked into this city many times, but it didn't leave her with any good impression.

The first time she came over, she lay on the edge of the grass and saw Mrs. Fisher lock Derek into the trunk with her own eyes.

The second time she came over, she looked for Derek for a long time and was dejected to come home when she noticed that Derek was locked up in Mrs. Fisher's dirty storage room. He

had been hungry all day, and he didn't even have the strength to speak due to his high fever.

The third time, Mrs. Fisher raised the heavy pole and hit him, but Derek stood lifeless. He was beaten violently, but he did not cry out in pain. Only his little body was trembling.

That time, she couldn't hold back and rushed over. She grabbed Derek and ran as fast as she could, hiding in a small corner.

"I've never seen anyone as stupid as you, standing straight like a pillar after being beaten... Stupid! You could just run when you're beaten!"

She was so angry that she hated the clean and delicate boy standing in front

of her.

Therefore, Derek had a unique nickname, Eric(a little pillar).

Christina got out of bed, grabbed her phone, walked to the window, and looked at the bright lights downstairs.

It was a long time ago. "I haven't seen him for so many years... How is he now?"

Time could completely change a person, and Derek couldn't be the weak and autistic Eric back then.

The phone suddenly vibrated, and Christina immediately looked down to check.

It wasn't from Patrick. It was Crystal

who sent her a WhatsApp message.

"Pig Is Rising": [Christina, I was a little nervous on my first business trip with a senior executive. Now I'm at a hotel in F City, waiting for a big client.]

"Invincible Tina": [which hotel are you in?]

After a while, Crystal sighed, "This is fate."

Sure enough, Christina's guess was right. Barbara chose the same hotel, but they were downstairs in a private room.

"Pig Is Rising": [I didn't see the big boss at the airport just now. Christina, why did you come to F City? Your suite must be very big and luxurious. What

about we have an affair
tonight(jokingly)...]

"Invincible Tina": [Then I'll ask Patrick
later.]

Crystal had no guts. She did not dare to
be jealous about Christina's
presidential suite anymore.

However, Crystal found out some
gossip to share with her best friend by
sending her a mysterious message.
"Christina, do you know why Barbara
could get that position when she's still
so young?"

"Invincible Tina": [Not interested.]

Christina didn't like Barbara very
much. There was no reason, but she
didn't like her.

"Pig Is Rising": [Barbara becomes a top manager when she just came into the headquarters, which triggered a lot of questions. And she often mingled with your husband, Charles, and other businessmen. Aren't you really not curious about this woman who was so ordinary before...]

"Invincible Tina": [Patrick is not having an affair with her.]

She was sure of that.

Her trust in her husband surprised Crystal as she often suspected her boss before. Well... she must be bewitched by Patrick's handsomeness.

However, Crystal agreed with her.
[Barbara is not having an affair with

your husband. I heard from them that Barbara is the prospective daughter-in-law of the Fishers...]

[Her boyfriend is said to be very influential socially. No wonder he could get into Charles's circle. It turns out that Barbara is Derek's girlfriend.]

Christina was stunned and stared at words on her phone.

"... Impossible."

Chapter 152

"Miss Parker, you are really amazing. You became the Asia-pacific general manager of public relations in IP & G Group at such a young age..." A rough voice sounded with an ambiguous smile.

In the magnificent hotel room, the chandelier above was shining, and the round table was full of rich dishes to entertain distinguished guests. But the important customer in front of her was not interested in the table of dishes.

He sat in the chair, lit his cigarette, and looked arrogantly at the woman standing on one side.

Puffing out a cigarette, he chuckled in disdain. "... But Miss Parker's face and

figure seem to be a little worse than I have thought they will be. You look not that amazing."

"I am sorry to have let Mr. Morris down."

Barbara smiled as if she didn't mind at all.

She then turned around and glanced at a group of her subordinates standing by. Everyone knew that Mr. Morris was not easy to be pleased with, so they forced a smile and sat down.

"Come on, let's toast Mr. Morris first."

Barbara picked up her glass and raised it calmly to the middle-aged man beside her, smiling with dignity.

"Mr. Morris, I was just transferred here and I'm not familiar with the operation here. I have a lot of things to learn from you elders, and thank you for your help."

Mr. Morris was nearly fifty years old with a dark complexion and a large figure. He wore a thick gold necklace around his neck and looked like those men who were rich in money but not sophisticated in manners.

Seeing that Barbara had really bottomed up the wine in her glass, he quickly drank up the wine in his glass.

Thud -

"Again!"

"Say a few more nice words and I'll

consider taking good care of you..." The man's breath was full of the smell of alcohol and tobacco, and he laughed loudly.

Barbara held back her anger. By the time she drank the third glass, her stomach could no longer stand it, and she could no longer smile.

"Mr. Morris, we're just here to talk about the project..."

Suddenly, a voice interrupted their drinking. Crystal couldn't bear watching this. This Mr. Morris had been sneering at them all the time, and it seemed he didn't want to sign the contract at all. Barbara was Crystal's boss after all, and if they could not sign the contract, they could just leave.

"Shut up, Crystal!" Barbara responded quickly and turned to glare at Crystal sternly.

"Who is this guy, perhaps a lover of some young master? How dare he talk to me like this!"

Mr. Morris slapped his glass on the table and cursed with anger.

Suddenly, the atmosphere at the table became tense and serious.

There were six employees who followed Barbara here, and they looked at each other in bewilderment. Crystal did not dare to say another word.

"What a jinx!"

Sabrina also followed here and was sitting next to Crystal. Sabrina cursed in a low voice, "I don't understand why Barbara asked you to come over..."

The table was very large, as they had originally planned to seriously entertain the important guest. Other female employees from Barbara's side forced smiles and took the initiative to drink with Mr. Morris to ease the tension.

Crystal knew that Barbara didn't really care about this Mr. Morris. This was the first important project she dealt with since she came to the headquarter, and there were many people watching her. So she had to win the contract.

"Mr. Morris, you should know that if

you don't give our IP & G group this deal, no one dares to take it neither."

Barbara had been making her living in the business community for many years, and she was not someone to be bullied easily.

"What's your IP&G Group?" Mr. Morris laughed wildly. "Barbara, I think you really have huge appetites. Think of yourself as the hostess of the IP & G Group..."

Chapter 153

Around 8 pm, Christina suddenly received a call from Crystal.

"Christina, Christina, can you help us?"

On the other end of the phone, Crystal sounded urgent and anxious.

Christina was alone in the luxurious suite on the top floor of the hotel. She asked confusedly, "Crystal, what happened to you? Did you drink?"

Hearing her vaguely, Christina thought she seemed to have drunk quite a lot. Besides, Crystal was a light drinker and could only drink a little.

"Where... where's Patrick?"

Crystal held the phone in her hand and her speech was a little incoherent.

"He's not here. What happened?"

Christina was surprised that she suddenly asked about Patrick.

Patrick had to deal with some business in A City. But an hour ago, he sent a text message saying that he should come over and warned her of running around. Christina had changed her clothes and was about to go down the hall to eat some food. Just when she wanted to open the door, she received a call from Crystal.

"Miss, Miss Parker, she was forced to drink half a bottle of whiskey." She couldn't hear her clearly and her speech was incoherent. Christina was

puzzled.

"Mr. Morris said that he, he was the Fishers's relative. He said that she could not be Derek's girlfriend, and he also said that if Barbara wanted to be Patrick's lover. She'd better be his lover."

Christina could hardly understand what she was saying, "Crystal, where are you now?"

"I, I am now," Crystal on the other end of the phone paused.

She burped and suddenly remembered something important. She raised her voice and screamed, "Christina, come and save us!"

"This hotel is owned by the Hopkinses.

The staff here will follow your advice. You, hurry up."

Christina knew she was drunk, frowned, and immediately became anxious.

"Which room are you in? I'll go over now!" As she spoke, she quickly reached out and twisted the door handle.

But as soon as she opened the door, a tall figure appeared in front of her.

Christina was caught off guard and bumped into the man on his chest. She was too shocked to react for a moment. Christina was pushed inside by the man and he locked the door.

"Damn it, who are you?" She raised her

head and cursed angrily.

But when she just finished the last sentence, Christina froze and looked at the man in front of her with disbelief on her face.

He was tall, almost 1.86 meters tall, but he looked a little thin. He had fair skin and a well-featured face as delicate as a European person, His blue eyes were especially impressive.

He looked at her eyes and his blue eyes reflected her face. There was a flash of hesitation on his handsome face and he slightly frowned.

A moment later, he opened his thin lips slightly and murmured.

"Christina."

His voice was deep but clear, soft but cold.

It was a very special and beautiful voice.

Similarly, he was handsome and fair with a high and elegant demeanor.

She heard this familiar nickname that had disappeared for a long time. Except for her dead mother, only he would call her Christina.

She had complained to him countless times that this nickname sounded disgusting.

But he still called her this way and never changed.

"Eric, where have you been all these years?"

Christina's eyes gradually turned red. She said nothing but shouted at him angrily, "Derek, where the hell have you been?"

Chapter 154

Knock, knock, knock.

Suddenly, someone knocked on the door impatiently.

Christina was stunned and could not react. She saw the man in front of her frown slightly with his thoughtful blue eyes.

"Miss Dickens, are you in there? Is it convenient for you to open the door now?" The man outside the room seemed anxious as if he couldn't wait to break in.

"The situation is somewhat unique. We need to search your room immediately."

Christina was alarmed. She did not respond, examining at the man in front of her with more complicated eyes.

She lowered her voice. "Eric, they..."

"What are you doing?"

Before she finished her words, she was dragged into the suite.

When the hotel manager rushed in, the crowd behind him was stunned.

"Why you barging in!"

On the big white bed, a woman was laying down and asleep, covered with a wide lavender blanket. At this moment, her face sank and she glared at them with an extremely irritated expression.

"Miss Dickens, I'm really sorry."

As a male, the hotel manager didn't dare to look directly at the bed. He tilted his head and explained in an awkward voice, "It happened suddenly. We need to search your room. I hope you can cooperate with us."

Bang.

Christina reached out her right hand, grabbed a porcelain ornament from the nightstand, and dropped it

"Get out, get out!"

Her voice was so angry that her fair arms and shoulders were exposed without the blanket. It was as if she had suddenly woken up from a deep sleep. She was so angry for her naked body

being watched.

Want me to cooperate with you? No way!

Perceiving her bad temper, the five hotel staff who followed in immediately looked at their manager.

The manager's face was a little complicated, and he looked around suspiciously.

He lowered his voice and changed the title for Christina. "Young Madam, we were only instructed by Mr. Hopkins. Please don't make trouble for us."

The hotel belonged to the Hopkinses. They are at least by her side.

Christina was in hesitation when she

heard this.

The manager was professional at observation. Noticing her hesitation, he immediately raised a fawning smile and continued to speak softly, "Young madam, we just found a suspicious man in the hotel's surveillance. We are worried that he has entered your suite. For your safety, please, we need your cooperation."

"I'm safe. I don't need it." Her voice was clear and she refused.

As she spoke, she yelled at them with a dark face. "You didn't care my friends who were being treated unfairly before. And now you come to my place without my admission. How do you manage the hotel? I'll go downstairs after changing clothes. You owe me an

explanation!"

"Get out, get out!"

People standing there looked embarrassed. They had heard of this young lady, even those who drink with Charles feared her temper.

"Young Madam, we'll go outside. Please inform us immediately if anything happens."

They had to leave her room.

Christina clutched the blanket with her left hand and felt relieved.

But then, outside the corridor, there came a sudden rush of steps...

"Get in and search!"

That order startled not only people outside, but Christina, who's now not able to control her fear.

Chapter 155

Christina looked into his eyes with a flash of guilt on her face.

She leaned against the bed, covered with a blanket, and looked at the man at the door from afar.

She did not expect Patrick to suddenly come over.

Seeing a large group of people searching around in the bathroom and cloakroom of the suite, she tried to stop them but could not make up an excuse.

"Mr. Hopkins, we didn't find anyone."

"The elevator surveillance shows that he's on this floor..."

"We searched the rest of the rooms. To protect the privacy of guests' on the top floor, we didn't install the monitor device."

Christina could vaguely hear their conversation in the living room.

Although there was a lot of service staff standing in the spacious suite at this time, the room was very silent as everyone looked at each other and did not dare to speak.

She compressed her lips and her heart was pounding.

However, she was also hesitant. Was Patrick looking for him?

Why did he look for Eric?

While being buried in thoughts, she trembled at the sudden voice.

She heard the heavy footsteps approaching.

Christina jerked her head up and suddenly met Patrick's gloomy eyes. He stared at her with a meaningful look.

She could only feel a chill on her back, and her body could not help but tense up. Leaning against the headboard, she put her hands under the blanket and clenched her fists.

"Who are you.." She hesitated as he stared at her.

But she stopped asking him.

Taking a deep breath, she lowered her eyes and did not dare to look him in the eye. She said in an awkward tone, "The person you're looking for isn't here."

Patrick didn't say anything.

He did not come any closer, just standing quietly about two meters away from the bed.

They were silent.

Christina lowered her head and became more and more uneasy.

What could she do?

Did he find anything?

She thought, "He won't lift my blanket

in public."

"I remember you used to sleep on the right side." The low voice came to Christina's ears and her hope was ruined by his words.

Her face turned pale.

He remembered her habits. She did like to sleep on the right side. But she was just too hasty.

In astonishment, she looked up guiltily and opened her lips slightly, trying to say something.

Christina felt a little timid and guilty.

The man standing at the foot of the bed and stared at her with his burning eyes, waiting for her to confess.

What should she say?

She didn't know how to explain it.

But at this moment, in the cold and silent suite, a sudden sound of footsteps broke an awkward atmosphere.

"Mr. Hopkins, Miss Parker has a serious stomachache. She vomits a lot and needs to be sent to the hospital immediately."

Christina was stunned when she heard this. Barbara and others seemed to have had some trouble when entertaining their clients in the hotel room.

"She probably drank too much alcohol

before eating anything."

Seeing that Patrick was indifferent, the general manager of the hotel stepped forward and suggested softly, "Mr. Hopkins, just now you saw that Miss Parker looked pale. It's probably alcohol poisoning. It's best to send her to the hospital for gastric lavage. We'll deal with what happened here later."

Christina's eyes lit up when she heard this.

"You came so late just because you had visited Barbara!"

The woman on the bed suddenly raised her voice to retort him, pretending to be angry.

"Patrick, we were supposed to come

over together, but you suddenly left me alone at the airport. Last time, you left with Barbara and the others and I was left alone in the parking lot. You always left me behind because of other people's affairs. Did you treat me as your wife? Do you think that Barbara was more important than me?"

Christina looked angry and scolded him indignantly.

Patrick frowned, not used to her sudden anger.

She rarely made such a fuss.

The hotel room staff didn't understand what was going on.

They thought his women fought for his favor.

Christina looked around unhappily.
She was jealous!

"I often get cramps during sleeping when I'm pregnant. I was so pained that I often couldn't sleep. But you never cared about me. Now that there's something wrong with your subordinate's work, you immediately rush over to save her."

As she spoke, she reached out and quickly picked up the big coat by the bed, draped it over her body, and went straight out of bed.

"You're going to a the Fishers party. I guess Miss Parker will be there too. Why did you ask me to come all the way to F City? I'm going back to A City now!"

Patrick was black in his face. Looking at her unreasonable behavior, he shouted angrily, "Christina!"

"I don't want you to mind my business. I'm going to see my friend now."

She didn't even look back. Christina walked to the entrance, changed her shoes, and slammed the door.

Bang.

The door was closed.

Patrick was livid and all the hotel staff trembled in fear. She actually slammed the door and left.

Chapter 156

Actually, Christina didn't go too far.

She walked out of the room, her back against the wall. She lowered her head with a complicated expression and she stood like this.

Unreasonable...

She was deliberately being unreasonable just now in the room.

She frowned, and her heartbeat lost the rhythm. She was nervous with her hands slightly closed, ...

"Christina... You..."

After a while, the door was opened again. As soon as the man came out, he

was surprised that she was still here.

Hearing the low voice, Christina raised her head and looked at him.

Patrick's short hair was a little messy because of his quick steps. He looked straight at the woman in front of him, lost in thought.

She looked at his deep eyes and opened her mouth. She wanted to say something, but she stopped.

She took a big step forward, spread out her hands, and wrapped them around his waist. Without saying anything, she buried her face in his chest, hiding the guilt in her eyes.

She was just being unreasonable. She bet that he would come after her.

"Patrick..."

At this moment, not knowing what to say, she suddenly whispered his name, "Patrick..."

The voice was low and soft as if he had done something wrong, and the voice was muffled in his chest.

Patrick's original anger was inexplicably depressed and he did not know who to be angry with.

... As his waist was hugged so tightly by her, he lowered his head to look at the woman's side face, which showed that she was apologetic. It made him felt angry and funny at the same time.

Then the general manager of the hotel

and several service staff also came out.

As soon as they came out, they saw Christina hugging their big boss and acting like a spoiled child. They were all very smart at the moment. They nodded at Patrick and quickly left quietly.

Patrick did not push her away, but felt that she was a little strange.

She was not usually so obedient and clingy.

Christina didn't look up, but she could hear the footsteps of the hotel staff leaving. Her face rubbed against his chest a few times before she hesitated and said, "Patrick, are you looking for..."
Who was he looking for?

As soon as she spoke, she raised her voice and said in a hurry, "What have you been up to lately?"

She raised her head, her clear eyes fixed on the man much taller than her.

Patrick looked at the woman in his arms for a second and raised his eyebrows slightly. He was having this feeling that she was acting weird.

He didn't answer her. He reached out to grab her shoulder and smoothed her hair. "Go down to the lobby and eat something."

Christina was naturally led to the elevator by him, as if Patrick only thought that her arguing and being jealous in the room just now was just a joke.

Just as Christina stepped into the elevator, she glanced unconsciously in the direction of the suite.

Eric was still in the room...

Why did he suddenly appear here?

Did Patrick have so many people to look for him?

Christina couldn't figure it out. She lowered her head and followed the man beside her down the hotel lobby.

But there was one thing she was sure of. Tomorrow was Mrs. Fisher's birthday party. Since he was in F City, Eric should be there tomorrow.

"He might return to the Fishers

tomorrow."

They were having dinner in the lobby when Charles rushed over and asked Patrick to discuss some private matters on the balcony.

"the Fishers still don't know about Derek waking up..." Charles paused, with a meaningful look.

"After he stay in the Seattle Hospital for so many years, many things have changed. Mrs. Fisher will definitely announce tomorrow that she will hand over the company to her two sons-in-law..."

Derek probably wouldn't get anything when he returned to the Fisher Family.

After all, he was just a bastard, and

Mrs. Fisher hated Derek so much. Taking advantage of his disappearance all these years, she absolutely wanted to devastate him.

Charles sighed helplessly. "Fortunately, Derek has never been interested in the power and wealth..."

What was Derek interested in? To be honest, his good friends didn't know, or maybe there was nothing he was interested in.

Patrick stood aside, not saying a word, but looking straight ahead at the deep sky, where the starlight was scattered. The night was a bit cold.

"Patrick," Charles called to him with a puzzled expression and asked, "Why do you think he's hiding from us after

he woke up?"

According to their understanding, Derek was so quiet that he would never say a word more than necessary.

He didn't pay much attention to others, as if he didn't care about anyone or anything.

However, if someone said that the Fishers's grandson was an autistic fool, that was because he didn't understand him. Charles thought that the strange brain of Derek was simply like a super computer. With more than 200 IQ, he was surprisingly good in memory and logics.

Like his deep blue eyes, he surprised others a lot. Sometimes such a detached person really was not like a

mortal for being so excellent.

"I don't think he wants to see us. Why?"

Charles couldn't figure it out.

"I don't know."

Patrick said three words coldly, as if he was a little agitated and didn't want to talk about this topic anymore. He stepped forward and walked towards Christina.

Charles didn't have dinner tonight, so he just sat down with them and naturally followed them, but he still kept nagging with a sigh, "I don't know how to contact him..."

It was indeed not easy to find Derek.

"Christina, what are you texting?"

As soon as he sat down, Charles glanced at Christina's phone and saw that the woman had sent messages to a WhatsApp user named 'Sleeping Beauty' with a serious expression.

When Christina saw them coming back, she blocked the screen with her right hand and pretended to be casual. "Nothing."

Charles smiled mischievously and teased her. "I've seen it. Christina, why are you asking that person where he's been all these years and what's going on? Who is it? Hmm... Are you doing something immoral behind his back?"

Hearing this, Christina stuffed her phone into her jacket pocket, acting a little hasty.

"Charles, don't be so gossipy. You are really a tragedy for whoever marries you in the future?"

Once they sat down, neither of them could be quiet.

Charles glared at her angrily. "Christina, I am telling you. There are many women who want to marry me. They can line up from here to A City.."

Patrick used to threaten Mr. Shepherd with his eyes when he saw them making a scene, but tonight he seemed preoccupied, frowning and ignoring them.

Christina and Charles had a tacit understanding in their bickering. At the same time, they raised their

eyebrows and looked at Patrick, who was deep in thought. Then they both calmed down.

"Why don't you eat?"

The three of them ate without much to say, but Christina noticed that the man beside her seemed to have no appetite. He only ate a few vegetables and put down his chopsticks.

"... Finish the soup."

Patrick looked up at her and reminded her.

"They might have mistaken someone, so don't worry too much..."

Charles suddenly said something to him. Seeing that Patrick was a little

eyebrows and looked at Patrick, who was deep in thought. Then they both calmed down.

"Why don't you eat?"

The three of them ate without much to say, but Christina noticed that the man beside her seemed to have no appetite. He only ate a few vegetables and put down his chopsticks.

"... Finish the soup."

Patrick looked up at her and reminded her.

"They might have mistaken someone, so don't worry too much..."

Charles suddenly said something to him. Seeing that Patrick was a little

grim, he shrugged and changed the subject. "I heard that Barbara was in the hospital. Let's go and see her."

Chapter 157

Around 10 pm, Christina and the others arrived at F City's No.1 People's Hospital.

"Don't run around."

As soon as she got out of the car, the man beside her habitually warned her.

"Oh." Christina answered casually, and they walked side by side to the inpatient department.

Charles followed too. He walked behind them and looked at their backs gloomily.

Patrick didn't want her to come. The hospital was not a good place where was full of patients and germs. But

Christina insisted to come so that Patrick had no choice but to agree with her.

Moreover, he had just heard that Christina, the evil woman, had made a scene of jealousy in the suite. He talked to himself, "Patrick should have taught her a lesson. Or else what will she become in the future?"

When Christina just married into the Hopkinses, she obeyed the rules, but now she became like this. That was all because of Patrick.

The three of them strode to the ninth floor of the inpatient department. Because it was evening and there were relatively few people. Their footsteps echoed in the cold corridor.

The driver and three bodyguards followed closely behind them, walking in a more compact and orderly manner. Patrick and the other two were quite outstanding in appearance. As soon as they stepped out of the elevator, they attracted the attention and curiosity of some medical staff.

"P...President..." At the door of a large ward on the right, an employee in uniform had just walked out. She was a little surprised.

"President."

"Mr. Shepherd."

Several IP&G employees who had followed Barbara to F City on a business trip immediately stood up and greeted them.

It was already 10 pm, and they were flattered that the group's famous and cold boss had actually come to visit them personally.

"You're here..."

Barbara had been forced to drink too much liquor by her clients before. She was intoxicated with alcohol and had already had a gastric lavage, but her face was still a little pale. She lay on the bed, raised her head slightly, and looked towards the door. She seemed to have expected Patrick and the others to come over. She smiled slightly.

When the other staff members saw this situation, they bent down slightly towards Patrick and went out

respectfully.

But when they walked out of the ward, they couldn't help but look at the woman beside him.

Who was this woman with a big belly?

"Christina, you also come to see me, thank you."

Barbara on the bed also noticed her and greeted Christina.

There was no expression on Christina's face. Christina had noticed from the moment she entered the room that although Barbara was intoxicated with alcohol and was lying in bed, she seemed to be in a good mood and kept smiling.

But just now, at the first sight of her, Barbara's eyes flashed with unhappiness.

Christina didn't know if she was being too sensitive. She politely said to Barbara, "Hope you recover soon."

Then she shook the man's arm and said, "Patrick, I'm going to see Crystal next door."

She came to the hospital to see her best friend, and as for Miss Parker, she didn't want to pretend to care for her with a smile.

Patrick let go of her and turned to look at the bodyguard behind him, indicating that they should all follow her closely.

"Barbara, how are you feeling now?"

Charles said with concern, "That guy really dared to make you drink a whole bottle of whiskey. Was he crazy, or did he garner a leopard's guts?"

Barbara smiled weakly. "Nothing, it's not the first time." To be able to climb to this position, she had suffered a lot.

Patrick stood at the end of the bed, took a look at the heartbeat and blood pressure data displayed by the instrument, as well as the intravenous drip, and said calmly, "Have a good rest these days."

Barbara suddenly chuckled and spoke quickly. "Patrick, it's rare to hear you care about me."

"Shouldn't you, the big boss, give me a reward for being a dedicated employee of the company? That whiskey with over 60% alcohol is driving me crazy. I don't know if I can work hard for you in the future." Her tone was natural, teasing and chuckling.

Few people could joke with Patrick like that.

Christina had just walked to the door, facing the door, but she could hear their conversation. Without looking back, she could guess that Barbara's face must be smiling brightly.

They were indeed old friends who had been together for many years. They got together and chatted. Even with Patrick, the cold and indifferent man,

around, they could have such a harmonious atmosphere.

Inexplicably, she was a little conflicted. If she was intoxicated by alcohol and lay in bed, Patrick would have scolded her the moment he saw her.

Christina didn't want to be bothered by these feelings, so she opened the door and walked out.

But when she closed the door, she vaguely heard Charles's voice, "Isn't that old man just relying on the cousin relationship of the Fishers? Knowing that you're talking to him on behalf of IP&G, he still dares to make things difficult for you..."

"I can handle this. This is the first big project I handled after I got to the

headquarter. I hope you can trust me, Patrick."

The sentence that Barbara said, "I hope you can trust me, Patrick", was heard by Christina clearly.

"Patrick has always trusted her..." Christina muttered, sounding a little sour.

In the past, employees of the IP&G Group rarely encountered any trouble on business trips. Others would show them some respect somewhat. Even if they had a disagreement with the project, they did not dare to offend IP&G Group's employees.

This time, Barbara brought a few employees to F city to meet her clients, and two of them were sent to the

hospital for alcoholism. The Group would definitely pay special attention to it.

Crystal was another unlucky employee.

"Crystal..."

Christina went straight to the ward next door and knocked on the door. Just as she was about to enter, she found that the door was ajar and there was some noise coming from inside.

A shrill female voice angrily rebuked, "Crystal, this whole thing is your fault for offending Mr. Morris."

"You've been in our company for a while. You should know the rules. When you get back, you should resign.

Don't put Miss Parker in a difficult position."

Bang -

Christina opened the door anxiously with a cold face.

"What are you talking about?"

When Sabrina heard the voice, she turned around and looked at Christina with surprise in her eyes. She wanted to say something, but she was afraid of Christina somewhat.

Sabrina walked out in a hurry. Christina asked her, "Hey, what did you say about her resigning?"

"Forget it." Crystal on the bed called out with a sullen expression.

"Crystal, what did that Sabrina just say about your resigning? They want you to take the blame?" Christina walked to the bedside and saw Crystal's frail and haggard appearance. She was furious immediately.

"Barbara wants to keep the order and her reputation. Of course, she can't offend Mr. Morris, so someone has to take the blame..."

Chapter 158

"Christina, I'm really fine. Don't worry about me. I don't have a headache after the drip. It's just that lost my job..."

Crystal laid weakly on the bed, pretending to be optimistic, but her voice low. It couldn't be true to say that she didn't care about it.

She went on a business trip with her boss but suddenly lost her job. What about her mortgage and car loan next month? Without money, everything was a big problem.

"I'll talk to Patrick..." Christina, who was standing by the bed, turned around angrily and was about to go out to question him.

It was so unfair and she felt really bad for her best friend.

"The client was deliberately making things difficult. You had drunk yourself into the hospital. And yet they made you resign just for Barbara's performance and order. They can't do this to you!"

"Christina, don't go."

Crystal knew her well enough to stop her from doing anything irrational. She smiled bitterly. "You took the blame for others before. It's just life..." There was always something they couldn't control.

Christina's face was cold, and she did not move. She was very angry, but she knew she couldn't rush to the next

room to make a scene. She was just upset.

everyone had taken the blame for other's fault.

She used to encounter injustice when she was doing a part-time job while in school. Some of her colleagues would kiss up to their superiors to get the easiest job with a higher salary and would throw those newcomers under the bus when something went wrong.

Crystal was a simple person so she wasn't too depressed. Thinking that she still had some savings in her card, she figured that she would not be broke before she found a new job in time.

She chuckled, "If I'm not wanted here,

I'll just find somewhere else to work."

Looking at Christina, who had a dark face, she joked and smiled. "Don't think everyone can be like you, married to Patrick and living a life as the Young Madam..."

"But it can be easy for Patrick to manage the whole company. Christina, you should really be more considerate of your husband. It's really not easy to earn money to support the family. There are many deceptions and intrigues. You don't know how many people are waiting for him to fall from his position."

Christina raised her eyebrows. Seeing that she was being all goody and nice, she immediately chaffed her.

"The company is about to terminate the contract with you, and you are still defending him"

Crystal was always considerate of others. She was patient and did everything slow and steady. Therefore, her classmates and colleagues always liked to ask her for help, and this girl didn't know how to refuse, so she had to do whatever others asked her to do.

Christina didn't have such a good temper. She had a dark face. She was unhappy and she wouldn't hide her feelings.

Crystal wanted to laugh when she saw how angry she was.

Christina, her impetuous best friend was not a gentle and considerate

person but was very sincere, very straightforward, and very simple.

There was no need to pretend in front of Christina.

The fact that she was angrier than herself made her feel like being cared for sincerely. She could feel her care directly without any sweet words.

It was a blessing that at least she had one friend who was willing to defend her after she lost her job.

"Forget it. It's good to change jobs. The last time I saw that Erica fooling around with a random man at the Fire Club, Sabrina thought I was spreading rumors about her cousin. I guess even Barbara was making things difficult for me because of that. I don't want to stay

here anymore..." Crystal's tone became more relaxed and cheerful.

"Barbara..." Christina murmured this name with some thoughts.

Barbara had met a big client this time. Although the client was deliberately being difficult, she did not say anything. Instead, she put all the blame on her own employees and gave Mr. Morris a big favor.

Boss wasn't stupid. He wouldn't dare challenge the IP&G Group if it got out of hand.

In the end, he could only sign the contract. This was her first big project of Barbara after she got into the headquarter. The senior management who had questioned her ability should

restrain themselves now, and at the same time, Mr. Morris owed her a favor.

"No wonder she is Patrick's right-hand person."

Christina muttered, gritting her teeth. She didn't care what Barbara liked to do, But the fact that she had to throw Crystal under the bus made her feel that Barbara was targeting her.

"Crystal, have a good rest..."

It was getting late. Crystal, who had a weak tolerance for alcohol, must have been uncomfortable drinking so much alcohol last night. She did not need to be disturbed. Christina said in a soft voice and walked out.

Crystal did have a burning stomach and a dull pain in her head, but seeing Christina's expression, she was really worried that she would make a scene.

After thinking for a while, she shouted at her back, "Patrick rushed to our room tonight. He was actually looking for you..."

"He thought that if something's wrong with this meeting, I would definitely ask for your help. He's afraid you would be in danger."

Christina paused for a moment and did not say anything. She gently closed the door for her.

"... Patrick didn't say anything about it." She walked to the ward next door, muttering and complaining, slightly

smiling.

She pushed open the door and found that Patrick was not in the ward.

"Patrick is downstairs," Charles said to her without thinking twice when he saw her. After a pause, he immediately raised a sinister smile. "Christina, are you sad that Patrick left you again? Don't worry, he's still waiting for you downstairs."

Christina thought Mr. Shepherd very annoying and she didn't even give him a look. She turned around and wanted to go downstairs.

But as soon as she stepped forward, she turned around and looked at the woman in the bed with a thoughtful look in her eyes.

Barbara sat with her back against the headboard, being looked at like that, she felt awkward and said. "Christina, do you have something to tell me?"

"Christina, Barbara is sick now. Don't be mean to her just because you have Patrick to protect you" Charles approached her and warned her in a low voice.

Christina said annoyedly. "What do you think I'm going to say? I don't care about the company."

"Charles, you said that Barbara has been a group executive for so many years and she seldom goes on business trips to meet big clients with any newcomers. And this time, she brought Crystal. I just want to say thank you on

behalf of my friend!"

Her voice was very calm, but she was gritting her teeth when saying thank you.

Charles was stunned, and he glanced over to the bed, thinking about something.

Barbara seemed to be nervous all of a sudden. Her voice was a little hoarse, and she asked anxiously, "Christina, do you have any misunderstanding..."

Hearing her voice, Charles couldn't bear to see her like this. The ward should be quiet and Barbara needed a good rest.

"Christina, don't be ridiculous. Go downstairs now." Charles simply took

her out of the ward.

Christina was half-dragged and did not resist, but she was angry. Crystal became the victim of other people's business interests.

"Stop. Don't drag me. I can walk by myself."

As soon as they left the room, she immediately held her face up and glared at Charles. "Protect your good friends as hard as you can. None of you are good..." Christina was still angry.

"Christina, you have to know that this is the business world. We want to maximize our profits... Barbara's decision was not wrong, don't get Patrick in on this..." Charles had been in the business world for many years, so

naturally, he knew that Crystal had no choice but to take the blame.

Christina didn't listen to him and walked straight into the elevator with heavy steps.

"Yes, your Barbara is not wrong, and Patrick also thinks Barbara is not wrong. It's all my fault. I dragged Crystal into this. I can't change it. I'm just angry. I feel guilty!"

She had never come into contact with this complicated business world, she didn't care about the interests. Why did she have to choose Crystal, not other new employees... Barbara was such a rational person, she wouldn't go through such trouble for her best friend's personal affairs. It was clear that she was targeting her.

"Christina, you're overthinking it. Don't go and make a scene."

"Ok, I'm overthinking. What? You think I have persecution delusions?"

Christina glanced at him angrily, thought about it, put away her anger, and became serious. "Charles, can I ask you something?"

"Barbara, is she Derek's girlfriend?"

They got into the elevator, and the elevator was going down. Charles didn't understand why she suddenly asked this question. He felt a little strange.

"Yes, they are a couple." Charles noticed her expression and asked

curiously, "Christina, do you know Derek?"

The elevator reached the first floor, the lobby.

Christina walked out of the elevator expressionless. All of a sudden, she wanted to laugh. She bit her lips and said in a low and heavy tone. "I know him. I knew him a long time ago."

!.. I knew him a long time ago!