

An understated Dominance – Dahlia and Dustin Chapter 1381

Chapter 1381: Smug Smile

“Dustin, your actions just now were a bit excessive. What if you had harmed Owen?” Isabela couldn’t help but feel a bit sorry as she looked at the marks on Owen’s neck. She stood up, turned around, and asked with a soul-searching tone.

“Excessive?” Dustin sneered and asked, “Miss Isabela, you need to understand the situation correctly. It was Owen who attacked with a knife, and I merely acted in self-defense. So, who was really being excessive?”

At his words, Isabela’s expression froze, and she awkwardly explained, “Just now, Owen was only trying to scare you; he wouldn’t have actually hurt you. Why did you have to react so violently?”

“So, it’s all my fault?” Dustin said in a self-deprecating tone. “Was it me who meddled unnecessarily and acted as your shield? Did I provoke a duel voluntarily? Or did I hurt someone from behind and smash a bottle on their head?”

“I... that’s not what I meant,” Isabela said with some guilt. “It was my mistake to hit you with a bottle, but I was panicked and afraid that you would harm Owen. I hope you can understand.”

Dustin looked at her with an indifferent gaze, saying nothing.

So, I’m the one who should take all the blame?

You smashed a bottle on my head without even asking a question, and that’s appropriate?

“But, let’s not forget that while I may have made mistakes, you’re not entirely blameless either,” Owen’s tone carried a hint of resentment. “You’re obviously quite skilled, but you never told me, leaving me worried for no reason. And you were too rough just now; you nearly choked Owen to death. If I hadn’t stopped you, you would have made a serious mistake!”

“Should I thank you, then?” Dustin’s lips curled with sarcasm.

“No need for thanks. Since both of us were at fault, how about we call it even and turn our swords into plowshares? Let’s remain friends. What do you think?” Isabela suggested.

“Miss Isabela, I have a humble background and can’t climb up to the level of your Torby family. It’s better if we just forget it,” Dustin shook his head. He had been explaining and deflecting blame all along, without even a sincere apology.

Someone like that wasn’t worth associating with.

“Dustin, are you still angry? I’ve already apologized to you. Don’t be so petty,” Isabela frowned slightly.

As a dignified heiress of the Torby family, she had taken the initiative to apologize, giving the other party face. Yet, the man in front of her remained cold and ungrateful.

“Dustin! Considering Isabela’s face, I won’t pursue the matter of you hitting me, but don’t underestimate me!” Owen spoke coldly.

If he didn’t have to worry about his image, he would have already made a phone call for retribution.

“What? Do you want to fight me again?” Dustin chuckled.

“Hmph! I warn you not to be too arrogant!” Owen threatened sternly. “Even if you know a little martial arts, so what? Dealing with you is as simple as squashing an ant.”

“You can try,” Dustin replied emotionlessly.

“You...”

Owen was about to erupt but was stopped by Isabela, who raised her hand. “Dustin, you’re a good person, and I value our friendship. It was just a misunderstanding. I hope we can sit down and talk it out.”

“I don’t think there’s anything to talk about. You two are in love, and I wish you all the best,” Dustin said calmly. “If Miss Isabela has no other instructions, then I’ll take my leave.”

With that, he turned and walked away.

“Wait...”

Isabela suddenly caught up to him, her expression serious. “Dustin, I know you’re not happy, but my grandfather’s illness hasn’t been cured yet. I hope you can prioritize the bigger picture and not leave on your own.”

“Miss Isabela, please rest assured. I’m a person of my word, and I won’t change my mind midway. I will definitely cure your grandfather’s illness. But I also hope that your Torby family can fulfill its promise and find the medicinal herbs I need as soon as possible,” Dustin said indifferently.

“No problem,” Isabela breathed a sigh of relief.

She was genuinely afraid that Dustin would hold a grudge and tamper with her grandfather’s illness.

“Kid, get lost quickly. Don’t disturb our alone time,” Owen blocked Isabela and wore a smug smile.

His eyes were filled with arrogance and disdain.

Chapter 1382: An Underground Chamber

“What qualifications does a poor loser like him have to compete for a woman with him? He’s really overestimating himself!

Even if he schemed his way to get close to Owen, what does it matter?

He just needs to use a little trick, and he can easily win her over.

That’s the difference between us.

Dustin left the restaurant.

Isabela watched the man’s departing figure, her expression becoming somewhat complicated.

She had always thought that Dustin liked her, which was why he helped her in various ways.

However, she didn’t expect him to leave so freely, without even looking back.

Was it really a deep heartache? Or a tactic to make her want him more?

“Dustin, Dustin, I thought you were a good person, so I wanted to bring you into my circle and help you succeed. But I didn’t expect you to be so ungrateful.”

“Do you know what you’ve missed? You missed a chance to change your life, to have a wonderful life.”

“It’s all your choice, don’t blame me. I’ve given you a chance, but you didn’t cherish it.”

“Well, forget it. We’re just not on the same level. Even if you try to climb up, you can never reach our heights.”

Isabela shook her head, her demeanor gradually becoming cold and arrogant.

If it weren’t for her sense of loyalty and nostalgia, Dustin wouldn’t even qualify as her friend.

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At night, in the underground chamber of the Torby family mansion.

A thin, battered man was tied up to a pillar.

His body was covered in bandages, and as the bandages were slowly removed one by one, the places on his body that had been torn open before had now formed black scabs. Some areas had completely healed, leaving only faint marks.

Seeing this scene, Kevin, who was standing nearby, couldn’t help but feel overjoyed. “Hahaha... the Jade Dew Ointment is indeed miraculous. We’ve hit the jackpot this time!”

Since obtaining the formula for Jade Dew Ointment, the Torby family had been secretly assembling a team and working tirelessly day and night to study it.

Finally, this morning, they had successfully produced the Jade Dew Ointment and immediately put it to use.

And the results were surprisingly good.

In just a few short hours, the areas that had been cut by the knife were rapidly healing.

It was truly miraculous!

“I’ve conducted repeated experiments, and this Jade Dew Ointment indeed has no significant side effects. We can start production immediately,” Sophia said with a faint smile. “Moreover, based on my investigation, there is currently no healing medicine on the market that can rival Jade Dew Ointment. I believe that once Jade Dew Ointment is introduced, it will undoubtedly allow the Torby family to establish a new empire!”

“Hahaha... great! Fantastic!” Kevin laughed heartily. “Sophia, you’ve done a great job this time. With just one Dragon Blood Ginseng, we’ve obtained such a miraculous formula. It’s truly amazing!”

“Ange, don’t get too excited too soon; there are still hidden dangers in this matter,” Sophia cautioned.

“Hidden dangers? What do you mean?” Kevin asked, puzzled.

“Don’t forget, the formula for Jade Dew Ointment is not exclusive to us; Dustin also has it,” Sophia narrowed his eyes and said, “Think about it carefully. If Dustin sells the formula to someone else, our advantage will be completely lost.”

“Now that you mention it, it does seem that way,” Kevin frowned slightly.

The Torby family was not particularly strong in the field of medicine. If they couldn’t monopolize the Jade Dew Ointment market, it could easily turn into a wasted effort.

“Kevin, this matter must be addressed at its root. The formula for Jade Dew Ointment must belong exclusively to the Torby family!” Sophia’s tone became serious.

“How do you intend to do that?” Kevin asked cautiously.

“It’s simple – eliminate anyone who knows the secret,” Sophia replied bluntly.

Chapter 1383: Eight Dishes Breakfast

The next morning, in a guest room at the Torby family residence, Dustin was sitting cross-legged, meditating.

“Knock, knock, knock...”

At that moment, there was a sudden knocking at the door.

“Who is it?” Dustin slowly opened his eyes.

“Dr. Dustin, it’s Scott. I’ve come to bring you breakfast,” a somewhat familiar voice sounded from outside the door.

“Ah, okay.”

Dustin got up and opened the door.

Standing outside was a boy of about fifteen or sixteen, looking thin and frail, holding an exquisite meal box in his hand.

The boy, known as Scott, was a servant in the Torby family. He had grown up without parents and lived a difficult life.

Since Dustin had checked into the Torby family’s residence yesterday, Scott had been taking care of him meticulously, serving tea, pouring water, and showing great care and responsibility.

He was a cautious and hardworking individual, despite his difficult circumstances.

“You’ve worked hard,” Dustin said, motioning for Scott to enter.

“It’s not hard at all, it’s what I should do,” Scott replied humbly. After bowing in respect, he carefully placed the meal box on the table and began to open it layer by layer.

“Mr. Dustin, there are eight dishes for breakfast today.”

As Scott began to serve the dishes, he introduced each one.

“The first dish is Kung Pao shrimp.”

“The second dish is braised oxtail.”

“The third dish is vinegar-glazed wood ear mushrooms.”

“The fourth dish is scallion-braised sea cucumber.”

“The fifth dish is crispy chicken king.”

“The sixth dish is crispy meatballs.”

“The seventh dish is shredded tripe with cilantro.”

“The eighth dish is braised blackfish roe soup.”

“All the dishes are served. Please enjoy your meal.”

After serving the dishes and preparing the utensils, Scott lowered his head and quietly retreated to the side.

“Why such a lavish breakfast so early in the morning? Some soy milk and fried dough sticks would have been enough,” Dustin said with a faint smile.

“Dr. Dustin, you are an honored guest of our Torby family. The master specifically ordered that you must be well taken care of,” Scott replied.

“Oh, by the way, how is Mr. Christopher’s condition? Has he woken up?” Dustin suddenly asked.

“This morning, Master Christopher regained consciousness once. His mental state has returned to normal. Thanks to Dr. Dustin’s miraculous healing, he’s much better now. The entire Torby family is immensely grateful,” Scott bowed deeply.

“That’s good to hear.”

Dustin nodded and looked at the table full of dishes, seeming a bit unsure where to start. “Scott, have you eaten?”

“Not yet,” Scott shook his head.

“Then let’s eat together. After all, I can’t finish all of this by myself,” Dustin extended an invitation.

“No, no, no... that won't do!” Scott shook his hands repeatedly, feeling somewhat anxious. “These dishes were specially prepared for Dr. Dustin. How can a lowly servant like me have the privilege to partake?”

“You don't need to be so reserved in front of me. Sit down and eat,” Dustin smiled.

“Dr. Dustin, this isn't proper. If someone were to see, I'd be punished,” Scott replied, lowering his head.

“Nobody will know if we don't say anything,” Dustin said indifferently.

“I'm just a servant with a lowly status. How can I dine with you?” Scott hesitated.

“What's the matter? It's just a meal. Don't be so disrespectful,” Dustin sounded a bit displeased.

“No... it's not...”

“Don't waste words. Sit down!”

Dustin's expression turned stern, and his tone became authoritative.

Scott was frightened and trembling but dared not defy him. He reluctantly took a seat.

“That's more like it.”

Chapter 1384: Beheaded

Dustin once again displayed a smile and said, “Come on, eat, don't be shy.”

Scott, still apprehensive, held his bowl and chopsticks but remained motionless, keeping his head down.

“You're so thin, and this is the time to grow. You should eat more,” Dustin picked up a piece of sea cucumber and placed it in Scott's bowl.

“Th-thank you, Dr. Dustin,” Scott managed a forced smile but appeared nervous.

“Why aren’t you eating? Is it not to your liking? Come, try the shrimp and the oxtail,” Dustin said, picking up two dishes and offering them to Scott. He looked like a caring father.

“That’s enough, Dr. Dustin, please eat,” Scott said, still trembling, and his hands shaking as he held the bowl.

“I’m not hungry. You go ahead,” Dustin smiled.

“I’m... I’m not hungry either,” Scott’s face twitched.

“It’s okay if you’re not hungry. Just taste the flavors. Go ahead.”

Dustin nodded and, noticing that Scott was hesitating, suddenly said, “Why? Don’t tell me you suspect I poisoned the food?”

“Ah?” Scott’s face stiffened, and he forced a smile, sweating on his forehead. “H-how could that be? Dr. Dustin, don’t joke like that.”

“Since that’s the case, why aren’t you eating?” Dustin maintained his smile.

“I’ll eat... I’ll eat...”

Scott swallowed nervously, finally picking up a piece of sea cucumber and putting it in his mouth. He started chewing slowly, all the while looking at Dustin, trying to please him. “Dr. Dustin, you should eat too. The taste is really good.”

Dustin put down his chopsticks and remained silent, just watching Scott.

“Dr. Dustin, what’s wrong? Why aren’t you eating? This is a delicious meal specially prepared for you by the kitchen!”

Scott’s face displayed an awkward smile, and he continued to urge Dustin to eat.

Seeing that Dustin wasn’t responding, Scott’s tone gradually became frantic, and a hint of ferocity appeared on his face. “Dr. Dustin! Eat! Why aren’t you eating yet?! I’ve already eaten! Why won’t you eat?!”

“Scott, I admire your loyalty. You’re willing to risk your own life to achieve your goals. But unfortunately, you’ve miscalculated,” Dustin’s smile slowly faded from his face.

“You... What do you mean?” Scott suddenly felt uneasy.

“Hellebore, Aconite, and then combined with Thunder Vine – three poisonous herbs mixed together. You guys, you’re trying to kill me,” Dustin narrowed his eyes slightly.

In fact, he had sensed something unusual since Scott entered the room, but it hadn’t manifested until now.

He had let Scott eat first purely as a test.

He didn’t expect the other party to endure this much, willing to risk their life just to harm someone. Truly ruthless!

“No! Impossible! How did you know it’s poisoned?” Scott finally panicked.

At this moment, black blood was already flowing from his nostrils.

His entire face had turned a purplish-blue hue.

“Don’t forget, I’m a doctor, and not just an ordinary one,” Dustin explained.

“You can go to hell!”

Scott’s face turned fierce, suddenly pulling out a knife and stabbing it fiercely into Dustin’s chest.

The blade gleamed with a dark hue, clearly coated with poison.

“Running out of options, resorting to a dagger?” Dustin grabbed Scott’s arm, gently twisted it, and broke it directly before kicking him in the abdomen.

Scott screamed in pain, flying several meters away and crashing heavily into the wall, coughing up blood uncontrollably.

“Tell me, who sent you? As long as you confess honestly, I can neutralize the poison in your body,” Dustin said indifferently.

“Cough...”

Scott coughed up more black blood, the excruciating pain from the poison causing his body to tremble and his face to contort.

He opened his mouth, about to say something when suddenly a figure rushed in – it was Butler Benjamin.

“Bold thief! How dare you attempt to assassinate Doctor Dustin? You’re truly seeking death!”

Butler Benjamin shouted sternly, then suddenly drew his sword and beheaded Scott.

Chapter 1385: Swish

“Swish!”

With the flash of a blade, Scott’s neck was severed directly.

His head made a “thud” sound as it fell to the ground, rolling like a football for two rounds before coming to a stop.

His eyes widened like copper bells, his face filled with disbelief.

Until his death, he never expected that he would be killed not by Dustin but by his adoptive father.

Yes, Butler Benjamin, was his adoptive father.

When he was at his poorest and most destitute, Benjamin had saved him and brought him into the Torby family, giving him a place to stay.

He had always been grateful and had given his all.

So, when his adoptive father asked him to poison Dustin, he didn’t hesitate at all.

He felt that it was time to repay his debt.

He was so committed to gaining Dustin’s trust that he even risked his life by trying the poison himself.

And what was the result? A deadly strike from his adoptive father, Benjamin.

He truly couldn't accept it!

...

"Hmm?"

Looking at Scott's lifeless body, Dustin couldn't help but furrow his brow slightly. He looked up at Benjamin and said coldly, "Benjamin, what is the meaning of this?"

"Doctor Dustin, I'm truly sorry for the scare you just experienced," Benjamin immediately sheathed his sword and assumed a friendly demeanor, "I didn't expect that there would be a traitor in the house. Fortunately, I discovered it in time and prevented a major mistake."

"Is that so? Should I thank you then?" Dustin narrowed his eyes slightly.

Benjamin had appeared so quickly, indicating that he was prepared. The ruthless strike he had just made left no room for mercy, clearly intended to eliminate evidence.

However, Dustin couldn't understand why the Torby family had suddenly turned against him.

"No need for thanks; protecting Doctor Dustin's safety is our duty."

Benjamin spoke without any sense of subservience, "To be honest, it's my fault for not judging people correctly. I unwittingly accepted a traitor, nearly causing harm to you, Doctor Dustin. I am truly ashamed."

"Butler Benjamin, I'm curious. I have no grievances with Scott; why would he try to harm me? Was he acting under someone's orders?" Dustin raised an eyebrow, his tone carrying a hint of intrigue.

"Regarding this matter, I'm not entirely sure, but Doctor Dustin, please rest assured that we will investigate thoroughly and expose the mastermind behind this as soon as possible," Benjamin assured.

"Hehe... Then I'll have to trouble Benjamin," Dustin chuckled without much warmth.

"It's our duty," Benjamin nodded slightly.

"What's going on? Has something happened?"

At this moment, a loud voice came from outside the door.

Shortly after, Kevin and several others hurriedly entered.

When they saw Scott's body, they all froze, wearing expressions of surprise.

"Master, Madam, Scott was bribed and attempted to assassinate Doctor Dustin with poison. Fortunately, I arrived in time, cleared the situation, and controlled it," Benjamin explained briefly with his head slightly lowered.

Kevin quickly understood the situation and pretended to be angry, saying, "Hmph! This scoundrel dared to bite the hand that feeds him; he truly got what he deserved!"

After uttering those words, he turned to Dustin with a concerned tone, "Doctor Dustin, are you alright?"

"I'm fine; I just find it somewhat amusing," Dustin replied indifferently.

"Amusing? What do you mean?" Kevin was puzzled.

"This Scott, despite knowing that I'm a doctor, resorted to poisoning as a means to harm me. Don't you think he's quite foolish?" Dustin smiled sarcastically.

"Yes... he's quite foolish," Kevin reluctantly agreed.

Beside him, Sophia furrowed her brow slightly but quickly composed herself.

Chapter 1386: Return It

"Mr. Kevin, I heard that your father has awakened, is that correct?" Dustin spoke again.

Unintentionally, his address had changed.

"Yes, Father is indeed awake, but he's still a bit weak and somewhat disoriented. I think he'll need some time to recuperate," Kevin replied.

"Don't worry, those are just some aftereffects; he'll recover soon."

Dustin continued, shifting the conversation, “Mr. Kevin, can we get back to some business? You previously promised me the Golden Marrow Jade and the Ice Heart Lotus. When can you fulfill that promise?”

“Well...” Kevin glanced at those around him, hesitating.

Sophia picked up the conversation, saying calmly, “Doctor Dustin, our Torby family will naturally honor the agreement, but not at this moment because we are very busy, and we cannot serve just one person.”

“Madam Sophia, I recall that you didn’t say that when we made the deal earlier,” Dustin shook his head.

“The best spirit medicines are not readily available. It’s not a matter of just having them. Be patient, and when we have news, we will certainly inform you,” Sophia said expressionlessly.

“Wait? I’m afraid if I keep waiting, I won’t have a life left,” Dustin chuckled sarcastically.

Through their recent conversation, he had deduced that the Torby family had murderous intentions, most likely due to the formula for the Jade Dew Ointment. Treasures like that were enough for the Torby family to eliminate someone.

“If you can’t wait, we can’t help it,” Sophia replied indifferently.

“Very well, it seems that I can’t rely on the Torby family. In that case, let’s part ways for now,” Dustin said and turned to walk toward the door.

“Stop!”

Sophia suddenly shouted.

“Madam Sophia, is there something else?” Dustin stopped and turned back, his expression cold.

If the Torby family intended to confront him openly, he wouldn’t mind causing a scene right there.

“Dr. Dustin, my father needs nourishment urgently due to his weak condition. The Dragon Blood Ginseng we sent you earlier is the best nourishment. I hope you can return it,” Sophia said firmly.

“Return it?”

Dustin was momentarily stunned but then chuckled, “Madam Sophia, are you joking with me? The Dragon Blood Ginseng was obtained through a trade using my formula. Why should I return it?”

“I can buy it with money. Name your price,” Sophia said calmly.

“I’m not short of money,” Dustin shook his head.

“You won’t sell it, huh? Fine, then our deal is terminated,” Sophia said, taking out a piece of paper with a formula on it and slamming it on the table. She said coldly, “This is the Jade Dew Ointment formula you wrote. I’m returning it to you now. I don’t want to trade with you anymore. Give me the Dragon Blood Ginseng!”

“Madam Sophia, are you treating me like a three-year-old child?” Dustin squinted slightly. “You’ve already seen the formula, and who knows how many copies you’ve made. Returning it to me now, does it even make sense?”

This woman was shameless to the extreme.

Not finding the Ice Heart Lotus and the Golden Marrow Jade was one thing, but now she wanted the Dragon Blood Ginseng back. It was like trying to steal the sheep and pull the wool as well!

“Our deal was a formula in exchange for spirit medicines. Now I don’t want the formula anymore. You should return the spirit medicine to me; it’s only fair,” Sophia said firmly.

“Hehe... What’s the matter? Is the prestigious Torby family resorting to breaking their promises?” Dustin laughed, but his eyes were icy.

“Stop the nonsense. Hand over the Dragon Blood Ginseng and leave with your formula. This way, we can part ways peacefully. Otherwise, don’t blame me for turning hostile!” Sophia said sternly.

As she spoke, two martial experts behind her stepped forward, blocking Dustin’s retreat—one in front and one behind. Their eyes were fixed on him, vigilant.

Chapter 1387: Impulsive

“What? Are you going to take action again?”

Dustin glanced back and forth, giving a cold smile. “I initially saved your daughter, then gave you the prescription, and yesterday I even brought old man Christopher back from the brink of death.

I’ve done so much for you, and your Torby family doesn’t show gratitude. Now you want to repay kindness with enmity.

If this matter were to spread, what would happen to the reputation and face of your Torby family?”

Upon hearing this, Kevin and the others couldn’t help but change their expressions.

It was precisely because he considered the family’s reputation that he had instructed Scott to poison secretly.

In this way, even if something went wrong, he could make Scott the scapegoat and absolve himself of responsibility.

Now that Scott was dead, if he were to confront Dustin in public, he couldn’t guarantee that he wouldn’t leave any evidence behind.

Killing someone and repaying kindness with enmity, once that reputation spread, it would greatly affect the credibility of the Torby family.

After careful consideration, Kevin finally chose to step back temporarily.

“Sophia, what are you doing? Dr. Dustin has done us a favor. How can you speak ill of him like this? You have no manners! Step aside!”

Kevin first scolded Sophia, then pushed aside two martial arts experts who were blocking the way and approached Dustin with a smile. “Dr. Dustin, I’m truly sorry. My wife was just worried about her father-in-law’s health, so she spoke impulsively and may have offended you. Please forgive her.”

In some situations, the usual routine for husband and wife was for one to play the good cop, and the other the bad cop.

If threats worked, that would be the best outcome. If not, at least they wouldn't completely ruin their relationship.

"It seems that there are still reasonable people in the Torby family. I thought you had no shame at all," Dustin sneered.

"You—!"

Sophia was about to lose her temper, but Kevin stopped her with his eyes and then smiled at Dustin. "Dr. Dustin, we are deeply grateful for your great kindness. If you have any requests, please don't hesitate to ask. As long as I can do it, I will do my best to fulfill it!"

"No need. I have no right to accept your gratitude, so I'll take my leave."

Dustin snorted and left directly.

If it weren't for Kevin's wise decision to cut his losses, he would have almost lost his temper just now.

He had always treated people with sincerity, but he didn't expect the Torby family to repay kindness with enmity.

They were truly ungrateful.

It seemed like he needed to find a new partner.

The formula for the Jade Dew Ointment should not be given away for free to the Torby family.

"Kevin, why did you stop me just now?"

Watching Dustin's departing figure, Sophia frowned slightly, appearing somewhat displeased.

"Sophia, you're great in many ways. You're intelligent, capable, and resourceful, but you're just too impulsive."

Kevin spoke earnestly, "Killing a little punk is easy, but if it affects the reputation of the Torby family, it's not worth it. Besides, some matters don't need to be brought out in the open. It's not a good look. It's best to resolve them discreetly, so as to avoid trouble."

“I see. I know what to do now.”

Sophia nodded, and a glint of coldness flashed in her eyes.

“Never mind, you don’t need to worry about such a small matter. Let Benjamin handle it.”

Kevin’s gaze shifted, instructing, “Benjamin, handle this matter cleanly and without leaving any traces.”

“Understood.”

Benjamin nodded and left.

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At this moment, outside the gates of the Torby family residence.

Just as Dustin sat down in his car, his phone started ringing.

It was Dr. Elijah’s number.

When he answered, a hurried voice quickly came through, “Dustin! Something’s wrong! Healwell Clinic is on fire!”

“Something’s wrong? What happened?” Dustin was puzzled.

“I went for a run this morning and didn’t expect that when I came back, Healwell Clinic suddenly caught fire. It’s already burning!” Elijah sounded panicked.

“What? It’s on fire?” Dustin’s face changed, and he hurriedly asked, “What about Uncle Lorenzo? Is he okay?”

“The fire started on the first floor, and Master Lorenzo is still on the third floor. I can’t go up there. I can only wait for rescue,” Elijah explained.

Chapter 1388: Get Help

“Call for help immediately! I’m on my way!”

After hanging up the phone, Dustin slammed the accelerator and rushed to Healwell Clinic at the fastest speed possible.

On the way, he paid little attention to traffic rules, running red lights and speeding.

What was originally a twenty-minute drive ended up taking less than ten minutes to reach the scene.

When Dustin arrived, the fire department had not yet arrived.

Healwell Clinic was already engulfed in raging flames, the entire ground floor had been destroyed, and the fierce fire had spread to the second floor.

Although many neighbors were carrying buckets of water and trying to help, their efforts were futile and made little difference.

At this rate, in less than five minutes, the fire would devour the third floor.

“Quick! Get someone to help!”

Dr. Elijah held a fire extinguisher and shouted hoarsely while spraying it continuously. His clothes were tattered, his whole body covered in soot, and many parts of his skin were already burnt. He looked extremely disheveled.

“Dr. Elijah! How is Uncle Lorenzo? Was he rescued?”

Dustin hurriedly ran up and asked.

“Master Lorenzo is still inside. The fire has already started, and although we’ve been trying our best to save him, the fire is too intense. We can’t put it out. What should we do?”

Elijah looked anxious and distraught. He had run out of extinguishing agent in his fire extinguisher and felt helpless.

“I’m going to rescue him!”

Without hesitation, Dustin took a deep breath and rushed straight into the blazing inferno.

“Dustin! Are you crazy? Come out! You’ll die like this!”

Elijah was startled and shouted in panic, but he saw Dustin being consumed by the flames, and he sighed deeply, “It’s over, it’s all over now!”

“Damn! Did someone just go in? Who’s that fearless? So brave!”

“Are you sure you saw it right? Who would dare to rush into such a big fire? Isn’t that seeking death?”

“I saw it too. There was indeed a person who went in. It’s unbelievable!”

Dustin’s fearless act left many of the would-be firefighters in shock, and for a moment, they forgot to throw water.

Soon, the fire grew more and more intense.

The second floor was completely engulfed, and the flames had spread to the third floor.

The scorching heat forced the nearby firefighters to step back.

Everyone knew that Healwell Clinic was utterly lost.

This fire had burned down the best medical clinic in the southern city district.

“Woo~ woo~ woo~!”

At this moment, two fire trucks finally arrived, albeit belatedly.

As the firefighters got out of their vehicles, Elijah saw them as if they were his saviors. He staggered over and pleaded, “Hurry! There are still two people inside. Please save them!”

“More people inside?”

As they looked at Healwell Clinic, which was being devoured by flames, the group of firefighters chose silence.

With such an intense fire, the people inside were most likely beyond saving.

Now, they could only try to minimize the losses.

“Why aren’t you going into the fire? There are people inside! Please save them!” Elijah was anxiously imploring.

“Sir, we will do our best to rescue them, but you need to be prepared mentally. With a fire of this magnitude, if there are still people inside, it’s likely too late to save them,” one firefighter regretfully explained.

As he finished speaking, there was a sudden “bang,” and the window on the third floor was suddenly smashed open.

Following that, a figure covered in flames, holding a soaking wet blanket, leaped from the third floor.

That brave figure descended like a god, shaking the heavens and the earth.

Chapter 1389: Criminal Act

“Boom!”

Amid the rapt attention of onlookers, Dustin, engulfed in flames, leaped high into the air and then landed with a resounding thud.

His feet left several cracks in the ground.

“Phew!”

A gust of wind swept by, and the flames on Dustin’s body instantly vanished, replaced by billowing white mist rising from the surface of his skin.

It had an aura of mystery and a touch of ethereal beauty.

“Ah?”

Seeing this scene, the entire crowd was left dumbfounded.

Even the seasoned firefighters were left speechless.

No one had expected that, faced with a raging fire, someone would actually emerge alive, and from the third floor, no less, without a scratch.

This display of courage, fearlessness, and even madness was truly shocking.

“Am I seeing things? The person who just went in actually came out alive?”

“Not only did he survive, but he also saved someone.”

“Oh my goodness! Who on earth is this guy? He can’t even be burned by fire. It’s unbelievable!”

...

After a brief moment of silence, the entire scene erupted in astonishment.

Everyone looked at Dustin as if he were some kind of a marvel.

“Dustin? Y-y-you... you’re okay?” Dr. Elijah was bewildered, finding it hard to believe.

“Lucky. I managed to escape in time before the fire engulfed me.”

Dustin spoke as he gently placed a wet blanket on the ground.

The blanket had been soaked in water, emitting white steam, but it had not caught fire.

Upon opening the blanket, they saw the emaciated figure of Mr. Lorenzo lying quietly inside.

Though his breathing was weak, he was thankfully unharmed.

“That’s great, that’s great! Master Lorenzo is safe!”

Elijah was overwhelmed with joy, shedding tears of relief.

Just a moment ago, he had thought that Lorenzo was beyond rescue, but Dustin had shown incredible bravery by rushing into the fire and rescuing him from the brink of death.

Dustin examined Lorenzo’s condition, then placed him in the car and turned to look at Elijah, asking, “Dr. Elijah, how did Healwell Clinic, which was perfectly fine, suddenly catch fire?”

“I don’t know either. I just went out for a little while, and the fire started.” Elijah shook his head.

Every morning, just as the day was breaking, he would take a stroll in the nearby park to stretch his muscles and bones, but he usually didn’t spend more than half an hour.

Over the years, he had never made a mistake, but he couldn't believe that when he returned this morning, Healwell Clinic was on fire.

"When does Healwell Clinic usually open its doors?" Dustin asked again.

"At eight o'clock every day," Elijah replied.

"It's not even eight o'clock yet, so you mean Healwell Clinic caught fire before it even opened."

Dustin furrowed his brow slightly and continued, "Dr. Elijah, during the time you were out, was there anyone else inside Healwell Clinic?"

"No," Elijah shook his head. "Roselyn went out with some friends last night and hasn't come home yet. Besides, it's still early, and my disciples and apprentices haven't arrived."

"Dr. Elijah, I don't think this fire was accidental," Dustin said after a brief contemplation. "Healwell Clinic wasn't open for business yet, and the pharmacy wasn't even operational, so the chances of an accidental fire are very slim. Moreover, the fact that it caught fire right after you left seems too coincidental. It appears to be a case of criminal act."

"What? Criminal act?!"

Upon hearing this, Elijah immediately furrowed his brow and his face filled with anger. "I've spent my whole life doing good deeds and accumulating virtue. I've never done anything immoral. Who could be so heartless as to set my Healwell Clinic on fire?"

He had practiced medicine for decades, always adhering to the principles of healing and saving lives.

Chapter 1390: Truly Despicable

On ordinary days, Dr. Elijah treated poor patients without taking a single penny. He believed he was true to his conscience, and he felt that he had done right by all the patients who came to Healwell Clinic. He never expected that, despite his good deeds and kindness, he would end up in such a dire situation.

Half a lifetime of effort and dedication had been reduced to ashes in an instant, leaving him somewhat disheartened.

“Dr. Elijah, although I can’t be completely certain, I have a suspect,” Dustin suddenly spoke.

“Who is it? Who could be so malicious?” Elijah asked, his anger evident.

“The Stratford family,” Dustin uttered the two words coldly.

“The Stratford family?” Elijah was momentarily taken aback, his face showing a contemplative expression.

Although there was no concrete evidence, Dustin’s words were not baseless. The Stratford family had resorted to all kinds of threats and inducements in their pursuit of taking over Healwell Clinic. The thug, Lenny, who had caused trouble a few days ago, had been sent by the Stratford family.

If anyone had the greatest suspicion of setting the fire, it was undoubtedly the Stratford family.

“They couldn’t obtain it, so they destroyed it. The Stratford family is truly despicable!” Elijah was trembling with anger.

How could he not be furious when decades of hard work were destroyed in a single day?

“Beep, beep!”

At that moment, a white Maserati suddenly pulled over by the side of the road.

Subsequently, the passenger-side door opened, and Sebastian Stratford stepped out first. He respectfully opened the rear door and escorted Owen and Isabela out.

At this time, the firefighters were still using water hoses to extinguish the fire. Black smoke billowed around, and dust filled the air.

Owen ostentatiously opened an umbrella and stepped out, shielding Isabela from the newly risen sun.

“Oh! What’s going on here? Why is it on fire?” Owen covered his nose and mouth with a handkerchief, deliberately wearing a surprised expression. Then,

with a tone filled with sarcasm, he said, “Dr. Elijah, oh Dr. Elijah, you’re really not careful at all, are you? Look, the most famous clinic in South City has been ruined. What a pity!”

Elijah clenched his teeth and wanted to lash out, but he saw several bodyguards standing behind Owen and restrained himself. The Stratford family was a powerful and influential family in the South City area, and even if they were truly responsible for the criminal act, there was little he could do. First, there was no concrete evidence, and second, he couldn’t contend with them.

“Dr. Elijah, you’re getting up there in years. It’s time for you to retire and enjoy your old age. What’s the point of guarding Healwell Clinic all day? If you ask me, burning it down might be a good thing. That way, you can live a carefree life,” Owen said with a mocking tone.

“So, Healwell Clinic was really set on fire by you?” Dustin interjected suddenly.

“Huh? Be careful what you say; you can eat a careless meal, but you can’t speak carelessly. Without evidence, you’d better not spread baseless accusations, or I might sue you for defamation,” Owen retorted with a smirk.

“Dustin, we meet again,” Isabela stepped forward, her gaze somewhat complicated. “Thank you for curing my grandfather. Our Torby family owes you a favor.”

“I can’t accept any favors from your Torby family,” Dustin replied impassively.

“Hmm?” Isabela furrowed her brow slightly but quickly regained her composure. She took out a check and wrote a few lines on it. Then, she handed it to Dustin, saying, “This is a two million check as a token of our gratitude.”

“Two million?” Dustin accepted the check and glanced at it indifferently. “Miss Isabela, you are quite generous, living up to the reputation of a wealthy family’s heiress. Unfortunately, your money doesn’t interest me.”

With a flick of his hand, he sent the check soaring into the air, landing precisely within the fire. It was instantly reduced to ashes.