When His Eyes Opened by Simple Silence Chapter 281

Chapter 281 The next day, Chad bore through the pain of being hungover and arrived at the office.

Elliot glanced at him and said, "How did you end up in this state?"

"Mike deliberately made me drink last night! Before I could ask him any questions, I was drunk.

Although I didn't get to ask him much, I realized that he has a scar on his head."

"Is it an obvious scar?"

"Yes, he must have had a craniotomy before." Mike had carried Chad to the hotel, and on their way there, he had noticed a secret scar hidden under Mike's blond hair.

That morning when he woke up, as expected, he shared the same bed with Mike. However, this time, he was not angry. He did not even kick or hit Mike!

On the contrary, while Mike was sleeping soundly, he pried his blond hair apart and took a picture of the scar. It had clearly been caused by surgical sutures.

"Look" Chad showed Elliot the photo that he had secretly taken. "This h uge round scar. He must have had a craniotomy!"

"Craniotomy is not a minor surgery." Elliot looked at the photo and said in a low voice, "Ask him the next time what happened. Don't drink with him the next time, just ask him directly. Go back and rest!"

"Okay." Although Chad's head hurt badly, he was still lucid. "Mr. Fost er, are you investigating Mike because you're suspicious of Miss Tate?"

Elliot's eyes fluttered a little. "Don't you think she's acting strange?" "Yes! I do find her strange! She clearly loves you, but why did she divor ce you?" Chad asked in confusion. "I know that she is jealous of Shea, but can't she be more tolerant of atypical people? I'm a little disappointed in her!"

Elliot was speechless

They were not talking about the same thing.

"Go back and rest. In the

future, if you're hungover, don't come to work." Elliot turned around in his leather chair.

When Avery had divorced him, she had not known that Shea was disabled. He never once blamed Avery. If they really had to find fault with someone, it had to be him.

Elliot received a phone call from Zoe at five in the afternoon

"Elliot, my dad is back in the country. Are you busy right now? He wants to have dinner with you tonight."

Elliot looked at the time for a moment and replied, "Okay."

"Right, by the way, I told you that my parents are divorced. My dad wil I be bringing his new girlfriend as well. I hope you don't mind?" Zoe hesitated for a while before coming clean.

Elliot replied, "No, I don't mind."

He did not have

his eyes on Zoe, and neither was he interested in her father's new girlfri end.

An hour later, Elliot met Zoe's father and his new girlfriend. Instantly, his mind went blank. He forgot what he should say or do.

His sharp gaze landed on the new girlfriend.

"Mr. Foster, do you recognize me?" Wanda smiled and said, "Although we used to be related, we have ne ver truly met! I never thought that we would meet this way." Elliot's expression instantly darkened. The atmosphere was getting awkward and colder as time went by. At that moment, Elliot's phone rang. He picked the call up and stro de out of the restaurant.

When His Eyes Opened by Simple Silence Chapter 282

Chapter 282

It was a call from Chad.

"Mike said that there used to be a malignant tumor in his brain. When it got serious, he would pass out and lose consciousness. It was Professor Hough that removed his tumor," said Chad.

Elliot said, "He still did not mention why he was working together with A *very*?"

"He did. He said he likes drones. Avery possessed a system that Jack Tate invented. After he perfected Jack's system, he was very satisfied with it, so he joined up with Avery and started a company together."

The answer was flawless.

After the call, Elliot headed back to the restaurant. Although he resented Wanda, he was asking a favor from Zoe, so he had to show some respect to the woman.

After he entered the restaurant, Zoe immediately walked over to him and said, "Elliot, I'm sorry. This is the

first time I'm meeting Wanda. I did not know that she was Avery's stepmother. I rarely

talk to my father, so he didn't tell me about this beforehand either."

After listening to her explanation, Elliot strode over to the table and sat down.

"Hello, Richard," said Elliot to Zoe's father. As for Wanda, he treated h er as if she were nothing more than a passing breeze.

"Hello, Elliot." Richard smiled awkwardly. "I'm sorry, I've been abroa d for a long time, and I have never discussed the past with Wanda, so I didn't know that you two have history."

"It's fine. Avery and I are divorced," Elliot said calmly.

Wanda could see that Elliot had a problem with her. She thought for a while before saying," Elliot, I am very sorry about what happened in the past. If ve also called Avery and apologized to her already. I offered her seven hundred million, but she didn't want to accept it."

Elliot's eyes swept over Wanda.

Zoe exclaimed in surprise, "You have seven hundred million dollars?!"

The amount was enormous!

She never thought that Wanda would have so much money.

"I don't have that much money, but if I mortgage my company, it would be enough to gather this amount. I did it to show my sincerity," lamented Wanda. "I hoped to reconcile with Avery, but it's not going well."

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Zoe saw how dark Elliot's expression was, so she said, "Wanda, let's not talk about this."

"Okay, I'll stop," Wanda knowingly stopped talking.

Returning from the meal, Elliot was even more determined that he should not follow Zoe's advice.

If Avery knew that Wanda was Zoe's father's current girlfriend and possibly even Zoe's future stepmother, Avery would stop contacting him.

Shea suddenly walked over and hugged him. Elliot felt his sister's warmth and how much she relied on him. His chest felt tight. Although she showed more intelligence than before, she still could not take care of herself.

It was almost New Year's. After that, she would begin the next stage of her treatment. He was looking forward to that.

However, tonight's meeting with Wanda disgusted him. As long as he and Zoe were

so-called lovers, then they might still have a second meal, third meal, and so forth with Wanda.

"Shea, do you like Dr. Sanford?" Elliot held Shea's hand and sat down on the sofa.

Shea pursed

her lips. Her bright eyes looked at Elliot. She did not like Zoe, but she knew that Zoe was her brother's girlfriend.

"What about you?" Shea had learned how to answer a question with one of her own.

Elliot shook his head and explained, "I need her to treat you. Shea, she could cure you."

Upon hearing how he did not like Zoe, Shea got bolder. "Avery can treat me too!"

Elliot furrowed his brows. He realized that things were not as simple as they seem!

"Shea, has Avery treated you before?"

She pursed her lips and nodded.

Elliot placed his hands on her shoulders. He studied her with his dark eyes, "When has she treated you? Was it when you were lost?".

When Shea was around, she always had a nanny to look after her. Elliot could keep track of Shea all day. Thus, it was easy for him to figure out that shea had met Avery only when she went missing!

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Chapter 283

Shea knew she could no longer hide it, yet she was afraid as her brother looked so serious and stern. So, she lowered her head and said nothing.

At the Starry River Villa, Mike

was in the hall boasting about how great his alcohol tolerance was, and how easily he had gotten Chad drunk!

He also paraded how easy it was to lie and fool Chad.

"Avery, I'm great,

right?" Mike was looking for praise. "Chad definitely reported it to his boss! Don't worry. Elliot will not suspect you."

Avery was

peeling some apples. She passed them to him. "You finally have some b rains."

"Hey! That was uncalled for! I

always have brains, please!" Mike angrily accepted the apple and took a hard bite. "I just don't like to think. Once I do, even Sherluck Helmes is no match for me."

At that moment, Layla brought an album over.

"Mommy, who is this man? He's so handsome! I like him very much!"

Layla had come out of Avery's room. Avery looked at the album in Lay la's hands. She immediately placed her knife down.

"Layla, why are you going through my things again?" Avery took the al bum and shut it.

Eric's photos were in the album. Avery was a fan of his.

"Mommy, if you didn't want me to see it, you should have locked it up!"
"Layla looked aggrieved. "Why won't you let me see it? I like that han dsome man too!"

Hayden glanced at the album and said, "Infatuated fool."

"Mommy likes him too! If you're calling me an infatuated fool, that me ans you're calling Mommy a fool too!" Layla retorted logically.

Hayden could not win, so he turned around and returned to his room.

Layla lay in Avery's arms and said sweetly, "Mommy, if you're going to find a boyfriend in the future, use this handsome man as a benchmark. If you can bring such a handsome man home, Grandma and I won't object to it."

Laura could not help but laugh when he heard what Layla said, Avery's head hurt. She was just about to lecture her daughter when someone rang the doorbell.

It was nine at night. Other than Tammy, no one would usually come over to visit. However,

Tammy never comes at night.

Mike was already at the door. He looked through the peephole.

"Damn! Avery! Your ex-husband is here!" Mike did not dare open the door. He quickly returned to the living area. "He has even brought someone over."

Who?

Avery passed Layla to Laura. Laura immediately took Layla to the room.

"Shea is here too," whispered Mike.

Avery furrowed her brows. Why did Elliot bring Shea over here so late at night?

She

walked over to the door and opened it. Before she could say anything, E lliot asked Shea," Is It here?"

Shea walked into the room. When she saw Avery's cold expression, She a pursed her lips not daring to make a sound.

Elliot held on to Shears hand and walked past Avery, entering the living area.

"Elliot—"Avery took a deep breath, turned around, and went after him.

"Shut up!" Elliot barked. He interrupted her and said, "Avery, when Sh ea went missing, was she here with you?"

Avery was speechless. He had still found out about it in the end.

Elliot saw the reaction on Avery's face and got his confirmation.

An ice-cold feeling rose from the bottom of his heart.

"How did she end up here? Why didn't you tell me?" Elliot approached Avery and looked at her coldly. He enunciated each word, "Were you happy looking at me going crazy looking for her!"

When His Eyes Opened by Simple Silence Chapter 284

Chapter

284 Back then, Elliot had spent one hundred and fifty—five million doll ars looking for Shea. The entire county knew of his search for her. He had not believed that Avery had anything to do with the matter.

Avery's face flushed from Elliot's questions! The tone of his voice made it clear that he thought that Avery had abducted Shea and had taken Shea to her house.

At that point in time, Avery had not even had the time to think. She had a high fever! If she had returned Shea to him while Shea still suffered from a fever, he would think that she had not even cared for her while Shea had been with her.

"Yes!" Avery

yelled, agitated. "I was extremely happy to see you go crazy!"

Suddenly, everything went black! The lights in the house went out!

"Ah!" Shea was so frightened she immediately found someone to hug.

Mike jumped. "Why are you hugging me? Let go!"

"I'm scared! Scared!" Shea continued exclaiming in alarm. Mike gave in and exhaled. It was just a

hug! He did not lose anything by it! Why should he argue with a mentally challenged woman?

Furthermore, Elliot would soon take her away.

Just when Mike thought that Elliot would reclaim Shea, he said, "It's yo ur son that took Shea out of school, right? You were the one who told h im to do it!"

Mike was perplexed. What the hell was going on with Elliot? Shea was yelling in fright, yet he did not care. Instead, he was pursuing his argument with Avery.

"Yes! I told my son to do so!" Avery's voice was louder than his. Her e motions overpowered his. "I deliberately got my son to take Shea home. I wanted to see what type of woman you desired; I wanted t o see how powerful she was! Who would have thought that she's an idi ot!"

Elliot could insult her all he wanted, but she would not stay calm if he h ad dragged Hayden into the argument.

His string of questions made Avery lose it.

He wanted her to become that evil woman, so she was going to show him how evil she was!

After what she said, the entire world went silent. Suddenly, the lights came back on!

Avery saw Elliot's dark expression. His eyes were red, and his fists were clenched tightly. It felt as if he was about to hit her the very next second!

Avery's heart was beating wildly. She quickly came to her senses. How could she call Shea an idiot? Even if it was out of spite, she should not say that in front of Shea!

Avery looked around in search of Shea, trying to locate where she was.

Laura and the two children were in the children's room, staring at Shea. Shea looked at the ground. They had all heard what Avery had said. At that moment, despite not liking her, all they could feel for her was sympathy.

"Shea, what my mommy said just now is not true," Layla said in her childish voice. "My mommy didn't ask my brother to take you home. My mommy is lying. So, she's also lying when she says you're an idiot."

Shea's eyes brightened at Layla's words. Previously, Layla had always ignored her. At that moment, Layla was the one who had made the first move. Shea felt a little delighted.

"I am an idiot!" Shea blinked her sparkling eyes and said honestly, "Avery is not lying."

Everyone in the room fell silent.

In the living area. Elliot's body stiffened. His eyes were red, and they looked watery. He looked at Avery, heartbroken, "Avery, you can hurt me, but you can't say that about Shea!"

His every word was laced with hatred and disappointment.

Avery was just about to apologize, but she swallowed her words. "Take Shea and leave!" she spat coldly before striding into her bedroom.

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Chapter 285

Avery slammed the door and locked it from within.

Mike saw that the argument had ended. He immediately took Shea out of the children's room.

"Hey! Foster!" Mike had initially wanted to stand up for Avery.

Elliot glared at him warningly, "Shut up!"

Mike held his tongue. He saw Elliot walking over to Shea and taking her away.

It was drizzling when they exited the villa. Elliot took off his jacket and draped it over Shea's head.

When they entered the car, Shea was hugging his jacket. She looked at the villa.

Elliot put on the safety belt for her and said hoarsely, "Shea, stop looking."

"Big Brother, I'm sorry..." Shea said. Tears streamed down her face.

"Shea, you

did nothing wrong. You don't have to apologize to anyone." Elliot raised his hands and wiped the tears away from the corner of her eyes.

Shea cried, "Big Brother, it was me. I was afraid of the surgery, so I ran away. I was the one who begged Hayden to take me away..."

She had not

dared to tell him the truth earlier on, however, at that moment, she had finally found the courage to tell the truth.

Elliot's mind was

suddenly filled with Avery's cold gaze. Why did she not explain herself? Could it be that she felt pleasure by infuriating him?

"Big

Brother, don't blame Avery. She treats me well. I was feeling terrible w hen I was sick. She was the one who cared

for me." Shea choked. She remembered the scene from that night." She gave me an injection. Avery is amazing..."

Elliot took a tissue to wipe her tears away. He swallowed. "You got Hayden to take you back to his place, then you got sick. Avery treated you. What happened then? Was she the one who sent you to the hospital?"

Shea looked at Elliot with tears in her eyes. "I don't remember anymore. I only remember that Avery treated me very well. She was not like tonight. She is not a bad person."

"She called you an idiot, aren't you angry?" Elliot's eyes were pricked with tears. The thought of it still broke his heart.

He knew that Avery was not a bad person, but what she said hurt him deeply. In the years they

were children, Shea's condition was not as bad as it currently was. Her current condition was a result of the abuse she had suffered at the hands of their father.

He would never let anyone else bully Shea!

Shea's eyes were

red. She shook her head. "You got Dr. Sanford to treat me. Isn't that because I' m an idiot?"

Elliot hugged Shea tightly. He choked, "Shea, no! You're not an idiot. I'm asking Dr. Sanford to treat you so that you can experience more of the beauty of this world—".

"Because I'm an idiot, I'm not smart enough. Big Brother, I'm an idiot. Avery is not wrong. I'm not angry. You don't have to get angry too, please?" pleaded Shea.

When Elliot heard his

sister's soft and gentle pleas, he caved in. He gripped the steering wheel with one hand. He looked out the window.

Tears fell silently from his eyes.

"There's nothing wrong with being an idiot." Shea hugged his jacket and took a deep breath. She said to

herself, "As long as Big Brother is with me all the time, I can always be an idiot."

Elliot's lips moved a little, but he said nothing. He must cure his sister. She will not stay an idiot forever!

In the villa, Avery was lying on her bed in pain. She felt as if there were no difference

between living and dying. She should not have been this agitated. She c ould have properly explained it to him, but she did not do it!

She had failed to do so because he had not confronted her with the right intentions. From the moment he had entered her house, he had never lo oked her in the eye, nor did he have the patience to listen to her explanations.

He had come over this night only to find fault with her! This was her house, why did she have to be wronged here!

Avery picked up her pillow and covered her face. She was filled with regret! She should not have called Shea an idiot. How was that any different than Elliot immediately assuming that she kidnapped Shea? How could she insult Shea because of Elliot's hurtful words? However, it was too late. She heard the sound of the car roaring to life outside her window.

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Avery came out of her bedroom. Everyone looked at her at the same time. No one said anything. The atmosphere was extremely awkward.

"Did I cross a line just now?" Avery walked to the sofa and sat down. "I shouldn't have said that about Shea."

"No! It was that jerk Elliot who yelled at your first. The moment you said anything he asked you to shut up. I feel like you should have really given it to him! If I were you, I would have

yelled him to death! Not only would I have called Shea an idiot, but I w ould have said that their entire family was a family of idiots!" said Mike, hoping to comfort her.

Avery was slightly stunned at Mike's comments.

Laura also chimed in comfortingly, "Avery, you were angry. If he had any sense in him, he would know that you did not do it on purpose."

"I don't care what he thinks of me. I'm afraid that Shea would be sad."

Avery lowered her gaze and sighed.

She did not care what Elliot thought. She was afraid that her words spoken out of spite would hurt Shea.

"Shea is not angry. She said that she is an idiot anyway," Mike comfort ed her.

"And that is why I'm feeling guilty." Avery was antsy. She got up from the sofa and returned to her room once again.

Layla and Hayden saw how their mother blamed herself, and they felt te rrible too. Tonight, Hayden finally understood how truly different shea was from them.

Although Shea looked like an adult woman, she did not have the intellig ence of an ordinary

person. If a young child were to be called an idiot, they would cry and r esist the insult. Thus, it seemed pointless for him to be so hostile toward Shea.

Returning to their room, Layla took out her watercolor pens and started drawing.

Hayden went over to have a look.

"Hayden, can you give this to Shea tomorrow?" Layla drew a flower on a piece of white paper.

Hayden was reluctant, but he did not refuse

Layla. "I just feel sad for Shea!" Layla's eyes were red. She

pouted. "Who would want to be an idiot?

Only an idiot would not mind being an idiot."

Hayden accepted her painting and placed it in his bag.

"Let's not bully Shea too much in the future, okay?" Layla took Hayden 's hand and said to him, "We can hate our dirtbag dad, we don't have to hate Shea."

During recess the next day, Shea went to Hayden's classroom as usual. Hayden turned around

Shea was

delighted to be given the painting. It was as if last night's incident had no effect on her.

"I like it!" Shea hugged Hayden. Hayden was speechless. He had decide d that he would not be so hostile toward her, but he still could not take her being so emotional!

Hayden pushed her away with all his might and quickly returned to the classroom. He closed the door.

Soon, Shea's nanny came over with a basket of fresh fruits and snacks. The nanny handed the basket to Hayden's teacher.

"Shea got me to give this to Hayden," the nanny said. She glanced at Hayden. Coincidentally, Hayden looked up too.

In

that split second, the nanny seemed to have seen Elliot instead of Hayde n.

The nanny

returned to Shea's room. Shea was still admiring the painting.

"Shea." The nanny sat down next to her. "Do you think that Hayden looks like your brother?"

Shea nodded. "I like Hayden."

"What I mean is that Hayden might be your brother's son." There was no one in the room, which was why the nanny spoke freely. "If Hayden is truly your brother's son, that means you' re his aunt." "Aunt?" Shea furrowed her brows a little.

When His Eyes Opened by Simple Silence Chapter 287

Chapter

287 "Yes! Shea, you're an aunt!" The nanny chuckled, then sighed. "B ut I don't think your brother knows about it. I can't be sure that Hayden is your brother's son too."

"He doesn't like Big Brother." Shea looked disappointed.

The nanny said, "That's because your brother has a girlfriend right now. I should really stop talking about this. Their affairs are too complicated."

Shea automatically filtered out the complicated matters and continued admiring the painting that Hayden had given her.

That weekend, Tammy and Avery went out clothes shopping. "If everything goes right, I'm going to Jun's house to celebrate New Year's." Tammy sounded a little nervous. "I heard my father and his father discussing our marriage."

Avery

smiled and said, "Isn't that a good thing? You guys have been together for a long time. It 's time you got married."

"But we're both still young! We have not had enough fun yet!" Tammy pulled Avery into a

Avery said, "What's the difference between you two right now and getting married? When

comes with marriage. But you and Jun are planning to spend your lives with each other, right?"

"Yes, we do plan to spend our lives together, but who knows how we w ould think in the future? What if we get sick of each other?" Tammy w alked to the section that held the latest season's collection and picked up a casual jacket. "Avery, what do you think of t his jacket?"

"It's too old fashioned," Avery answered without thinking.

Avery replied, "Oh, I was wondering since when did you have such strange tastes."

"Avery, what's with you today? How could I buy Jun this type of clothing?" Tammy took a jab at Avery, "Are you in love?"

Avery said, "Have mercy! I want to live a few more years."

"Haha! You're right. It's less troublesome being single." Tammy had a look at the size of the jacket before asking the staff, "Is there a triple XL for this jacket?"

"There is only double XL for this model. What do you think of this one? This comes in triple XL." The staff showed Tammy another version of the jacket.

Avery did not have a father or any uncles, so there was nothing she wanted to buy.

Avery did not have a father or any uncles, so there was nothing she wanted to buy

She sat down on the sofa, casually flipping through a fashion magazine.

Suddenly, a

pair of black boots came into view. She looked up and saw Zoe's face. I t was sudden and unexpected.

"Avery, what

a coincidence!" Zoe was accompanying her father shopping that day. She had heard Tammy say Avery's name a moment ago which was why she walked over.

"What a coincidence." Avery sat on the sofa without moving.

Richard walked over and looked at Avery. He asked his daughter, "Is she your friend?"

Zoe replied, "She is Elliot's ex-wife, Avery Tate."

"Oh..." Richard knew about Avery. However, this was his first time see ing her in person. She was different from her photos. She was much more attractive in person.

"I'm done trying on clothes," said Richard to Zoe. He did not acknowle dge Avery. Wanda loathed Avery to death, cursing her in front of him e very single day

"Oh, if you like them, just get them all!" said Zoe. She took a card out from her bag. "After all, Elliot is paying for them."

Zoe was insinuating that Elliot had given her that card. The staff accepte d the card and got her to sign the receipt.

"This is my boyfriend's card. Should I sign my signature or his?" Zoe's voice was deliberately loud. It was loud en ough for Avery to hear.

"You can sign yours," the staff member said with envy. "Your boyfrien d sure spoils you. There is no spending limit on this card!" Zoe smiled happily, "Yes! He treats me the best. I love him very much too."

When His Eyes Opened by Simple Silence Chapter 288

Chapter

288 Avery continued to flip through the magazine. She did not react. Her magazine was suddenly taken away.

"Won't you feel uncomfortable staying here?" Tammy pulled her up from the sofa "How unlucky! Meeting annoying people while out shopping."

Tammy intentionally said it out loud so Zoe could hear.

Avery said, "The shop is here, and anyone can enter."

"Which is why I said we're unlucky! I'm not shopping here anymore! Let's leave." Tammy tugged

Avery's hand. She wanted to pull her away.

Avery said, "Why are you such a coward?"

Tammy was stunned by this statement. Yes! Why was she being a coward? She was not afraid of Zoe, why did she have to leave?

Tammy randomly took a few pieces of clothing and headed to the cashier, pulling Avery along.

"What's so great about swiping another person's card that you have to boast about it? It's like they're not afraid to let people know that they rely on others." Tammy mocked Zoe with a smile and said, "True power is the ability to spend one's own money!"

Although Tammy did not directly mention Zoe's name, Zoe smiled and turned around when she heard what Tammy had said.

"My, isn't it Miss Sanford?" Tammy pretended to be stunned and exag gerated her reaction," Miss Sanford, you're here shopping? Why is your boyfriend not with you? I heard that you and your boyfriend have gotte n closer recently. Could all of that have been a ruse? If not why, why did he only give you his card? Everyone has a card, Miss Sanford."

Zoe's expressions darkened to the shade of her black card. She knew that Tammy was the only daughter of the Lynchs, and they owned depar tmental stores all around the country. She was wealthy.

Zoe thought about Avery being the boss of the Tate Industries. She was wealthy too.

Although Elliot had given her a card to use as she pleases, without Ellio t, her wealth could not match that of Avery's or Tammy's.

The staff started packing the clothes Tammy had placed on the counter.

"Miss, didn't you ask for triple XL? These sizes are not right," said the staff member gently.

Tammy smiled calmly and said, "Pack these and everything else I looked at. It doesn't matter

if they are all the wrong sizes, I can always use them as rags."

Zoe's face tumed blue. Richard realized that Tammy was not a woman to be *offended*, so he pulled his daughter away.

Coming out of the shop, Zoe shrugged Richard's hand away. "Dad! Why did you pull me a way? I'm not afraid of them! It's so embarrassing this way!"

Richard said, "We've

already paid. Why are we still staying there? What good could come out of you fighting them? If Elliot finds out about this, do you think he will like you? Men do not like feisty vixens."

Zoe took a deep breath and suppressed her indignations.

In the shop, Avery placed the clothes whose sizes were not right back on the rack.

"Tammy, you were too reckless."

Tammy harrumphed, "You need to be firm when you go up against b*tc hes like her. Did you hear how loud she was when she showed off her card? It was as if she was using a megaphone. She was clearly talking loudly for you to hear. You might be able to take it, but I can't!"

Tammy had seen too many b*tches like Zoe whose tactics were not great, so it was a piece of cake for Tammy to deal with people like them.

Coming out of the shop, they found a restaurant to have a meal.

"Elliot has been treating Zoe extremely well." Tammy glanced at Avery, "Zoe's father has been back in the country for some time already. He w anted to invest in some businesses in the country. Elliot used his connections to introduce her to a few people."

She did not care about his relationship with Zoe.

"I just think that you don't really love him anymore, so I want to see yo ur reaction when I

"Even if I don't love him, that doesn't mean I want to hear about him." Avery picked up the glass of water and took a sip. "I want to see if you would be happy if I mentioned your ex in front of you."

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Chapter 289

"I'll still be happy! My ex and I are still good friends!"

Avery was speechless.

"Avery, who knows. Maybe they would get married," Tammy continued, "Rosalie likes Zoe a lot. Also, Elliot seemed to have come to his senses. Jun and I are speculating that if Shea's second operation is a success by New Year's, he will definitely marry Zoe."

Avery said calmly, "I wish them all the best."

"You have to look ahead too!" Tammy was worried for Avery. "You're still young. Your mom can help you take care of your two kids. Also, they are already in school, so you don't have to worry about them too much. You can start enjoying life." "I will enjoy it," Avery said with a smile. "Can you stop looking at me with pity? It's not illegal to be single, right?"

"Don't overthink it. I think you just have too much time on your hands. Why don't you plan your wedding?!"

"I have two children, how am I going to be your bridesmaid?"

"Whoever said that a divorcee who has children can't be a bridesmaid? I will make whoever

I want my bridesmaid," Tammy said. "This is perfect. Your children can be my page boy and flower girl."

Avery did not know whether to laugh or cry.

Her phone rang. She immediately picked up her phone and saw that it w as from Officer Boyd. She immediately answered the call.

"Miss Tate, James

Worsley decide to appeal. I just got the latest arrangement from the supr eme court. His case will only be heard in court next year, so have a good New Year's."

"Okay, thank you!"

"Don't worry. His appeal is just him trying to delay the outcome. The outcome will not change.

"Hmm, I have faith in our justice system."

That evening, Avery returned home with an assortment of bags.

The moment she entered, her two children immediately came over and took her shopping bags from her

"Mommy, what did you buy? The next time you go shopping with Aunt Tammy can you take me along?" Layla was already on winter break.

"It's cold outside. You'll freeze to death." Avery caressed her daughter's head. "I won't! I'll wear a beanie and a mask!" Layla took out the new clothes and shoes from the shopping bag.

Gradually, delight replaced her dissatisfaction.

Laura came over and said to Avery, "Your Uncle Ron is asking us to go back for New Year's. If you don't want to go, I'll go alone."

"Let me ask Mike if he is going back to Bridgedale."

"I've asked him. He said he is staying. He doesn't celebrate the New Year's in Bridgedale," Laura said.

"Oh, then why don't you go see Uncle Ron on your own? If you want to take the kids along too,

Laura shook her head. "I'm not taking the kids with me. They know that tyou have money now, which was why they contacted me. While I was abroad, not once did they contact me. They didn 't even inform me when your grandmother passed away."

"Why not

just stay here?" Avery felt sad when she saw her mother's disappointme nt.

"I have to go. I need to visit your grandmother's grave."

Avery hugged her mother. "Mom, you have to take good care of yoursel f. If not, I won't have any close family with me anymore."

"What nonsense! Even if I pass on, you still have your children!"

"It's different. I can be cheeky with you. I can't do that with my kids?"

Avery took a deep breath.

After dinner, the two children were playing in the living area with Mike.

Avery

was on her phone when she came across a news article. (Elliot Foster, P resident of Sterling Group, Buys His Girlfriend an Extravagant Wedding Ring!)

The photo was a secret snapshot. Avery recognized the figure in the photo. It was indeed Elliot. Next to him was Zoe, smiling brightly with a ring in her hand!

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Chapter 290

Avery looked at the photo. Without knowing it, she fell into a daze. How could she not feel anything when it came to him?

Her heart hurt a little would she give him her blessing? No.

"Avery, what are you daydreaming about? Your children are bullying me! Come and help me!" Mike walked over to the sofa and pulled Avery up, placing himself behind her.

Avery immediately snapped back to reality. She looked normal.

"Hayden, about changing schools after the New Year's. Have you thought about it?"

This question instantly subdued the atmosphere in the living room.

"Mommy, are you letting

Hayden go to the same preschool as me?" Layla asked excitedly.

"Hayden is not going to preschool; he is going to elementary school," Avery said. Hayden nodded.

Although his relationship with Shea was not as bad as it was before, Sh ea was one of

Elliot's people, and he did not like Elliot one bit. So, only by leaving A ngela Special Needs Academy and Shea would he stay out of trouble.

"Woo, woo! I'm as big as Hayden. Why does he get to go to elementar y school while I'm still stuck in preschool? I want to go to elementary s chool too!" Layla grumbled while tugging on Avery's hand.

Laura

came over and picked Layla up. "Layla, even if you want to go to eleme ntary school, you have to wait for Hayden to get used to it before going. Okay?"

"Oh. Okay then!"

Avery smiled and said, "Layla, there's an entrance exam for the element ary school. Let's see whether Hayden can pass it or not."

Layla was in a daze. "Uh, that sounds hard. I think I'll stick to preschool!"

It started snowing heavily at eleven that night.

When Avery opened the window of her bathroom, she caught a glimpse of the view.

Coming out of her bathroom, she opened the curtains of her room. Look ing at the snow coming down, she felt calm.

She thought about her past to a time before she had broken up with Elliot. She remembered the things they had gone through. The passing of the seaso ns was a cycle of life and death.

For a person who was alive, what mattered the most was life and death. The others *were* unimportant

Avery took a deep breath. If it snowed through the night, she could buil d a snowman with her children tomorrow. They would be delighted.

with this sense of peace in her, Avery got in bed, switched off the lights, and went to sleep.

Elliot exited the study of his mansion and returned to his bedroom.

Elliot just came out from his study and returned to his bedroom. Just when he was about to close his curtains, he noticed the snow outside his window.

He blinked for a while. His hands hesitated for a bit too.

He suddenly thought back to the winter five *y*ears ago. Avery had knitted a sweater for him. It was a thick sweater. He never liked sweaters.

However, when he had received the sweater, he had immediately put it on. He still remembered how his heart had thrummed with joy when he wore the sweater she had made.

He walked over to his closet and opened it. In it, that ordinary—looking sweater was still hanging there. It stood out against all the other branded shirts and s

uits.

After their breakup, he had never worn it again.

He did not know why, but he took the sweater out and put it over his he ad. The sweater was warm, but his heart was cold.

That day, Zoe had asked him. She wanted to go shopping with him. He accompanied her. When they passed by a jewelry shop, she was attracte d by the pieces of jewelry there. She picked a very cheap ring. Elliot sai d nothing but paid the bill. It was as if he had given her the ring.

He was still not in love with her, but she was quiet. She never disturbed him. If he had to find a woman to se ttle down with, he could bear living with a woman like her. In the comi ng spring, if she could cure Shea, he was going to marry her.