

"The Mafia's Mermaid"

Genre:Urban Fantasy, Romance, Heartwrenching Love Story, Stronger Couple

Number of episodes:60 episodes

Episode duration:2 minutes

outline :

To protect his ex-girlfriend, the Sea Witch from being taken by her enemies, the mafia boss confines her within a diamond-studded fish tank—a move that sparks an intense, agonizing romance fraught with love and bloodshed.

brief introduction :

The mermaid princess Elowen is imprisoned by her ex-boyfriend, Adrian, the mafia boss, and is forced every day to shed tears to transform them into pearls. She hates him for abandoning her, yet remains unaware that he is secretly fighting against an evil clan intent on capturing the mermaid. When the conspiracy comes to light, can the two shattered hearts reignite their love?

Biographical Profile

Iloen (Main Female Character)

22 At [Age], she is a pure-blood mermaid princess—golden-haired with blue eyes, her fish tail resembling shimmering, multicolored pearls. While seemingly fragile on the surface, she is actually stubborn and intelligent; her tears can be transformed into priceless pearls, and her singing possesses spiritual control abilities. Five years ago, she fell in love with Alex, a undercover agent, but was abandoned and subsequently hunted, eventually ending up on the black market. Upon their reunion, she harbors hatred toward him for his coldness and ruthlessness, yet gradually comes to understand his plight. Deeply devoted and loyal, she is willing to sacrifice her mermaid blood to save her beloved. Ultimately, evolving from hatred to love, she grows into a queen capable of standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the mafia boss.

Adrian Moretti (Male Lead)

28 At [age], he became the new godfather of the Moretti family. His deep gray eyes mirror the winter sea; he is cold, taciturn, and ruthless in his methods. Five years ago, under the alias of marine biologist Alex, he infiltrated to investigate mermaid smuggling, where he fell in love with Iloen; however, upon his identity being exposed, he was forced to leave. After returning to the family, he assumed the role of godfather—appearing cold and unfeeling on the surface, yet harboring soft vulnerabilities within. To protect Iloen, he would not hesitate to use imprisonment as a guise for guardianship; he is stern in speech but tender at heart, preferring that she hate him rather than exposing her to danger. He possesses formidable combat skills and divine accuracy with his firearms; he is decisive and lethal toward enemies, yet remains clumsy yet gentle toward his loved one.

Uirah :

28 At this age, he relied particularly on the young heir of the Yara family. With blonde hair and blue eyes, he appeared charming and dashing on the surface, yet was actually cunning and greedy. His goal toward Iloen was unwavering; he allied with the Beckettli family in an attempt to seize her, but his conspiracy ultimately fell through, and he was defeated by Adrian.

Beketli:

The leader of the Russian Mafia—the mastermind behind the mermaid biological weapons experiments. Cold-blooded and ruthless, he resorted to any means necessary to achieve his goals; however, he was ultimately eliminated by a joint effort between Iloen and Adrian.

Moretti Family Founders:

Three elderly men with white hair hold sway over the family's economic lifeline; their sole pursuit of profit—forcing Iloen to shed tears while producing pearls—is the primary source of Edrian's inner turmoil.

outline :

Five years ago, the mermaid princess Elowen rescued the injured marine biologist Alex on the coast of California, and the two fell in love. Alex was actually a mole dispatched by the Moretti family of the Mafia to investigate mermaid smuggling; upon his identity being exposed, he was forced to leave. After his departure, Elowen was captured by mermaid hunters and became a commodity for black-market auction.

Five years later, Alex had become the godfather of the Moretti family. At an auction, he purchased Iloen for a staggering price of two billion, locked her inside a diamond-encrusted aquarium, and declared her his property. Iloen believed that he had changed; her heart was utterly extinguished. In reality, the Russian Beketli family was conducting large-scale captures of merfolk for biological weapons experiments, and Adrian could only protect her by keeping her under his control.

The family elders forced Iloen to shed tears while producing pearls; she was compelled to weep in public, and these pearls held immense value. The heir of the Yulaiya family coveted Iloen and joined forces with the Beketli family in an attempt to seize her. While managing both internal strife and external threats, Adrian secretly guarded Iloen. He had planted a bomb beneath her fish tank—should he fail to defend her, he would rather take his own life than let her fall into enemy hands.

The mercenary launched a night raid on the manor, during which Adrian was severely wounded by a gunshot while protecting Iloen. Iloen bit her own finger to draw upon the mermaid's blood to save him, and thus the two reconciled their past grievances. Adrian confessed the truth behind his departure from that time, and Iloen no longer harbored hatred toward him. However, the Beckettli family wielded immense power, prompting Iloen to decide to strike back. She used herself as bait to lure the enemy into a trap, joined forces with Adrian to launch a coordinated attack from both inside and outside, and ultimately destroyed the mermaid experiment base.

During the battle, Iloen lost her mermaid abilities and transformed into a human, yet Adrian remained by her side unwaveringly. The two held a wedding ceremony; her tears turned once more into golden pearls—tears of happiness—marking the moment when the Mafia and the Merfolk reconciled. Three years later, Iloen regained her abilities and gave birth to twin dragon-and-female twins. In a small seaside cottage, the family of four lived a peaceful and happy life.

the first episode

1-1 New York Underground Auction – Night

△In the dimly lit underground auction hall, the room was filled with men in black suits. The atmosphere was oppressive, and the air was permeated with the scent of cigars and whiskey.

△At the center of the stage, a massive transparent water tank is covered by a red cloth; the red cloth sways slightly, and the sound of water can be faintly heard.

The host (yells): "Dear distinguished guests, tonight's final auction lot has arrived!"

△The red cloth fell.

△In the water tank, Iloen's hands are bound by silver chains, while she floats suspended in the water.

△The entire venue fell silent, followed by bursts of exclamations.

Guest A: "My goodness, it's really a mermaid!"

Guest B: This skin tone, this scale—exquisite.

△Iloen closed her eyes, refusing to look at those greedy glances.

Host (excited): Pure-blooded mermaid, female, approximately 22 years old. Her tears can be transformed into SSS-grade pearls; her singing possesses spiritual control capabilities; the starting bid is \$50 million.

△Bidding wars erupted one after another.
Guest C: 60 million.

Guest D: Eighty million.

Guest E: One hundred million.

△Iloen's fingers were slightly curled.

△The door was suddenly pushed open, and everyone turned around.

△Adrian Moretti walked in. He wore a black suit and had deep gray eyes that mirrored the surface of the winter sea; six black-clad bodyguards followed behind him, their imposing presence silencing the entire room.

Host (voice trembling): "Mr. Moretti?"

△Adrian did not look at him; his gaze swept through the crowd and landed on Iloen.

△Iloen suddenly opened her eyes.

Iloen (whispering; bubbles bubble out from her lips): A... Alex?

△Adrian walked to the front row and stopped. He looked up at her in the tank, his lips slowly curling into a smile. Adrian (calm): Two billion.

△The entire venue was dead silent.

Host (stammering): II. Two billion US dollars?

Adrian (calmly): I'm talking about two billion. Now, give me the person.

1–2 Underground Auction – Secret Room – Night

△The door of the escape room was pushed open.

△Iloen was pushed forward by two bodyguards. Her fish tail dragged across the ground, its scales losing their luster; the shackles still clung to her hands, producing a crisp clinking sound.

△Adrian stood by the window, facing away from her.

Adrian (without looking back): "Go out."

△The bodyguard steps back. The door closes.

Iloen (hoarse): "Alex, is it you?"

△Adrian turned around. He walked toward her, looking down at her from above; his hand gripped her chin, forcing her to look up.

Adrian (softly): It has been so long since we last saw each other, my mermaid.

△Iloen's tears instantly welled up.

Adrian (his thumb brushed across her tears, gazing at the pearls formed at his fingertips): "Now, you are my private property."

△He put the pearl into his pocket and turned away.

△Iloen sat down on the ground, tears falling like rain.

Iloen (whispering): Why are you coming back? Why do you have to treat me this way?

△Outside the door, Adrian leaned against the wall, clutching the pearls in his pocket, his fingertips turning white.

Adrian (in a low voice, only he could hear): "Because only by locking you beside me can I guarantee your safety."

△He took a deep breath; the tenderness on his face vanished instantly, and he reverted to that cold-blooded godfather.

Adrian (coldly, to the bodyguard): Take the lady to my manor and have a fish tank custom-made—one adorned with diamonds.

Bodyguard: "Yes, boss."

Episode 2

2-1 Moretti Estate: Secret Room – Day

△A massive aquarium occupies an entire wall; its frame is adorned with diamonds, which refract dazzling light under the illumination.

△Iloen was placed in the fish tank. The chain was replaced with a thinner yet stronger silver chain—one end was tied to her wrist, and the other end was secured to the bottom of the tank.

△She looked around.

Housemaid (cautiously): Mr.Moretti has instructed me: if you need anything, simply ring this bell at any time.

△The maid placed a pearl button beside the vat.

Iloen (coldly): I need to go out.

Housemaid (sternly): "Well, Mr.Moretti says no."

△The door was pushed open; Adrian walked in, while the maid hurriedly retreated.

Adrian (approaches the fish tank and looks at Iloen inside): Do you like it? I've had someone transport seawater from the Indian Ocean, adjusting both its temperature and salinity to the optimal levels.

Iloen (fixing him with a stare): "Why?"

Adrian (tilting his head): What, why?

Iloen (voice trembling): Why have you locked me here? You left without saying a word back then, and now you're back—just to treat me like a pet?

Adrian (calmly): You are not a pet; you are an asset.

△Iloen was stunned.

Adrian (smiles, though the smile doesn't reach his eyes): The Mermaid's Tears—each one is worth a million. You are my money tree.

Iloen (tears welling up in her eyes): "Alex, you're not like this."

Edrian (interrupts): Alex is dead. Now it is Edrian Moretti, the patron of the Moretti family.

△He turned and walked away.

△Iloen closed her eyes, and tears finally fell.

2-2 Moretti Estate – Secret Room – Night – Inside

△Three days have passed.

△Iloen refused to eat and refused to cry. She curled up in the corner of the fish tank, where the scales on the fish's tail began to lose their luster.

Housemaid (anxious): Mr.Moretti, the lady has not eaten for three days now.

△Adrian stood in the surveillance room, watching Iloen on the screen. His expression remained unchanged, but his hand holding the coffee cup tightened slightly.

Adrian (coldly): "Then starve her until she eats."

Subordinate: Boss, the family elders are pressuring Pearl; they say that if she doesn't deliver the goods soon, they will...

Adrian (his eyes flashed): "What?"

Subordinate (looking down): They said that they cannot rule out resorting to extreme measures.

△Adrian remained silent for a few seconds.

Adrian (whispering): Take her to the basement.

Subordinate (stunned): Boss?

Adrian (coldly): "Do as I say; I want her to know the consequences of not listening."

2–3 Moretti Estate, Basement, Night, Inside

△The dim basement, with walls covered in various tools, looks like a torture chamber.

△Iloen was dragged inside and locked beside the pool; for the first time, a glimmer

of fear appeared in her eyes.

Iloen (with a trembling voice): What are you going to do?

Adrian (taking a soft whip from the wall and twirling it): "I've said it: you are an asset; if an asset does not obey, it will be corrected."

△He raised his whip.

△Iloen closed her eyes.

△The whip fell, striking the pond beside her, sending up splashes of water.

△Iloen opened her eyes and found that Adrian had not attacked her at all.

Adrian (in a low voice, audible only to her): "The performance is just barely good; someone outside is watching."

△Iloen was stunned. In her peripheral vision, she spotted the entrance to the basement, where two silhouettes were peering through.

△She suddenly understood what it was.

Iloen (suddenly screams): "Ah, stop hitting me! I want to eat—can't I just eat?"

△Adrian's lips curled slightly upward, yet his voice remained cold.

Adrian (in a loud voice): Just know that you're afraid; starting tomorrow, eat on time. If you don't eat anymore, it won't just be about going to the water trough anymore.

△He turned and walked away.

△Iloen lay on the edge of the pool, shivering all over.

△Outside the door, Adrian spoke coldly to the two eavesdroppers.

Adrian (coldly): "I see. She is my asset; I have the final say on how she is handled. If anyone dares touch her, do not blame me for being unkind."

△The two hurriedly retreated.

△Adrian glanced back at the basement door, and a faint, almost imperceptible tenderness flashed across his eyes.

Adrian (whispering): Just bear it a little longer.

Episode 3

3-1 Moretti Estate: Secret Room – Day

△Ilohn began eating. Holding a tray, she nibbled on sushi, and the scales on the fish tail regained some luster.

Housemaid (whispering): "Madam, do not blame Mr. Moretti—he actually..."

Iloen (interrupts): "I know."

△The maid was stunned.

Housemaid (glances around, lowers her voice): "Do you see it already?"

△The door was suddenly pushed open.

△Adrian walked in with a gloomy expression.

Adrian (to the maid): "Go out."

△The maid hurriedly retreated.

Adrian (approaching the fish tank): Do you know now?

Iloen (looking at him): Why are you playing that role? Just tell me there's someone watching—can't you do that?

Adrian (coldly): Because you are not cooperating—you won't eat, and your scales will fall off; the family elders will begin to suspect that I cannot bring myself to take action against you. Once they confirm that I have developed feelings for you, you will no longer be my asset, but rather my weak point.

△He paused for a moment.

Adrian (whispering): In the Mafia, anyone with a weakness will die.

△Iloen remained silent.

Adrian (turning to leave): "The family elders will be conducting an inspection tomorrow; I need you to cry."

Iloen (stunned): What?

Adrian (backing away from her): They want the pearls; I need you to shed tears before their eyes.

△He walked to the door and stopped.

Adrian (turning around, with a complex expression): This is the only thing you can do for me right now.

△The door closes.

△Iloen leaned against the tank wall, closing her eyes.

3-2 Moretti Estate: The Secret Room – Daytime

△The next day, the door to the escape room opened.

△Three elderly men with white hair walked in, followed by a group of bodyguards.

Veteran A (glancing at Iloen in the fish tank and nodding satisfied): "Good; its condition is indeed excellent."

Veteran B (glances at Adrian): Where are the pearls?

Adrian (calmly): Why are you so anxious? She's just arrived; she hasn't even adjusted yet.

Veteran C (snarls): "Edrian, we spent two billion not to buy a mere decoration. Within one week, we must see the first pearl; otherwise...".....

Iloen (softly): Adrian.

△Everyone looked at her.

Iloen (her eyes reddened): The things you said in the basement that day—were they true? You said you were just treating me as an asset?

Adrian (expression unchanged): Of course.

Iloen (tears fall): "What about five years ago? You said you loved me—was that also a lie?"

△The pearl slid down from her face, fell into the water, and made a clear, crisp sound.

△The veterans' eyes lit up.

Veteran A (reaching out to grab): "Fine pearl."

△Adrian grabbed his hand.

Adrian (coldly): "My things—do not touch them."

△He reached into the water personally and retrieved the pearl. Under the light, the pearl emitted a soft glow, and its quality was flawless. Elder B (Satisfied): "Very good; keep up this performance."

△The veterans left with satisfied smiles.

3-3 Moretti Estate: Secret Room – Daytime

△The room's door closed.

△Adrian walked to the fish tank and looked at the pearls floating in the water; he did not scoop them up.

Adrian (whispering): Those words aren't true.

Iloen (blows her tears away): Which one? The line about assets, or the line saying you love me?

△Adrian remained silent.

Iloen (with a bitter smile): Fine, I won't answer—I guess it's the latter.

△She sank into the water.

△Adrian stood by the tank, watching her figure swimming in the water.

Adrian (very low voice): None of the above.

△Outside the door, a bodyguard rushed in.

Bodyguard (whispering): Boss, people from the Yulaiya family have arrived. They heard that you've purchased a mermaid and wish to visit.

Adrian (a cold glint flashed in his eyes): Let them wait.

Episode 4

4-1 [Flashback] Five years ago, on the California coast, outdoors

△On a sunny seaside beach, a small white wooden cabin stands atop a cliff, facing the ocean.

△Iloen swam up from the sea, her fish tail shimmering under the sunlight; she lay on the reef, basking in the sun.

△In the distance, a young man was walking stumblingly toward them; his clothes were soaked through, he had a long wound on his arm, and it was still bleeding.

Young man (weakened): Help!

△He collapsed by the reef.

△Iloen was startled and instinctively tried to flee. However, the man had no weapon; he only carried an ocean biology student ID—Alex Chen.

△She hesitated for a moment, then swam over.

Iloen (whispering): "Hey, are you still alive?"

△The man did not respond.

△Iloen bit her finger and dropped a drop of blood into his mouth.

4-2 [Flashback] Five years ago – at a seaside cabin, during the night

△Alex woke up and found that his wound had already been bandaged.

△Iloen sat by the window, her fish tail hidden beneath the blanket.

Alex (Weakened): Are you a mermaid?

Iloen (nervous): If you dare tell anyone, I will kill you.

Alex (smiled): Don't worry—I study marine life; I've seen mermaids, but you were the first person to speak to me.

Iloen (curious): Have you ever seen merfolk?

Alex (nodding): "During deep-sea expeditions, they were all very afraid of people; whenever they saw me, they would run away."

△The two of them locked eyes, and the atmosphere was tense.

4-3 [Flashback] Five years ago – by the seaside, at night, outside

△As days passed, Alex's injury healed, but he did not leave.

△Under the moonlight, the two sat on a rock; Elwyn's fish tail was immersed in the seawater, while Alex sat beside her. Alex (in a low voice): Elwyn, I have something I need to tell you.

Iloen (tilts head): What?

Alex (hesitates): "I'm not just an ordinary marine biologist—I'm a undercover agent."

△Iloen was stunned.

Alex (struggling to speak): I am a mole sent by the Mafia family to investigate mermaid smuggling; my mission is to find the mermaids' habitat, and then...

Iloen (voice trembling): And what next? Taking all of them away?

Alex (shakes his head): No, my mission is to stop them.

△He held her hand.

Alex (seriously): My father was a member of the Moretti family; before he died, he told me that the family was involved in smuggling mermaids, and he asked me to infiltrate the organization, gather evidence, and then hand it over to the police.

Iloen (with tears in her eyes): "Then why did you tell me?"

Alex (softly): "Because I've fallen in love with you, I can't lie to you."

△Iloen threw herself into his arms.

Iloen (tears): You are not allowed to leave.

Alex (hugging her tightly): I won't leave.

4-4 [Flashback] Five years ago – at a seaside cottage, in the morning

△In the early morning, Irene woke up and found that everything around her was empty.

△There is a note on the bedside table.

Alex (voiceover, trembling): "Ilohn, I'm sorry—my family has discovered me; I must leave. Wait for me—I will definitely return."

△Ilohn rushed out of the door, but the beach was deserted.

△In the distance, several speedboats were visible on the sea; aboard one of them, Alex was pinned down by two men in black, his eyes fixed intently on the direction of the cabin.

△Ilohn sat down on the beach, sobbing loudly; her tears turned into pearls, scattering across the sand.

△The speedboat drifted away. [Flashback ends]

Episode 5:

5-1 Moretti Estate: Secret Room – Indoor

△Ilohn decided not to sit idly by and wait for death.

△She took a deep breath and began to sing.

△Outside the door, the two bodyguards suddenly stopped in their tracks, their eyes going vacant, as their hands slowly reached for the guns at their waists. Ilohn (singing continuously, with a cold gaze): "Enter; open the fish tank lock."

△The bodyguards mechanically pushed open the door and walked toward the fish tank.

△The alarm suddenly sounded.

△Adrian sprinted from the end of the corridor, wearing custom-made earplugs; he landed a series of punches, knocking out both of the controlled bodyguards.

△He stood before the fish tank and removed his earplugs.

Adrian (coldly): You've been playing this trick for five years now.

△Ilohn stopped singing, leaned against the tank wall, gasping for breath.

Ilohn (in despair): "Then why do you still want to keep me?"

△Adrian remained silent for a few seconds; then, he walked to the tank, reached into the water, and retrieved a pearl that had been resting at the bottom.

Adrian (gazing at Pearl, his voice low): "Because your tears are the most valuable."

△He put the pearl into his pocket and turned away.

△When he reached the door, he paused for a moment.

Adrian (backing away from her, his voice barely audible): "Besides, I'm not comfortable letting anyone watch you."

△The door closes.

△Ilohn was stunned.

5-2 Moretti Estate – Corridor – Indoor

△Adrian walked briskly down the corridor, his expression somber.

△He reached into his pocket and took out that pearl—no, several pearls; they were all tears that Ilohn had shed over these past few days.

△He held the pearl tightly in his hand, his finger joints turning pale.

Subordinate (approaching): Boss, members of the Yulaya family have arrived; they are waiting in the hall.

Adrian (inserting the pearl deep into his pocket): Let them wait.

Subordinate (hesitates): There's one more matter: the elders are very satisfied with today's pearls, but they've stated that at least three pearls should be delivered within one week.

Adrian (his eyes flashed): Tell them—no more than two; if there are more, the merfolk will go blind.

Subordinate (nodding): "Yes."

△Adrian took two steps, then stopped again.

Adrian (whispering): "Go investigate—who has the Yulaya family been in contact with lately?"

Subordinate: Yes.

5-3 Moretti Estate – Hall – Indoor

△Yulaiya stood at the center of the hall, dressed in a white suit, with blonde hair and blue eyes, her smile radiant.

Youlaiya (laughs): Adrian, I heard you have a mermaid; can you let me see her?

Adrian (entering the hall, with a cold expression): "No."

Youliya (frowning): "So narrow-minded—I just want to broaden my horizons."

Adrian (sitting on the sofa with his legs crossed): A \$2 billion experience to broaden your horizons—can you afford it?

△Yulaiya's smile froze.

You Laiya (dry laugh): Are you serious?

Adrian (calmly): I never joke with anyone.

△The two stared at each other, and the air was thick with a sense of impending conflict.

Youlaiya (shrinks her smile, with a meaningful expression): "Edrian, aren't you too concerned about that mermaid?"

Adrian (his expression remains unchanged): What concerns me are her tears, not her person.

Youlaiya (approaching, lowering her voice): "That's good. I've heard that someone is very interested in you—this mermaid—and has made a bid higher than yours."

△Adrian's fingers tightened slightly.

Adrian (cold voice): Who?

Youlaiya (takes a step back, her smile returning): Well... that's a business secret.

△He turned around and left; when he reached the door, he looked back.

Youlaiya (meaningful): "Edrian, be careful—humanoids like mermaids are not something anyone can truly protect."

△The door closes.

△Adrian sat on the sofa, motionless. Storms churned within his eyes.

Adrian (whispering): "Then let's see—who dares to come and steal?"

Episode 6

6-1 Moretti Estate – Secret Room – Night – Inside

△Late at night, Iloen couldn't sleep and swam slowly through the water.

△The door was gently pushed open, and Adrian walked in, holding a small plate; on the plate were fresh oysters and sea urchins.

Adrian (standing by the tank): "Eat it—your dinner didn't get much attention."

Iloen (emerging from the water, looking at him): "How do you know I didn't touch my dinner?"

Adrian (turns his head away): Surveillance.

△Iloen swam to the edge of the tank, picked up an oyster, and bit into it in small bites, her eyes remaining fixed on him throughout.

Iloen (suddenly asks): Who have you met today?

Adrian (stunned): What?

Iloen (calmly): "I have heard; mermaids possess ten times the hearing ability of

humans. I hear you speaking with someone in the hall—someone saying they intend to assault me."

△Adrian remained silent for a few seconds.

Adrian (sitting by the barrel, leaning against the glass): The Yuraya family—New York's second-largest Mafia family—has always sought to seize Moretti's territory.

Iloen (softly): "So you're looking at me even more closely?"

Adrian (with a bitter smile): "It's not just tighter—I've also planted a bomb right under your fish tank."

△Iloen was suddenly choked.

Iloen (shocked): What?!

Adrian (turning to look at her, his eyes filled with seriousness): If one day I cannot protect you anymore, I will personally detonate it; rather than letting you fall into the hands of others and face a life worse than death, it would be better if...

Iloen (interrupting, her voice trembling): You're crazy.

Adrian (softly): Perhaps.

△The two stared at each other through the glass.

Iloen (whispering): Alex, are you still the same person from five years ago?

Adrian (stood up, without answering): Goodnight.

△He turned and walked away.

△Iloen gazed at his back, and tears slipped silently down her cheeks. The pearls sank one by one to the bottom of the water—much like those forgotten tears from the beach five years ago.

6-2 Moretti Estate – Adrian's Study – Night – Inside

△Adrian sat at his desk, with a document spread before him. The cover of the document read: "Final Report of the Mermaid Protection Program."

△He opened the document; the first page featured a photograph. In the photo, he was young, standing in front of a seaside cabin, smiling like a child.

Adrian (whispering): When I approached you back then, it was to investigate the mermaid smuggling ring. I stayed because I love you; I left to protect you; and I'm returning because...

△He closed the document and did not say anything further.

△There was a knock at the door.

Subordinate (outside the door): Boss, we've found out—the Yulaya family has recently been in contact with the Beckettley family.

Adrian (his eyes narrowed): "Beckettli? The one from Russia?"

Subordinate: "Yes, they are discussing a business deal involving mermaids."

Adrian (stands up, his expression dark): It seems someone wants to touch my things.

△He walked to the window and gazed out at the night scenery outside.

Adrian (coldly): "Call all captains; tomorrow, I will make Yulaiya know that the Moretti family is not to be trifled with."

Subordinate: Yes!

Episode 7

7-1 Moretti Estate – Secret Room – Night – Inside

△At 2:00 AM, Iloen was sleeping lightly in the fish tank.

△The window suddenly opened, and a dark figure stealthily crept into the secret room.

△The shadow moved toward the fish tank, while the dagger in its hand reflected a cold glow.

△Iloen猛然睁开了双眼;她的瞳孔在黑暗中收缩,散发出微弱的蓝色光芒-即美人鱼的夜视能力.

Iloen (coldly): Who?

△The shadow stood frozen; it clearly did not expect her to wake up.

Black Shadow (low voice): "Be quiet; I am here to save you."

Iloen (Alert): Save me? Who sent you here?

Black Shadow (approaches): "Mr. Yuraya, he asked me to take you along."

△He reached out to try and unlock the fish tank.

△Iloen suddenly smiled.

Iloen (softly): Do you know where the person who promised to save me is now?

△The shadow stood frozen.

Iloen (her smile fades): Outside the door.

△The door of the escape room was suddenly kicked open.

△Adrian rushed in, holding a silver-handgun; six fully armed bodyguards followed him. Adrian (in a cold tone, his gun barrel pointed at the shadow): "I've said it—no one gets to touch my things."

△The black figure's expression changed drastically; they turned and tried to run.

△Adrian pulled the trigger.

△A gunshot.

△The shadow fell to the ground at once, having been shot in the leg.

Adrian (to the bodyguard): Take him out; find out who sent him, then...

△He paused for a moment, glancing at Iloen in the fish tank.

Adrian (coldly): Handle it thoroughly.

Bodyguard (nodding): "Yes."

△The bodyguards dragged away the shadow that was screaming; the secret room returned to silence.

7-2 Moretti Estate – Secret Room – Night – Inside

△Adrian walked toward the fish tank and looked at Iloen.

Adrian (whispering): Are you okay?

Iloen (calm): I'm fine.

Adrian (checking the fish tank lock): The lock isn't broken—how did he get in?

Iloen (softly): The window. Mermaids cannot climb windows; therefore, he never expected me to wake up.

△Adrian looked out the window, his expression dark.

Adrian (gritting his teeth): I'll have someone seal the windows shut.

Iloen (suddenly says): "Don't you ask me if I'm afraid?"

△Adrian was stunned.

Iloen (looking at him with a complex expression): You installed a bomb beneath my tank; you said that if I cannot hold it, I will trigger it, but you never asked me—do you have any fear?

Adrian (silent for a few seconds, then in a low voice): "Do you fear it?"

Iloen (shook her head, in a very soft voice): "Don't worry; I know you won't actually set off the bomb."

△Adrian was stunned.

Iloen (smiles): Five years ago, Alex would not harm anyone. And today, Adrian is no different.

△Adrian turned around, preventing her from seeing his expression.

Adrian (his voice was somewhat hoarse): You trust me too much.

Iloen (softly): Perhaps so; but five years ago, you deserved my trust, and now, I still want to trust you once more.

△Adrian said nothing; he stood by the window, facing away from her. The moonlight shone upon him, casting a long shadow across his body.

the shadow.

Adrian (a very low voice, audible only to himself): "I don't deserve it."

Episode 8

8-1 Moretti Estate: The Secret Room – Daytime

△The next day, when Irene woke up, she found that there was now a person standing by the fish tank.

△Youlaiya sat in the chair, crossing his legs, and looked at her with a smile.

Youlaiya (smiles): Good morning, Miss Mermaid.

△Iloen cautiously plunged into the water.

Yulaiya (raising both hands to indicate she is harmless): "Don't be nervous; Edrian allows me in."

△The door was pushed open, and Adrian walked in with a stern expression.

Adrian (coldly): I didn't allow it; you forced your way in.

Yulaiya (shrugs): Our two families are partners; I'd like to take a look at your collection—would that be too much? Adrian (walks toward the fish tank, blocking Elwyn in his path): "Have you seen enough? You can leave now."

Yulaiya (stands up, with a meaningful expression): "Edrian, you're so nervous—can it possibly be about this mermaid..."

Adrian (interrupts): I said, she's an asset. I'm not interested in assets.

Youliya (smiling): That's great! I'm here today because I want to discuss a business deal with you.

△He took a check out of his pocket and placed it beside the vat.

Youlaiya (smiles): Fifty billion—sell her to me.

△The entire venue fell silent.

△Iloen looked at the check, then turned her gaze to Adrian; her heart raced.

Adrian (without even glancing at the check): "I won't sell it."

Youlaiya (frowning): Eight billion.

Adrian (calmly): "No sale."

Youlaiya (smile fades): One billion.

Adrian (turning to look at him, his eyes cold): "I'm saying, I won't sell; do you not understand human language?"

△The two stared at each other, and the air seemed to freeze.

Youlaiya (slowly withdraws the check, with a cold sneer): "Edrian, you will regret this."

△He turned and walked away.

8-2 Moretti Estate: Secret Room – Day

△After Youlaiya left, the room fell into silence.

Iloen (emerging from the water, softly): "One billion—why don't you sell it?"

Adrian (backing away from her): I've said it: you are my asset; I will not sell my assets.

Iloen (follow-up question): What if, one day, you run short of money?

Adrian (turning to look at her with a serious expression): The Moretti family will never lack money; even if we do, I will not sell you.

Iloen (heart racing): Why?

△Adrian approached the fish tank, his hand resting against the glass.

Adrian (whispering): Because there are some things more important than money.

△He did not say what it was.

△But in his eyes, Iloen saw a reflection from five years ago.

8-3 Moretti Estate – Adrian Study, Italy

△Adrian sat at his desk, with a stack of intelligence reports spread out before him.

△After reading it, his expression grew solemn.

Subordinate (standing beside): Boss, the Beckettli family has reached an agreement with Yulaiya; they are offering 20 billion to purchase the lady.

Adrian (knocking his fingers against the table): "Two hundred billion—do my mermaid's assets only amount to two hundred billion?"

Subordinate (hesitates): "There's also... they've hired a team of mercenaries; it's said they're former Navy SEALs."

Adrian (snarling): The SEALs? Coming to New York to snatch merfolk?

△He stood up and walked to the window.

Adrian (coldly): Tell them that the territory of the Moretti family is not something they can come to or leave at will.

Subordinate: Yes.

△Adrian looked out the window at the sky, his gaze growing deep.

Adrian (in a low voice): "Iloen, I promised to protect you; this time, I will not leave."

Episode 9

9-1 Moretti Estate – Exterior – Night – Outside

△Late at night, outside the manor, ten dark figures approached silently. They were fully armed—equipped with night-vision goggles, silencers, and climbing ropes, all highly sophisticated gear.

Captain (whispering through the headset): The objective is the secret room on the east side of the manor's main building; the mermaid is inside the water tank—our mission is to capture her alive.

Team Member: Received.

△They climbed over the wall and avoided the patrolling bodyguards, like a flock of ghosts.

9-2 Moretti Estate – Secret Room – Night – Inside

△Iloen suddenly opened her eyes.

△Her ears trembled slightly—the hearing of mermaids can detect any sound within a radius of two hundred meters.

Iloen (whispering): Someone is coming.

△She took a deep breath and began to sing.

△The Song of the Mermaid—this time, it is not for control, but for seeking help. The song travels through the walls, through the corridors, and echoes throughout the entire manor.

9-3 Moretti Estate – Adrian's Bedroom – Night – Inside

△Adrian bolted upright from the bed.

△He heard it—not Iloen's song itself, but the meaning within her voice: danger.

△He grabbed the pistol under his pillow and sprinted out of the bedroom barefoot.

Adrian (yelling into his headset): Everyone, the escape room—someone has intruded!

9-4 Moretti Estate – Secret Room – Night – Inside

△The mercenaries stormed into the secret chamber.

△Iloen stopped singing and sank to the bottom of the water.

Captain (noticing the fish tank, his eyes light up): Target locked; ready.. . . .

△Before he could finish speaking, a gunshot rang out from behind him.

△One team member fell to the ground.

△Adrian rushed in, radiating a fierce aura of aggression. He was only wearing pajamas, barefoot, with a pistol in his hand.

Adrian (coldly): Who let you in?

△The mercenaries reacted swiftly, immediately seeking cover to counterattack.

△The gunfire erupted in the locked room; bullets struck the fish tank, causing cracks to appear in the glass.

△Iloen covered her ears and curled up at the bottom of the water.

△Adrian shot while charging toward the fish tank, blocking its path. His shoulder was struck by a bullet, and blood sprayed out, but he did not retreat.

△The bodyguards poured in from all directions; the mercenaries, outnumbered, began to retreat.

Captain (grinding his teeth): Retreat!

△They dropped a smoke screen and fled amidst the chaos.

9-5 Moretti Estate – Secret Room – Night – Inside

△The smoke has cleared.

△Adrian leaned against the fish tank; his shoulder wound was still bleeding, and his shirt had taken on a large red stain.

△Iloen emerged from under the surface, looked at his wound, and tears welled up in her eyes.

Iloen (with a trembling voice): You're hurt.

Adrian (smiled weakly): Minor injury.

△He reached into the water and caught a pearl that had fallen from her.

Adrian (looking at Pearl, softly): Your tears are still so precious.

△Iloen rushed to the edge of the vat and reached out to grab his hand.

Iloen (tears): Stop speaking; quickly stop the bleeding!

△Adrian looked down at her holding his hand, his lips curling slightly upward.

Adrian (whispering): Are you worried about me?

Iloen (glaring at him, her tears welling up uncontrollably): "No need to say anything!"

△Adrian smiled—this was the first time in five years that he had smiled sincerely.

△Then he lost consciousness.

Episode 10

10-1 Moretti Estate – Adrian's Bedroom – Night – Inside

△Adrian lay in bed; his shoulder wound had been bandaged, but his face was as pale as paper.

Doctor (shaking their head at Eleanor): He has suffered excessive blood loss and requires a blood transfusion, but his blood type is extremely rare, and there are no matching units available in the inventory.

△Iloen remained silent for a few seconds.

Iloen (softly): With my blood.

△The doctor was stunned.

Doctor: "You... you are a fish..."

Iloen (interrupts): The blood of mermaids can heal humans, but it must be administered directly by feeding.

△She bit her finger, then extended her blood-stained finger to Edric's lips.

△Both the doctor and the bodyguard were stunned.

△Adrian's lips instinctively sucked.

△A miracle occurred: the wound on his shoulder healed at a speed visible to the

naked eye, and his complexion began to regain its rosy hue.

△Adrian slowly opened his eyes.

△The first thing he saw was Irene's blood-stained fingers.

△The second thing he saw was her tears.

Adrian (weakened, grabbing her hand): What are you doing?

Iloen (tears): I will save you.

Adrian (gazing at her fingers, with heartache): Do you know that a mermaid's blood is finite? If you lose too much of it, you will die.

Iloen (withdraws her hand): "Then next time, don't block the bullets."

△The two looked at each other.

△Adrian raised his hand and wiped away the tears from her face.

Adrian (whispering): "Alright, next time, I'll make sure they can't hit me."

△Iloen wiped away her tears and smiled.

10-2 Moretti Estate – Adrian's Bedroom – Night – Inside

△The doctor left. Only two people remained in the room.

△Adrian leaned against the head of the bed, while Iloen sat on the chair by the bedside; his hand was held firmly by hers, never letting go. Iloen (softly): "That night, why did you come back?"

Adrian (looking at her): "Because someone wants to kill you."

Iloen: Who?

Adrian (silence for a few seconds): The Beckettley family.

△Iloen was stunned.

Iloen (confused): Becketli? The one from Russia?

Adrian (nodding): They have been searching for mermaids to conduct biological weapons experiments. Five years ago, I left you because they discovered your existence. I returned to the Moretti family in order to leverage the family's power to fight against Beckettley.

Iloen (voice trembling): "So you didn't abandon me?"

Adrian (holding her hand tightly): I never abandoned you. I just haven't been ready yet.

Iloen (tears well up again): "Then why didn't you say anything sooner?"

Adrian (with a bitter smile): "Because I've said it—you won't hate me anymore. If you don't hate me, you'll stay obediently in the fish tank; but if you're not in the fish tank, I can't protect you."

△Iloen was stunned.

Adrian (softly): Hate me, Elowen; hate me—yet at least you will remain by my side.

△Iloen threw herself into his arms and burst into loud tears.

△Adrian held her and gently patted her back.

Adrian (in a low voice): I'm sorry. Five years ago, I left you alone; now, I won't do that anymore.