

Adorable 401

[Chapter 401 The Mysterious Harpis](#)

When the performance ended, all the performers took the curtain call together.

The crowd gave them a standing ovation.

Eliana took advantage of the moment when the curtain slowly fell and ran away.

Since the performance was over, Harriet felt bored. She smiled at Maurice next to her and said, "Mr. Moran, let's go."

Maurice had been staring at the harpist the whole time. So when the curtain fell, he saw her run away.

She wanted to flee.

Suddenly, he stood up unconsciously and rushed in the direction where the woman left in a hurry.

"Mr. Moran!"

Harriet was shocked when she saw Maurice quickly leave. She also stood up and followed him.

Backstage, Wilson stopped Eliana, who was about to leave.

"Jennifer, you were so good. I have to say I am impressed."

Wilson was thrilled because just now, many people approached him and talked about booking them after everyone saw Jennifer's extraordinary performance.

He just randomly picked a harpist to make up their number. He didn't expect her to be so good.

"You were really so good today. Your performance was much better than when we were practicing. You deliberately played the wrong notes at the beginning to surprise us, right?"

When Eliana heard Wilson's compliments, her heartbeat went abnormally fast. She unconsciously blurted out what was in her mind.

"Was I... really that good?"

Her voice was clear and sweet, totally different from Jennifer's.

Wilson immediately noticed the difference. "Jennifer, your voice..."

Damn! She was too careless.

Eliana immediately lowered her voice, covered her mouth, and coughed. "Ahem! I'm sorry, sir. I have caught a cold recently, so my voice is a little hoarse."

"Oh, you've caught a cold? Go home and get some rest then," Wilson said with concern, obviously believing in her lie.

He thought that she was their money-spinner now, and he couldn't let anything happen to her.

"Okay, sir. Thank you."

After talking to Wilson and some musicians who tried to compliment her performance, Eliana immediately ran back to the dressing room with her head down to change her clothes.

At this moment, a low and familiar male voice came from outside.

"Mr. Green, may I ask who that harpist was?"

It was Maurice's voice.

Eliana was so shocked that the dress in her hands almost fell to the floor.

Outside the door, Wilson looked at Maurice flatteringly. "Mr. Moran, that was Jennifer Lawson."

"Jennifer Lawson? Who is she?" Maurice asked with a frown.

He didn't know anyone named Jennifer. But just now, he really felt that the woman who played the harp was very familiar.

"She is a little-known harpist. If you like her, I can ask her to play for you alone."

Wilson smiled meaningfully.

Harriet, who followed Maurice, heard what Wilson said. She got furious at once.

There was already Eliana, and now, another woman joined the picture.

She was already on the verge of losing control because of today's successive blows. And when she heard Wilson's words, she couldn't keep her calm any longer.

"All of you, get out of here!" Harriet roared at the orchestra members.

The entire backstage fell into silence when her voice echoed.

"Do you want me to say it again? I have something to talk to Mr. Moran alone. Leave the room!"

Everyone looked at each other in dismay. But no one dared to offend the daughter of the Stone Group, so they all walked out of the room.

Only Harriet and Maurice were left now. As well as Eliana.

Eliana had already changed her clothes. But Maurice and Harriet were at the door, blocking the way, so she couldn't leave.

She couldn't help praying silently that they wouldn't know she was here.

[Chapter 402 He Wouldn't Sacrifice His Marriage](#)

"Maurice, do I mean so little to you that you can't even look at me?" Harriet stared at him longingly and spoke out her true feelings. "You had your eyes on Eliana before. Now you set your sights on this harpist. How could these ordinary people possibly compare to me? You're fully aware of my prominent family's background. I adore you so much, but why can't you see me? At least try to give me a chance."

Harriet inched closer towards him, with jealousy and stubbornness on her face. She tiptoed and leaned in for a kiss she had desired for the longest time.

To her utter dismay, Maurice frowned and turned his head away. There was coldness in his eyes. It was obvious he didn't care about her.

Eavesdropping from inside the dressing room, Eliana felt deeply unsettled by Harriet's confession of love. She couldn't help but peek outside through the crack of the door and see what they were doing.

From where she stood, Eliana found that Maurice and Harriet stood too close to each other that it didn't feel right. The pair seemed to be kissing!

At that moment, Eliana felt a tight knot inside her stomach. But before she was about to break down, Maurice pushed Harriet away in disgust.

"Enough of this. We have nothing left to talk about. Stay away from me."

Maurice's voice was frighteningly cold, and his eyes were devoid of any emotion.

Harriet staggered back in defeat, looking pathetic. She couldn't believe her ears. No man had ever rejected her like this. Unable to stomach this severe blow to her self-esteem, she began to force herself on Maurice.

"Tell me what those other women have that I don't. If you take me as your wife, the marriage would benefit both our families. Everyone will be happy!"

"I beg to differ. Let me make one thing very clear. No one can force me to do anything against my will. I know you want to marry me, but give it up. I will never sacrifice my marriage for family interests."

Maurice's cold and merciless words were like sharp knives driven directly into Harriet's heart. Finally, she slowly came to terms with reality. She lowered her head and sobbed in a low voice.

Peering outside from the crack of the door, Eliana's jaw dropped in shock.

Didn't they just kiss a few seconds ago?

Why was Harriet crying all of a sudden?

Despite all these thoughts, one sentence had captured Eliana's attention. Did Maurice just say that he wouldn't sacrifice his marriage for family interests?

Eliana suddenly felt a sense of hope and joy fill her heart. Distracted by the scene in front of her, she accidentally nudged a box on a table beside the door. Her eyes widened in panic as the box fell to the floor with a loud thud.

Oh no!

The noise would surely give her presence away!

"Who is there?"

Outside the dressing room, Harriet turned to the direction of the noise and rushed to open the door.

In dramatic fashion, Harriet discovered the woman who had been spying on them.

Although Eliana had changed into her own clothes, the veil on her head hadn't been taken off, concealing her identity.

Harriet didn't recognize her and thought that the woman was Jennifer, the attractive harpist.

"Wait a minute. I know who you are. You're the one who played the harp! Have you been eavesdropping the whole time?"

Harriet couldn't bear the fact that her new rival had witnessed the embarrassing scene. Gritting her teeth in anger, she rushed over to take the veil off Eliana's head.

But Eliana knew better than to let this happen.

She quickly raised her hands, secured the veil on her face, and took a few steps back.

Her defiance outraged Harriet even further.

"How dare you hide that face of yours? Are you so ashamed that you can't even look me in the eye? You have been hiding there to see me fail miserably, haven't you? Well, I hope you're happy now!"

Eliana quickly shook her head. She didn't mean to eavesdrop on their conversation.

The poor girl had no other choice but to hide in the dressing room when Maurice and Harriet came over.

Eliana silently cursed her bad luck. She desperately wanted to explain herself, but she was afraid of exposing who she really was, so she didn't dare to make a sound.

"Am I right? Talk to me, you bitch!"

Eliana's silence was all the confirmation Harriet needed. As far as she was concerned, Eliana was guilty as charged. She was so furious that she wanted to teach the pesky eavesdropper a lesson.

Harriet approached Eliana and raised her hand high in the air.

Was she going to slap her or pull the veil off her head?

At this moment, a flurry of thoughts rushed into Eliana's mind.

She could dodge the slap, but Harriet would not stop until she hurt her. What if the veil fell off during the fight? If it stayed on and her identity was still concealed, then Jennifer would get into trouble.

Harriet was so vicious and cunning that Eliana knew better than to underestimate her rival. There was no telling what she might do to Jennifer.

Bracing herself for the inevitable impact, Eliana closed her eyes and decided to take the slap head-on.

However, nothing happened to her.

Puzzled, Eliana opened her eyes and saw that a hand had grabbed Harriet's wrist at the last second.

Like a guardian angel, Maurice had once again protected her from harm.

[Chapter 403 Being Fooled](#)

"Damn it, Harriet! What the hell is wrong with you?" As he spoke, Maurice held Harriet's wrist and pushed her away ruthlessly. "Get out of here and you'd better calm down. She is not your servant! And even if she were your servant, you still would have no right to treat her that way!"

"Maurice..."

Harriet held her aching wrist as she stared at Maurice in amazement, her eyes brimming with tears.

However, Maurice was not in the least moved by her tearful gaze. Looking a little crazy, he raised his eyebrows and said coldly, "Didn't you hear me? I said get out!"

Harriet knew she had better control herself now. After throwing a last nasty look at Eliana, she turned and left awkwardly.

Far from reassuring Eliana, Harriet's departure only made Eliana more nervous.

Now that Harriet was gone, Eliana was alone with Maurice, which made her extremely uncomfortable.

Not knowing how to deal with Maurice, Eliana instinctively took a step back and wanted to take the opportunity to escape.

"Where do you think you are going?"

Before she could take another step, Maurice had already grabbed her hand.

She quickly lowered her head to avoid Maurice's gaze.

"Why are you still hiding? I already recognized you, Eliana," Maurice said indifferently.

As soon as he saw her on stage earlier, he already suspected something, so he followed her here. When he saw her more closely, he recognized her immediately. It was indeed Eliana.

But since Harriet was there, he couldn't say anything, or Harriet would make a scene.

"You recognized me? So why didn't you say anything?"

Hearing that he had recognized her but had chosen to remain silent all this time, Eliana was furious and she lifted her veil.

"Well, I guessed you didn't want Harriet to know it, so I didn't say anything," Maurice replied calmly.

At the mention of Harriet, the scene of the two of them kissing just now came to Eliana's mind. She stared at Maurice's handsome face, and felt a little disgusted.

"I didn't want to interrupt you two," Eliana hissed with unveiled jealousy.

Maurice was about to explain when he suddenly noticed the blood on Eliana's hand.

"Why is there blood on your hand? Where did you get hurt?" Maurice asked worriedly.

However, Eliana looked surprised when she heard what Maurice said. Blood?

She looked at her hand and found that there was indeed blood on it.

It must be Jennifer's blood.

However, she had no intention to explain and just said curtly, "It's none of your business."

The thing was, she was still angry with Maurice. She quickly withdrew her hand from his grasp and wouldn't explain anything.

Maurice frowned and the next second, he outright picked her up in his arms.

"Ah!"

Eliana didn't expect this and couldn't help but scream. However, she subconsciously put her arms around Maurice's neck.

"Maurice, what do you want to do? Put me down!"

Eliana began to struggle and punch hard on Maurice's chest for him to put her down.

"Stay still, will you?" Maurice said coldly, staring at her intently. He added, "You are injured. I'll take you to the hospital right away."

Eliana was shocked. She couldn't let him carry her out like this. It would definitely cause a sensation!

"No way!" Eliana shouted and struggled even more. "I'm fine!"

"You are fine? Then why is there blood on your hand?"

Maurice was unfazed and continued to walk with her in his arms.

Seeing that he had no intention of putting her down and that they would soon reach the exit, Eliana had to tell him the truth.

"It's not my blood. The original harpist's hand was injured. I guess I got stained with her blood when I was helping her treat her wound. I was just performing on stage for her."

A smile appeared on Maurice's face and he finally stopped.

"You are finally willing to tell the truth!"

It turned out... He was just playing a trick on her!

She was fooled by Maurice again!

However, she didn't even have the strength to snap at him this time. She just leaned against his shoulder.

With all the recent events, Eliana was exhausted and didn't want to stay here anymore. She wanted to go home.

She was just on a business trip here, but why were there so many troubles?

Now that Eliana had told him the whole story, Maurice smiled and said, "You really are a kind-hearted person who loves helping others. But why didn't you help me stop Harriet from kissing me just now? Don't you care whom I kiss at all?"

Eliana's eyes were fixed on Maurice's sexy lips, and the scene that Harriet kissed him suddenly appeared in her mind again.

At the thought that some other woman had tasted his lips just now, Eliana felt sick.

Jealousy began to surge in the bottom of her heart. Eliana suddenly reached out to wipe Maurice's lips...

[Chapter 404 Clean His Lips](#)

Eliana's soft touch on Maurice's lips made his heart beat faster.

Was she seducing him?

While Maurice was in a trance, he suddenly heard Eliana's voice. "I didn't have time to stop her. It makes me sick to think that she dared to put her lips on yours. Let me help you clean your lips."

After saying that, Eliana leaned in and tenderly kissed Maurice's soft lips.

She was no longer shy like before and kissed him passionately.

Maurice felt his heartbeat race and his temperature rose drastically. After a while, he couldn't control himself any longer. He put Eliana down and pinned her against the wardrobe.

Eliana moaned with pleasure. However, Maurice quickly blocked her mouth with his to muffle the sound.

The two of them were completely turned on now.

Then all of a sudden, the door of the dressing room was pushed open.

"Eliana, your performance just now was so wonderful! Thank you for..."

Jennifer couldn't finish her sentence when she saw the scene before her eyes. She was so shocked that her eyes widened and her mouth fell open.

It wasn't until hearing Jennifer's voice that Maurice and Eliana finally came to their senses.

The three looked at each other without saying a word. Maurice, however, did not feel embarrassed in the least.

"Please, go on! Go on! I saw nothing!"

Jennifer's face was flushed with embarrassment and she quickly looked away. Forgetting why she came here in the first place, she hurried out and closed the door behind her.

The thing was that after Eliana took the stage, Jennifer dressed her wound and hid in a corner to watch the show. Eliana's performance was so impressive that Jennifer couldn't help but sneak backstage to thank Eliana.

However, she didn't expect to come across such a scene.

Eliana and a handsome tall man were kissing in the dressing room!

As she thought back to that scene, Jennifer's face turned red again.

She suddenly felt that the man she had seen kissing Eliana seemed a bit familiar to her.

He seemed to be... No, that couldn't be... Was that man Maurice Moran, the CEO of the Moran Group?

Was Eliana his girlfriend?

An expression of shock appeared on Jennifer's face. She had the impression of being in possession of the scoop of the century.

Meanwhile, in the dressing room, Eliana pushed Maurice away.

Maurice finally let her go, a smile on his face. "Didn't you say you wanted to clean my lips? I think it's not clean enough yet. We can continue when we get back."

Hearing that, Eliana blushed. However, the key words in Maurice's sentence echoed in her mind. Her eyes suddenly lit up and she asked happily, "You mean we can go back now?"

"If only you made me happy... I have to say it wasn't bad at all," Maurice remarked with a cunning smile.

Eliana didn't notice Maurice's strange expression and was just overjoyed at the thought of finally leaving...

Apparently, Maurice wasn't so difficult after all.

Eliana had completely forgotten about Jennifer, who was still waiting for her outside.

Jennifer absolutely wanted to express her gratitude to Eliana in person. As a result, she didn't leave when she caught Maurice and Eliana kissing earlier, and instead waited outside. She could occasionally hear the conversation between the two people inside.

Damn! They were so sweet together!

Jennifer felt both embarrassed to eavesdrop on the conversation of others, but also moved to see how close and in love Eliana and the handsome man seemed.

After a while, the door was opened and Maurice came out.

He just glanced at Jennifer who was very nervous, before stalking off.

As soon as Maurice left, Jennifer entered the dressing room.

Eliana could see that the younger woman still looked quite embarrassed. Eliana smiled shyly and said softly, "Jennifer, you're here..."

"Eliana, thank you, really! I don't know how to repay you!"

As she spoke, Jennifer walked over to Eliana and gave her a big hug.

"Come on, it's no big deal. You don't need to thank me," Eliana said shyly. "By the way, is your hand okay?" Eliana inquired.

"Yeah, it's fine now."

Jennifer let go of Eliana and showed Eliana her bandaged hand.

After carefully checking the hand, Eliana felt relieved.

She was glad that she could help.

Jennifer suddenly lowered her head and hesitated. "Eliana, I... I have something to ask you..."

Eliana couldn't help being amused seeing Jennifer's shy look. She chuckled and said, "Go ahead."

When Jennifer looked up, her face was flushed. She tried however to say what was on her heart.

"Just now, I saw you and Mr. Moran... I mean, how long have you been together?"

Hearing Jennifer's question, Eliana felt so embarrassed. She didn't even know how to answer.

The thing was, she and Maurice had never really dated.

But if she said so, how could she explain her kiss with Maurice just now?

Even though Eliana didn't say anything, Jennifer had already pictured a story in her mind.

She gave a meaningful smile to Eliana.

"I get it! You don't need to answer. Don't worry. I will keep it a secret. I just want you to know that I think you and Mr. Moran are a perfect match."

Eliana was speechless.

[Chapter 405 A Better Person](#)

Maurice had always been a man of quick actions. Since he had promised Eliana that they were going back, he quickly got the car ready.

Just as they was about to leave, Eliana suddenly thought of something.

She looked at Maurice and asked seriously, "What about Aileen and Adrian? And Nana too?"

"I have already arranged everything. Nana will take care of the children while waiting for the driver to come pick them up," Maurice replied.

However, Eliana shook her head almost immediately. "No way! What if something happens again? As their mother, I have to be with them."

After saying that, Eliana opened the car door to get out. Of course, Maurice was rather unhappy with that.

"Why are you worried now? Didn't you say that they were Nana's kids? It seems like now you know all the weight you put on her shoulders!"

"Maurice, what are you talking about?"

Sure enough, Eliana was annoyed by what Maurice said.

Before Maurice could say anything else, Harriet caught up with them.

"Mr. Moran! Wait for me!"

Harriet walked briskly to Maurice's car. However, before she could approach it, Maurice's bodyguards stopped her.

"What the hell is your problem? I came here with Mr. Moran. How dare you stop me?" Harriet shouted at the bodyguards angrily.

"Sorry, Miss Stone, but we're just following orders. Mr. Moran explicitly instructed us not to let anyone else near his car," one of the guards said to Harriet, looking at her with an expressionless face.

Harriet was stunned. "No way! This banquet was to celebrate the new cooperation between the Stone and Moran families! How could he do such a thing to me?"

However, no matter how much Harriet complained and shouted, the bodyguards didn't flinch, nor did they let her pass.

Maurice, who was sitting in the car, heard the noises outside and felt very irritable.

He looked at Corbin, who was sitting in the front seat, and said curtly, "Corbin, handle this."

"Okay, sir."

Before Corbin was ordered by Maurice, he had already imagined how this was going to end. Hearing his boss' order, he couldn't help but feel rather unlucky.

Why was it always up to him to clean up the boss's mess?

Despite his inner complaints, Corbin got out of the car anyway to deal with the situation. He walked over to Harriet and said politely, "I'm sorry, Miss Stone. Mr. Moran said he has something urgent to deal with. He hopes you will enjoy your stay at the manor with your family."

Of course, Harriet didn't believe him at all. She glared at Corbin and hissed coldly, "Don't take me for a fool! He asked me to stay here and took Eliana with him! Why?"

"Why? It's simple. Eliana is a better person than you," Corbin replied curtly, looking at Harriet with disdain.

"What? How is that possible?" Harriet commented arrogantly.

In her eyes, Eliana couldn't even hold a candle to her.

Corbin looked Harriet up and down and sneered, "Let me remind you then, Miss Stone. Have you forgotten how you shoved a girl to the floor at the banquet earlier, causing a serious injury to her hand?"

Upon hearing Corbin's accusations, Harriet's face turned pale. "Nonsense! She fell herself!"

She still denied it.

"Miss Stone, it is useless to deny it. The cameras have caught what you have done. You could have gotten yourself into big trouble if it weren't for Eliana. Do you still dare to say that Eliana is not as good as you?"

"I..." Harriet was at a loss of words.

"Besides, if what you did today were to spread, I'm afraid it would totally ruin your family's reputation. I'm sure you don't want that, do you? Now take my advice and watch your actions in the future."

Having said that, Corbin turned and drove off with the bodyguards, leaving Harriet standing there, crestfallen and watching Maurice's car slowly disappear from view.

[Chapter 406 Talking In Her Sleep](#)

As the car brought them back, Eliana's anger still hadn't subsided. She was furious with Maurice and didn't feel like talking to him at all. So she closed her eyes and pretended to be asleep.

She didn't expect to actually fall asleep. Unconsciously, she rested her head on Maurice's shoulder.

Feeling the foreign body on his shoulder, Maurice lowered his head and stared at Eliana's sleeping face. When he saw her frown and cringe miserably, he couldn't get mad at her anymore.

If only she could be just as docile when she was awake!

Maurice gently held Eliana in his arms so she could sleep more comfortably.

"Sleep well, honey," he whispered softly.

In fact, Eliana slept soundly and did not wake up even when they arrived.

After stopping the car, Corbin went to open the door for his boss. Great was his surprise when he saw his boss holding the sleeping young woman in his arms.

"Boss, Eliana..."

Corbin's first reaction was to wake Eliana up, but Maurice immediately stopped him.

Maurice gently picked Eliana up in his arms and got off the car. He made a few steps towards the villa and then suddenly turned around to face Corbin. "Have the kids arrived home?" Maurice asked.

"Nana said they are home now," Corbin replied.

Maurice nodded stiffly. Then, he lowered his head to the woman in his arms, and whispered softly, "Don't worry now. Your babies have returned home safely."

Corbin had never seen his boss show so much affection, and hearing his boss speak so affectionately to Eliana gave him chills.

He was really shocked.

It seemed that Eliana heard Maurice's sweet words deep in her sleep. Her eyelids relaxed and she gently rubbed against Maurice's strong chest. She seemed to sleep more peacefully now.

Maurice entered the villa and immediately rushed into a bedroom. He put Eliana gently on the bed and helped her take off her clothes.

All of a sudden, Eliana's phone fell out of her pocket. The screen was full of messages and calls from Eli.

"Eliana, are you okay? I'm worried about you. Call me back when you get home."

He still hadn't given up on her?

At the sight of Eli's multiple messages, anger surged up in Maurice's heart. He had this feeling as if his favorite toy was going to be taken away from him.

He held Eliana's phone firmly and stared at it coldly. He so wished he could throw that phone away so Eliana would never see Eli's messages and calls.

However, Maurice managed to contain his anger and slowly calmed down. He threw the phone aside, and took off his clothes in turn before lying beside Eliana on the bed.

As he stared at the beautiful woman sleeping next to him, anger soon rose again in his heart.

Why could Eliana sleep so well while he was suffering alone?

Furious, Maurice took the pillow from under Eliana's head.

However, Eliana was so exhausted and sound asleep that she didn't seem to feel the pillow being lifted from under her head and continued to sleep peacefully. She just felt a bit uncomfortable in her sleep, so

she subconsciously moved closer to Maurice and held him tightly.

Maurice was surprised by Eliana's action. However, the feel of Eliana's soft, warm body in his arms eventually made him feel much better.

Suddenly, Eliana began to talk in her sleep.

"Maurice, you bastard! You bullied me and my kids! You even kissed someone else! It's disgusting..."

She talked in her sleep for a while.

Upon hearing what she said, Maurice's expression gradually changed and he became morose again.

How could she curse him in her sleep?

This time, he made up his mind to wake her up.

But just as he was about to wake her up, Eliana hugged him even tighter.

She muttered again, "I want to clean those lips... Yes! I want to clean them every day..."

Hearing that, Maurice put down his hand and couldn't help smiling.

He decided to let her sleep peacefully. At least now he knew she cared a lot about him.

With these thoughts in mind, Maurice reached out to hug her tightly, and his nose filled with the scent of her body.

It didn't take long for him too to fall asleep with Eliana in his arms.

[Chapter 407 Run!](#)

Early the next morning, Eliana woke up with a start. There was someone knocking persistently at the door.

She forced her eyes open, and her mind was still in a daze.

The knocking grew louder as time went on. Eliana sat up and yawned, taking a moment to absorb her surroundings.

Where was she? What happened last night?

Maurice was already awake at this time. Seeing the confused look on her face, he suddenly had an idea. It was the perfect opportunity to pull a prank on her.

While she was still groggy, he suddenly grabbed her shoulder and said worriedly, "Run! My wife is back. She can't catch you in my bed. You have to leave immediately or all hell will break loose!"

What in the world was he talking about?

His wife was at the door?

Was she going to let herself get caught cheating with Maurice in bed?

Not a chance! She had to run now before it was too late!

With her mind still stuck in a daze, Eliana quickly believed Maurice's story.

"Oh no! I have to get out of here fast!"

As soon as Maurice finished his words, Eliana jumped out of bed and headed for the door.

Maurice suppressed his laughter and exclaimed, "Wait, where are you going? My wife is right outside! You can't escape that way!"

"Oh, you're right! Where should I go?"

In a panic, Eliana scanned the room for an alternative exit.

Moments later, her eyes fell on the big window a few feet away.

She couldn't pass through the door, but she could certainly jump out of the window!

Without wasting another second, Eliana pushed the window open and prepared to jump.

"Stop!"

Maurice rushed over and put his arms around her waist, pulling her to safety.

"Are you out of your mind? You actually want to jump down the window? What if you got seriously hurt?"

Maurice held her tightly in his arms, afraid that the little fool would attempt to jump out of the window again.

After finally calming down, Eliana regained her senses and realized that she had been fooled the whole time.

"Maurice, you are such a big jerk! How dare you trick me like this? Since when did you have a wife? You're unbelievable!"

Maurice burst into laughter when he saw the furious look on her face. She was like a little girl throwing a tantrum.

"Why did it take me this long to realize how stupid you are?"

Laughing uncontrollably, Maurice struggled to catch his breath.

"Stop making fun of me!"

Eliana's face turned red with embarrassment. She was so angry that she picked up a pillow from the bed and threw it directly at Maurice's head.

"You're such an asshole! Stop laughing, or I'll hit you some more!"

Maurice was unfazed by her actions. He simply let her vent her anger and continued to mock her.

While the pair were laughing and teasing each other, Corbin kept knocking on the door.

After several minutes of being ignored, he sighed and shouted, "Hey, boss! Are you available now? I need to speak to you. It's urgent."

Maurice snatched the pillow from Eliana's hands and suddenly became serious. "All right, that's enough. We'll continue this later."

Hearing his words, Eliana crouched and paused to catch her breath. She was exhausted after messing around with Maurice.

Smoothing out his clothes, Maurice shouted at the door, "You can come in now."

Wearing a sheepish smile, Corbin awkwardly walked into the room.

"What is it?" Maurice asked calmly.

"Boss, your grandfather is here. He wants to see you."

Eliana's mind suddenly went blank. It seemed like bad news.

"Oh no!"

Maurice smiled lightly and waved his hand reassuringly.

"It's probably nothing important. Just sit tight and stay here. Everything will be fine."

Maurice rubbed her shoulder affectionately, put on his coat, and walked out of the room.

When the door was shut, Eliana sat on the bed and sighed.

Why was she so unfortunate to meet such people who despised her?

Earle was much more frightening than the idea of Maurice already having a wife.

The old man never liked her. He always said that she was a tramp. He had even threatened that if he ever saw her in Maurice's bedroom again, he would skin her alive!

Moreover, an unpleasant encounter with Earl in the past continued to haunt her. His chilling words that day had never left her mind.

Earle showed that the Moran Group was responsible for the demise of the Pierce Group, driving them to bankruptcy and tearing her family apart.

Thinking of this, Eliana lowered her head and felt depressed.

Suddenly, a distinct whistling sound interrupted her thoughts.

The noise came from outside. Giving in to curiosity, Eliana walked to the window and peered below.

Her eyes were greeted by a long convoy of numerous bodyguards and servants waiting by the driveway.

As the patriarch of the powerful Moran family, Earle deserved to have a grand entrance when he showed up at any place.

After the leading car pulled up to the driveway, the door of the glistening Rolls-Royce opened, and Earle walked out slowly with the beautiful Harriet holding his arm.

[Chapter 408 Unwelcome Visitors](#)

Maurice casually walked outside to welcome Earle in person. His grandfather often demanded his full attention when he was around. Corbin followed closely from behind with an apprehensive look on his face.

When they saw that Harriet got off the car with Earle, they both frowned at the same time. It was the last thing they expected.

"Grandpa, what a surprise. What brings you here?" Maurice asked in a low voice.

Earle snorted with a long face. "You call me grandpa, yet you still ask why I'm here. Silly boy, I came

because of you!"

"What do you want to talk about?"

Maurice furrowed his eyebrows and pretended to be confused.

"Oh, you have no idea whatsoever?" Earle hit the ground heavily with his cane. "Let me ask you, as the owner of the Moon Lake Manor, how can you leave such a beautiful and elegant woman like Harriet alone in the manor after the banquet? Your inconsiderate actions don't speak well about our family!"

"Sir, it's not fair to reprimand Mr. Moran for leaving me. Perhaps he really did have something urgent to deal with."

Holding Earle's arm, Harriet looked very sincere and respectful.

Maurice narrowed his eyes and felt his hatred for her grow even more.

Hearing her words, Earle lost his temper as Maurice expected.

"Don't try to fool me, boy. You did it for that shameless tramp, didn't you? I bet you took Eliana to the manor as well. How could you leave a fine woman like Harriet for her? Eliana is here right now, isn't she? Answer me!"

Maurice stared at his grandfather defiantly and remained silent.

The more Earle thought about it, the more he felt that he was right. Receiving no reply from Maurice, he turned his attention to Corbin and gritted his teeth. "Tell me the truth this instant."

Corbin gulped anxiously but lowered his head and remained silent, staying loyal to his boss.

"Oh, what do we have here? I enjoy a challenge. Let's see how tough you really are." Earle laughed maniacally and shouted, "Tell me the truth now, or I will banish you from the Moran Group!"

Under the mounting pressure, Corbin was sweating profusely, but he still kept his mouth shut.

"You're just as stubborn as my grandson! If neither of you will answer me, then I will go look for her myself!"

Earle stomped forward and was about to push the door open.

Maurice quickly blocked his path and explained, "Grandpa, you overthink things too much. I simply took Eliana there on a business trip."

It was all Earle needed to hear. He was now sure that Eliana was indeed here.

Earle was pissed and berated his grandson. "Maurice, you are a Moran, my own flesh and blood. Why do you always protect that outsider? Are you going to turn your back on your family and throw everything away for that woman?"

Harriet hurried beside him to ease the tension. "Mr. Moran, it's bad for your health when you lose your temper. I'm sure Maurice won't disrespect you for an outsider."

Harriet's kind words made Earle like her more. In his eyes, she was the most suitable woman for his grandson.

An idea suddenly entered his mind. He cleared his throat and called for everyone's attention. "From this day forth, Miss Stone will be staying here in the residence."

"Oh, Mr. Moran. That's so kind of you. But are you sure that will be alright?"

Harriet feigned concern and shyness in her voice, but the excitement in her eyes gave her true feelings away.

"Of course! My dear, you are most welcome here. Besides, you will marry Maurice someday, so it only makes sense that you get used to living here sooner."

Earle beamed at Harriet with immense satisfaction. In his heart, only a daughter from an eminent family with a good character like Harriet deserved to marry into the Moran family.

Maurice's face immediately darkened. When he was about to challenge his grandfather's decision, Harriet quickly agreed, "In that case, it would be my greatest pleasure. Thank you so much, Mr. Moran."

Harriet was overjoyed. This meant she was one step closer to achieving her goal of marrying into the Moran family. Everything she had done was worth it, and it was only a matter of time until she finally had Maurice to herself.

As long as Earle was in Harriet's corner, Eliana would soon be out of the picture.

Smiling sweetly, Harriet turned up her charm. She held Earle's hand and batted her eyelashes. "Mr. Moran, can I have a big bedroom then?"

"Of course. Anything for you."

Earle patted her hand fondly and walked ahead inside the villa, quite pleased with the situation.

Before Harriet could follow inside, Maurice grabbed her arm and asked in a low voice, "What on earth do you think you're doing?"

With a triumphant look on her face, Harriet chuckled lightly and said, "Mr. Moran, if Eliana could stay here, then so should I. Besides, do you really want to go against your grandpa?"

She withdrew her arm from Maurice's grip and caught up with Earle.

"Mr. Moran, wait for me! I'm so excited to tour this place."

All the while, Eliana had been watching from the bedroom upstairs. She saw them coming in and didn't know what to do.

The sound of footsteps outside was getting closer by the second, and Eliana was starting to panic.

It was no secret that Earle loathed her so much.

If he found out she was here, then it would be a disaster. Eliana would definitely be humiliated and suffer grave consequences.

[Chapter 409 Where On Earth Did Eliana Hide](#)

In the room, Eliana was anxious. She nervously pressed her ear against the wall and listened to what was going on outside.

Footsteps were getting closer and closer. It seemed that they were heading towards the room she was in.

Eliana prayed in her heart that she was wrong and that they were not coming to her room.

Unfortunately for Eliana, her prayer did not work. Harriet walked straight to the room as if she knew that Eliana was there.

"Mr. Moran, can I stay in this room?" Harriet asked Earle.

"Of course," Earle agreed at once.

Eliana's nervousness increased upon hearing that.

They were coming in!

What should she do now? She couldn't be caught there!

Seeing the delicate situation she found herself in, Eliana glanced up at the glass window again.

At this point, she had no choice! If she didn't want to be caught here, she absolutely had to jump the window.

The moment was critical and Eliana didn't have time to think too much. She rushed to the window and climbed on the frame. When she glanced at the ground below, she felt dizzy and her legs wobbled.

Damn! This was too high!

If someone jumped from this height, he would kill himself or else be paralyzed for life.

After quickly analyzing the situation, Eliana concluded that jumping from the window was out of the question. She had no desire to die or end up paralyzed. But as she thought about what to do now, she heard the doorknob turn.

Holding the windowsill tightly, Eliana was so nervous that she thought her heart was going to leap out of her chest.

Damn it! She had no way to escape now.

"I'm afraid this room is currently unavailable, Miss Stone. You can stay in another one with better view."

Maurice caught up with Harriet and Earle just in time before Harriet could open the door.

Seeing that Maurice just didn't want her in that room, Harriet thought of something.

What could he possibly be hiding in this room that made him so nervous?

Was... Was Eliana in there?

Harriet put on a miserable expression and said sadly, "It looks like Maurice doesn't want me here. I'd better go."

"Wait..." Earle stopped her just as she was about to turn around. He sensed that something was wrong and said firmly, "You can live here if you want. I'd like to see why this room is unavailable!"

After saying that, Earle opened the door at once and walked right in.

Immediately, Maurice held his breath. He was extremely nervous right now and followed Earle inside.

However, the room was empty. The bed was a little messy, but there was no one in there.

Maurice was stunned. Where on earth was Eliana?

Where did she go?

"Why is the bed in a mess?" Earle asked suspiciously.

"Sir, I'm sorry. The boss told me I could stay in this room last night, so I slept here," Corbin quickly explained.

Earle believed him.

However, Harriet didn't buy it. She walked into the room and looked around. However, it seemed like there was indeed no one there.

But when she walked to the bedside, she suddenly smelled a familiar fragrance.

She had only smelled the same perfume on Eliana.

Harriet was now certain that Eliana was in there!

There was no doubt about that.

But, there was no place to hide in the room...

As Harriet wondered where the hell Eliana could be, her gaze suddenly fell on the open window.

Could it be...

Looking suspicious, Harriet walked to the window and looked outside.

There was no one!

Damn it! Where did that bitch hide?

What Harriet didn't know was that Eliana was standing right there by the window, hidden behind the wall. Eliana was scared out of her wits right now, and she did her best not to look down. She held her breath with her heart beating fast.

Harriet was determined to find Eliana, and wanted to look further out.

She would eventually find Eliana if it weren't for Maurice. He suddenly spoke.

"Miss Stone, have you seen enough? You are not yet married into the Moran family, so there is no reason why you would act like a hostess here."

Harriet couldn't help but curse in her heart when she heard what Maurice said. However, she was savvy enough not to let her discontentment show and turned to look at Maurice. "Maurice, I was just appreciating the view."

"Well, Miss Stone, there is no rush. The house will be yours to share someday. But since Corbin has used this room, you can live in another room."

Earle's words, though soft, were final. There was nothing more Harriet could say. She took one last look at the window before leaving the room with Earle.

As soon as the two of them left, Maurice, Corbin and Eliana breathed a sigh of relief.

Corbin looked at Maurice in confusion and asked, "Boss, where on earth did Eliana hide? No matter how much I rack my brains, I can't figure out where she could be hiding."

However, Maurice ignored him and rushed to the window.

[Chapter 410 A Strange Mouse](#)

Maurice stuck his head out of the window and called anxiously, "Eliana!"

"I'm here!"

Eliana stood on the edge of the window sill, her back firmly against the wall. She was in a very dangerous position and she knew it. In fact, she was so scared that her whole body was shaking.

Maurice was relieved to see that she was fine.

However, Eliana was furious with Maurice and didn't wait to be safe inside to take out her anger on him.

"Maurice, it's all your fault! Why did you bring them here? If I haven't been so smart, I would have been discovered!"

Hearing her complaints, Maurice couldn't help smiling. "It looks like you are really fine. It didn't matter if they found you here. You really didn't have to do such a dangerous thing."

"I was just saving your ass. Do you understand?"

Eliana thought back to how Earle had hit Maurice with his cane. If she hadn't been there to stop Earle, Maurice would have ended up in the hospital.

If Earle found her here this time, he would definitely be outraged.

"Can't you understand that I did it for you? I just didn't want you to get into trouble," Eliana muttered angrily.

Upon hearing what she said, Maurice raised his eyebrows and looked at her sternly. "What did you just say?"

"Nothing!" Eliana replied quickly, her face blushing.

Suddenly, a gust of wind blew, which distracted Eliana. She lost her balance and was about to fall.

"Ah!" Eliana screamed out of fear.

"Watch out!"

Seeing the horror that was about to happen, Maurice didn't think twice and rushed to catch Eliana.

Fortunately, he managed to catch her just in time. Gasping for breath, Eliana looked down with eyes filled with fear. She really thought it was the end for her...

God, she was so scared just now! She almost died!

"Don't stand still. Give me your hand," Maurice said anxiously.

Eliana swallowed hard and tried to reach for Maurice's hand.

It wasn't until she managed to grab hold of Maurice's hand that she finally felt relieved.

"Now, come over slowly," Maurice said softly as he held her hand tightly.

Holding Maurice's hand, Eliana slowly squatted until she finally sat on the window sill.

God!

Feeling the solid wooden ledge beneath her body, Eliana finally relaxed. However, the moment she sat down on the window sill, her legs began to shake uncontrollably.

"Come on, why don't you continue?" Maurice asked in confusion.

Eliana bit her bottom lip and said in a low voice, "I... I can't move."

Hearing this, Maurice couldn't help laughing. However, he said softly, "Don't move then."

He let go of her hand and stretched out his arms to hold her waist. Then, he carried her back into the room.

"Ah!"

Once safely in the bedroom, Eliana breathed a sigh of relief.

She could finally relax. Her whole body was wet with sweat. She felt weak all over and subconsciously fell into Maurice's arms.

"It's okay now," Maurice whispered, staring affectionately at the woman in his arms.

He held her waist with one hand and gently stroke her hair with the other.

Seeing this, Corbin immediately left the room and closed the door.

The dangerous situation in which Eliana found herself a moment ago had marked her deeply so that she trembled for a long time. She leaned her head against Maurice's chest and listened to his heartbeat. His smell and the beating of his heart soothed her.

Eliana gradually calmed down in Maurice's arms.

However, this moment of respite was short lived as trouble soon came again.

Both Harriet and Earle heard a strange noise coming from the room just now.

Harriet immediately recognized that it was Eliana's voice.

Eliana must still be in that room!

Harriet and Earle stalked back to the bedroom. However, they were stopped at the door by Corbin.

"Miss Stone, Mr. Moran, there's a mouse in the room and it scared the maid. She's actually trying to catch it. You can't go in right now."

"You are lying. How can there be mice here?" Harriet sneered.

"Of course there is. However, the mouse in the room looked strange. It had fair hair and strange patterns on it. It ran really fast and was hard to catch."

Corbin vividly described the mouse's appearance. However, the more Harriet listened, the weirder she felt.

The thing was, she was actually wearing a light-colored dress today, and there were plume-shaped patterns on it.

He was indirectly calling her a mouse!