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Chapter 36 A Shield

Holding Maurice's arm, Eliana walked into the party venue, causing quite a stir. Everyone turned to look at them. They were all powerful people in the business community, so their gazes were quite frightening. Eliana felt her scalp tingle, and she unconsciously clenched his sleeve. Maurice glanced at her and asked, "Are you scared?" Shaking her head, she was about to say something when someone interrupted. A middle-aged man slowly walked to Maurice. He had wrinkles, and his thin hair was neatly combed. He was wearing a typical suit that perfectly enhanced his steady demeanor.

Maurice greeted him with a faint smile and said, "Uncle Gerald."

"Is she your date?" Gerald looked at Eliana inquisitively. She smiled perfunctorily as she looked at him. She could not let Maurice lose face since she already made a deal with him. Feeling a sudden warmth in her hand, she looked down and saw Maurice holding the back of her palm to comfort her. "What's the matter? Can't I?" Maurice looked indifferently at Gerald. However, Gerald didn't look at nephew, and his heart skipped a beat when he realized how familiar Eliana looked. He had always been immune to the complexities in the corporate world, but her smile shattered his soul. Many years ago, a woman with the exact same bright eyes had smiled at him.

However...

Thinking of the past, he controlled his emotions and said in a low voice, "Maurice, you're too willful! You knew the purpose of today's party, and yet you brought a date along!" Eliana heard him. "Am I not allowed to bring a date to our family party?" Maurice asked in a harsh voice. Gerald's expression darkened. "The very purpose of this party is to announce your engagement to the daughter of the Jarvis family. Did you bring her just to embarrass them?" 'Engagement?' With her eyes wide open, Eliana subconsciously tried to shake off Maurice's hand. However, Maurice held her wrist tightly as though he was expecting it. Taking a deep breath, she glared at him. It was obvious that he was using her as a shield. Any woman who was able to get married to a man like him should be from a powerful family, and Eliana did not want to get into trouble.

"Uncle Gerald, don't worry about me." There was a hint of sarcasm in Maurice's mellow voice. "Besides, I know that you are the first one who wants this so-called engagement to fail." Gerald narrowed his eyes at Maurice, and their eyes met. The coldness between the two sent a chill in the air. Eliana felt goose-bumps all over her body. What did she do to get involved in such a situation? She was so hungry at that moment that her stomach growled. The confrontation between Maurice and Gerald suddenly stopped when they both looked at her. Embarrassed, Eliana covered her stomach with her hands. "You two...please go on." She turned around and wanted to run away, but Maurice caught her quickly. Sensing a sweet smell, she looked down and saw him

holding a piece of cake in his hand. "Eat this," he said, handing it to her. They had come straight to the party after work, so she had no time to eat. Maurice was used to handling himself in such situations, but she was not. Eliana was slightly stunned, and the anger in her heart dissipated a little. "Mr. Moran, Maurice, you are both here!" A delicate voice came, drawing Gerald's attention. "Evelynn." Gerald looked at the woman with a gentle smile. "My father is looking for you. Can you talk to him?" Evelynn Jarvis was dressed a light green gown, which perfectly enhanced her outstanding figure. – Her smile was bright, making her look beautiful and dignified. Glancing at Maurice from the corner of his eye, Gerald sneered in his heart, but pretended to be kind. "Okay. You guys talk. I won't disturb you." Maurice was right. Gerald did not want him to have the Jarvis family's support Although Maurice seemed indifferent to the marriage, he was sophisticated. Hence, Gerald could not expose his trump cards yet. After walking to the second floor, Gerald took out his phone and called someone. "Are you ready?" he asked coldly.

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Chapter 37 True Love

"Maurice, you used to like going up against your uncle when we were at school. It's been a long time since we last met, but I can tell that you have not changed at all." For a moment, Evelynn glanced at Eliana's hand that was holding Maurice's arm. She still smiled gently and then affectionately looked at Maurice.

Everyone could tell that she admired him, but Maurice was unmoved by her affection as he watched Eliana eat the cake.

Seeing that, Eliana almost choked. "Here, have some juice." Eliana looked up and found that Evelynn was handing a glass of juice to her with a concerned look in her eyes. Was she really that broad-minded? Since Eliana did not want to get in trouble or be misunderstood, she wanted to slip away. However, Maurice did not let go of her. He wrapped an arm around her shoulder and stuffed a glass of water into her hand. "Slow down," he said in an incredibly gentle voice. Eliana felt that she was not lucky enough to cherish his caring side because Evelynn's burning gaze made her feel uncomfortable. Slowly sipping the water, she tried her best to keep a distance from Maurice. Thinking that she was being sensible, Evelynn forced a smile. She then approached Maurice gracefully and said, "Maurice, today..." "If you have anything to say to me, then just say it." He looked at her coldly. Seeing that, Evelynn swallowed her warm words. She just looked at the man she had been missing for so many years in her heart. He was still handsome, but after being the CEO for many years, he was no longer the young man she once knew. Now, his abilities could not be concealed; he seemed a lot more mature; and he was a very unique choice for a husband. However, he was looking at her coldly while holding another woman in his arms. Jealousy and sadness surged from the bottom of her heart, about to erupt at any moment like a volcano. Gritting her teeth, she stared at Eliana before she said sweetly, "This lady doesn't seem very familiar to me. Which family is she from?"

Eliana didn't want to be misunderstood, and was about to tell the truth. "I am Mr. Moran's..."

'She is my woman," Maurice interrupted her. Eliana's heart thumped, and before she could react. Maurice held her waist affectionately. He then leaned over and whispered in her ear, "Drive her away, and the reward will be doubled." 'Doubled?' Eliana's beautiful eyes lit up at once. She would not have to worry about her children's expenses for another year with that kind of money. Evelynn looked at Maurice in shock. "Maurice, you're kidding, right?" "Maurice doesn't like to joke." Eliana chuckled coquettishly, almost melting Maurice's heart. He raised his eyebrows at her, and she wrapped her arms around his waist lovingly. Her graceful body clung to his. "At first, I also felt that the gap between us was too big, and that it was impossible for us to be together. But he was so persistent in his guest to be with me, and he has been really gentle and kind to me. He protected me in the company and confessed his love to me on the golf course. Now, he's brought me to his family party. I don't think any woman can refuse a man like him." Maurice almost burst into laughter when he heard those words. Eliana described all the times that he had tortured her as an act of love. And she turned it into a good story and was acting well. Just as expected, the mask of gentleness on Evelynn's face slowly began to disappear and she warned, "Miss, do you know what kind of an occasion this is? Do you know what will happen to you if you talk such nonsense?" 'How could Maurice even like this stupid woman?' "Miss Jarvis, you are not as good as me in terms of looks and figure. And men are visual creatures. Do you really think that a man who has been used to eating delicacies his whole life would be willing to make do with just eating pickles?" Eliana asked with a sweet smile. Although she appeared to be gentle, there was a hint of coldness in her voice which infuriated Evelynn. Gritting her teeth, Evelynn tried her best to force a smile. "A pretty face and a good body are not the only things that a man wants in a woman. What's the use of having big b***s if you have no brains? The kind of woman that Maurice needs is someone who is talented, and can help him with his business." While saying those words, Evelynn ignored Eliana and gazed at Maurice. It did not seem that surprising that she wanted to marry Maurice. If it had been any normal girl, she would have gotten angry and left, but not only was Evelynn calm, she also had a strong will and was very eloquent.

Eliana rolled her bright eyes, rested her chin on Maurice's shoulder, and whispered in his ear, "I've tried my best, and she's not leaving. How about... We give up?" Maurice looked down at her and smiled. "Go on." He was curious to see what more tricks she had up her sleeve. Upon hearing that, Eliana could not help but roll her eyes secretly. Looking a little aggrieved, she got close to Maurice with tears in her eyes. "I thought that Miss Jarvis was not an old-fashioned person, and I really believed that she would be able to understand that true love was what mattered the most in a relationship. But I didn't expect..." "Don't cry. It really hurts me when you cry." Maurice also began to play along with her act. He gently touched her delicate cheek, wiping away her crocodile tears. When he felt her eyelashes touch his fingertips, he could almost feel all the blood in his body rushing back to his heart. Eliana glanced at Evelynn with pride. "I may not be able to help him with his business, but he really loves me..." Her words were felt like a huge thunder, crashing on Evelynn's heart. Before she could come to her senses, she saw Eliana standing on tiptoes as she put her arms around Maurice's neck to kiss his lips.

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Chapter 38 The Coming Kiss

Maurice's sharp eyes were filled with coldness, but the very tip of his eyes curved up slightly, looking tempting. Whenever he smiled from the comers of his lips, his thin lips appeared so alluring, making women want to kiss him. However, no one ever dared to approach him because of how cold he was.

But Eliana had to kiss him now in order to finish her act. Anxiety grew in her heart as she saw Evelynn standing still while she moved her lips closer to Maurice's. And Maurice seemed to be really cool about her kissing him. Eliana could not drag it on for any longer. She glanced at Evelynn shyly and asked, "Miss Jarvis, why are you still standing here? Are you going to watch us kiss?" Evelynn looked at Maurice and asked sadly, "Maurice, is she telling the truth? Do you really..." Maurice looked at her and frowned, his sharp gaze indicating that she was disturbing their kiss. Evelynn was shocked, and tears welled up in her eyes. She wanted to pretend like she was pitiful, but Eliana seemed to be better at it than she was. Eliana frowned, her eyes wet with tears as she pleaded, "Miss Jarvis, please don't make things difficult for Maurice." She then turned to him with an affectionate look and continued, "He is not saying anything now because of how close your families are. Sooner or later, he will announce that the woman he loves is... is..." Eliana suddenly felt words stuck in her throat. She could not continue to act any longer and wanted to retreat. "Eliana." Maurice's magnetic voice instantly rendered her brain numb. She was stunned for a moment before she looked at Maurice whose eyes' were full of banter. "Well done." Subconsciously, Eliana looked to the other side and found that Evelynn had left in a fit of pique. She maintained a straight posture, looking dignified. However, the big blow had caused her to be in a hurry. Eliana breathed a sigh of relief and wanted to leave. But Maurice continued to hold her waist. She reminded him, "Mr. Moran, you can let go of me now." Maurice looked at her with his deep eyes, which made her feel like she could drown in them. "Since you've started, why don't you keep up the act till the end?"

"No, no…" Eliana shook off his hand, blushing. "I… I'll find something to eat." Saying that, she ran away. The banquet hall of Boyo Hotel was huge, and there was a table full of delicious desserts. While Eliana was enjoying the desserts, someone suddenly handed her a piece of tiramisu. "This is the hotel's specialty. Have a try," Wyatt explained with a smile. Eliana immediately recognized him as the man Maurice had played golf with that day. Wyatt was dressed in a neat suit and a tie, which made him look dashing and composed. His handsome faint smile made him look like a lazy, spoiled man from a rich family. "Hello." Eliana greeted him politely, but she didn't take the tiramisu. Wyatt didn't mind that at all. His eyes lit up as he looked at her admiringly. "You look gorgeous today." "Thank you." Eliana smiled. "I had to dress up in order to act

for Mr. Moran." Wyatt turned away and said, "It seems that your boss is very busy. If I were him, I would ignore my work and pay attention to

you..."

Eliana looked in the direction of his gaze. Maurice was standing straight and talking to a middle-aged man, holding a goblet in his hand.

The middle-aged man stooped, flattering Maurice so openly. All of a sudden, the man turned around, and Eliana recognized him immediately. 'Hodge Chadwick?'

Реппу.

Eliana wanted to step forward, but stopped.

Hodge used to be her father's right-hand man. Could he know about the inside information from back then? "Hodge used to be an important figure in Pierce Group back then. I heard that Lemuel, the CEO of Pierce Group, valued him a lot. Look at him flattering your boss like an obedient dog!" Wyatt said sarcastically. Eliana's heart sank, but she pretended to be calm and replied, "A single pillar is not enough to support a collapsing building. I guess he didn't have a choice." "Indeed. Pierce Group had some illegal operations in the assets merger, which gave the Moran Group a good opportunity to take over Pierce Group. But Lemuel was pitiful. He didn't have to die, but he was just so disobedient..." Wyatt said in a regretful tone. Shocked, Eliana almost lost her balance. Had Hodge and Maurice worked together to destroy the Pierce Group? Had they forced her father to die? Feeling a sudden chill, she began to tremble. After talking to Maurice for a while, Hodge nodded, bowed, and turned around, walking to the door. With her eyes fixed on him, Eliana took a difficult step forward. She must ask Hodge what had happened all those years ago. However, Wyatt stopped her and asked in confusion, "What's the matter with you? You don't look too good." "Let go." Without any hesitation, Eliana pushed him away and strode purposefully towards Hodge. However, Hodge had already left the banquet hall by then. Lifting up her dress, she rushed out of the hall. She saw many people entering and exiting, but she could not find Hodge at all.

5/5 - (1 vote)

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Chapter 39 Extreme Cold And Heat

Eliana tried to hold back her tears. Since she couldn't find Hodge, she decided to ask Maurice directly. Turning around, she went back to the banquet hall. In the hall, people mingled, crystal glasses in their hands. Waiters and waitresses were shuttling among the guests, serving them. After talking to an elderly man, Maurice walked to the table. He loosened his tie, revealing his s^{**}y neck. Just then, a waiter walked over to the table with a plate. Picking up a glass of wine from him, Maurice looked around for Eliana. Before he found her, he noticed that the waiter kept peeking at him. He suddenly turned around and stared at the waiter, who immediately became nervous. Maurice noticed that something was wrong, and questioned, "Who sent you here?" His voice was low, intimidating and cold. "I..." Terrified, the waiter was weak in the knees and almost knelt down. Maurice sneered and pushed the glass to him. "Fine. Drink this."

The waiter's hands trembled. He did not dare to take the glass of wine. While they were in a stalemate, Eliana rushed over, gasping for breath, and heard Maurice say, "Drink it first, and then we'll have a nice talk. And if you refuse, then you will be facing really bad consequences." Eliana was so frightened that she shrank back. Did Maurice already know what she was about to ask him? She looked at the goblet in front of her hesitantly. The crimson liquid inside emitted a sweet aroma. If Maurice was willing to tell the truth, then she would not even mind drinking poison, let alone a glass of wine. Eliana snatched the glass from him immediately. Maurice was shocked, but by the time he grabbed her wrist to stop her, it was already too late. There was not even a single drop of wine left in the glass. "Eliana! What are you doing?" He looked at her coldly and clenched his jaw. "Didn't you know that something was mixed in the wine?" "Wh...What? If there was something wrong with it, then why did you give it to me?" Eliana looked at him as though he was a pervert. "You took it from my hand," Maurice reminded her, gritting his teeth. With a long face, Eliana grabbed her dress and asked, "Is it too late for me to go to the hospital now? I just...didn't..." Her breath became abnormal and she staggered. Maurice grabbed her arm, frowning, "How are you feeling?" "Hot."

Eliana's cheeks were flushed and her breath became heavier. Her vision slowly turned blurry, and she could only see a handsome man in front of her. Feeling his cool touch, she could not help but grab his hand and snuggle up to him, his breath brushing against her skin. She closed her eyes comfortably, wrapping her arms around his waist. Maurice's expression darkened. He knew that the wine was mixed with some drug. And now, it became clear as to what was mixed in it. "I feel so bad. Please take me to... The hospital..." Eliana's voice was soft and sweet. The feeling that she was experiencing was rather new and strange to her. Burning desire flowed through her blood, causing her body temperature to rise. Some guests, who had just seen Maurice question the waiter, now were stunned to see her moaning. They were all gazing at her

movements. Everyone felt that she was too bold for showing her coquetry in public so brazenly. Maurice glanced at them coldly, scaring them. He then bent down, picked up Eliana, and strode out of the banquet hall.

With her arms around his neck, she asked, "What... What's happening to me?"

Heat was surging in her body, and she was slowly becoming limp.

She was in a daze, but she reminded him, "Take me to the hospital..."

'Shut up!" Maurice frowned, got in the elevator, and pressed the button, taking her to the thirty-ninth floor. Once they got off the elevator, he took out a card and opened the door to a room. After putting her down on the bed gently, he called his private doctor. However, before he hung up, Eliana restlessly sat up and hugged him from behind, pressing her cheek against the back of his neck. Maurice took a deep breath, disconnected the call, turned around, and pressed Eliana back to the bed. "Behave yourself!" Eliana gasped faintly, tempting him. "Help me... I feel terrible." Even though Maurice was cold-hearted, he couldn't take it. He carried her to the bathroom, put her down in the bathtub, and turned on the faucet. As cold water ran into the bathtub, he said, "The doctor will be here soon." Eliana felt so cold that it made her shiver, but the heat inside her burned ever strong. The water did not help at all. It was like she was being tortured with extreme cold and heat. Tears welled up in her eyes. She raised her head, and saw that Maurice's face was also blurry now because of her tears. She wanted him. He was her only antidote. Passion took over her mind, and she pounced on him, kissing him. "Eliana! Sober up!" With a frown, Maurice pushed her back into the bathtub, but the water splashed all over him, wetting his clothes.

And Eliana seemed to have not heard him at all. She clung to him and kissed his lips.

Maurice's resoluteness was shattered by her messy kiss.

He gulped with an unfathomable look in his eyes.

5/5 - (1 vote)

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Chapter 40 The Night

Feeling Eliana's kiss against his neck and ear, Maurice was stunned. Her breath brushed against his skin, seducing him. "I am feeling so uncomfortable. Help..."

Before Eliana even finished her words, the response that she had been waiting for came all of a sudden, sealing her lips. They both fell into the bathtub together, letting water splash all over the floor. Maurice's private doctor and Corbin stood outside the door, knocking for a long time, but there was no response. Seeing that, they looked at each other. The private doctor turned to Corbin and said with a meaningful smile, "It looks like I'm not needed anymore." Corbin scratched his head anxiously. 'What am I supposed to do now? Mr. Moran and Eliana are alone in the room.' Maurice and Eliana were as passionate as fire.

It was a really wild and interesting night. The next morning, as soon as Eliana opened her eyes in a daze, she looked into Maurice's handsome deep eyes. The blanket was casually covering his naked body. In a panic, Eliana looked away, and sat up in horror. The blanket slipped off her body, revealing countless hickeys all over her skin. The messy sheets and the pain in her body reminded her of what had happened the night

before. With a remorseful look in her eyes, Eliana curled up into a ball. 'How did I let such a thing happen? I slept with Maurice Moran! What the hell am I supposed to do now?' Flustered, she was about to get off bed when she felt someone pulling her hand. Caught off guard, Eliana fell into his arms, and he hugged her. "Where do you think you're going?" Maurice asked in a seductively hoarse voice. Eliana felt so shameful that she wanted to cry. "What happened last night... Just forget about it." Maurice looked down at the woman in his arms, stroked her back lovingly, and said in a deterrent voice, "Are you really trying to run away after sleeping with me?" Eliana felt a spark of electricity when their bodies clung together. She began to tremble uncontrollably. In her eyes, everything that had happened the night before was just an accident, but Maurice was making it sound like it was not over yet. All of a sudden, they heard a small sound of swiping the electronic key card from the door. "The boss is resting inside. You can't enter..." "Miss Jarvis is very worried about Maurice when she heard that he was not well, and that's why I brought her over to see him." "No... Mr. Moran, Miss Jarvis is here!" The next second, the door flung open. Eliana was so frightened that she shrank back into the blanket and covered her head. Maurice looked at the door with a frown. Gerald stormed in, followed my Evelynn, who was shocked. They could see what happened in the room. A man's and a woman's clothes were scattered all over the floor. Gerald roared, "What's going on here?" "You know the answer already, don't you?" Maurice looked at him indifferently. "Maurice! Is that the way you talk to your elders?" Gerald was burning with fury. "You're going to marry Evelynn. How dare you sleep with another woman?" Evelynn finally came back to her senses and burst into tears. She turned to Maurice and asked in a shaky voice, "Maurice, is this your reply to the Jarvis family?" Maurice glanced at her coldly. "I have already said that I have no intention of marrying you, or anyone else from the Jarvis family." Tears rolled down Evelynn's cheeks. She staggered back and ran away from there. With a long face, Gerald hissed, "Maurice, see what you have done. Do you know that entertainment reporters photographed you last night? if I hadn't dealt with them, your scandalous affair would be everywhere by now." Hearing that, Eliana flustered and clenched her fists unconsciously. Fortunately for her, the news of the affair had been suppressed. She did not want her children to know about it. Maurice touched the back of her head over the blanket to comfort her. He ignored Gerald, but that did not stop Gerald from finishing his performance. He frowned and sighed deeply, pretending to be heartbroken. "Although the news hasn't gotten out, the elders of the Moran family and the Jarvis family already know about it. Think of an explanation to give to your grandfather when you go back.' "That's some great acting," Maurice remarked with a cold smile. "I don't want the political marriage, so I can play along with your little act. But if my grandfather finds out about what you put in that glass of wine, do you really think that he will continue to let you be in charge of the branch company?" Gerald's expression changed dramatically. "What are you talking about?"

"Get out."

Maurice didn't want to say another word to him. He glared at him with a dangerous look in his eyes. "Let's wait and see!" Gerald took a deep breath, slammed the door, and left. Eliana immediately lifted the blanket and took a deep breath. When she turned around, she found Maurice gazing at her naked back. Blushing, she jumped out of bed at once. Maurice chuckled and said, "You lascivious woman." Only when she heard that did she realize that she had pulled away most of the blanket with her. And Maurice was leaning against the bed, naked. He was tall and muscular with wide shoulders and a slim waist. Eliana's gaze slowly traveled down his torso, until... She quickly looked away as if someone had poured acid in her eyes before she ran to the bathroom. As soon as she closed the door behind her, she clutched her chest, forcing herself to calm down. After putting on her clothes, she opened the door slightly, and shouted, "Are you dressed?" But there was no response. Did Maurice leave already? She reluctantly opened the door and walked out. "Looking for me?" Maurice's sudden response startled her.

She stepped back vigilantly. He was already well-dressed, looking powerful and handsome, unlike the way he was when he was naked and playfully flirting with her. Biting her lip, she blurted out, "Did you deliberately use me to cancel your political marriage?" She could not help but think that even though the s*x might have been an accident, Maurice clearly had a part to play. And he did not seem to be surprised by the appearance of Gerald and Evelynn that morning. She was just an unlucky victim in their plot. "Eliana, you drank that glass of wine on your own." Maurice turned to look at her. His seductive voice revealed the harsh reality. Eliana laughed at herself. Indeed, she had agreed to go to the party with him, and she had drunk the wine on her own. Clenching her teeth, she glared at him, and stormed out. Maurice raised his eyebrows in confusion. She was the one who took the initiative to have s*x with him, so why was she so angry all of a sudden? Was she not satisfied with his performance?