

## Chapter 18 Strange Question

Nina clenched her fists behind her back and apologized to Annabel reluctantly. "I'm sorry."

Annabel rubbed her ear and asked, "Did you say something? I didn't hear you. What did you say?"

"I'm sorry!" repeated Nina, this time loudly.

"Let this be the first and last time such a thing would happen. Have I made myself clear?" Rupert's majestic voice boomed, causing Nina to shake as she nodded.

On the way out of the office, Nina glared at Annabel fiercely.

She didn't expect things would turn out this way. The country bumpkin turned out to be smarter than she thought. Not only did she fall into Annabel's trap, but she also made a fool of herself in front of her crush. How humiliating! 📍

Nina vowed to get back at her. She would make sure Annabel faced twice the humiliation she faced today.

Again, Annabel didn't get off work at the closing hour. She worked overtime until she cross-checked the data on the document Nina gave her.

As Annabel stood by the roadside and waited to jail a

Nina clenched her fists behind her back and apologized to Annabel reluctantly. "I'm sorry."

Annabel rubbed her ear and asked, "Did you say something? I didn't hear you. What did you say?"

"I'm sorry!" repeated Nina, this time loudly.

"Let this be the first and last time such a thing would happen. Have I made myself clear?" Rupert's majestic voice boomed, causing Nina to shake as she nodded.

On the way out of the office, Nina glared at Annabel fiercely.

She didn't expect things would turn out this way. The country bumpkin turned out to be smarter than she thought. Not only did she fall into Annabel's trap, but she also made a fool of herself in front of her crush. How humiliating! ①

Nina vowed to get back at her. She would make sure Annabel faced twice the humiliation she faced today.

Again, Annabel didn't get off work at the closing hour. She worked overtime until she cross-checked the data on the document Nina gave her.

As Annabel stood by the roadside and waited to hail a taxi, a black Rolls-Royce stopped in front of her. ②

It was Rupert's.

"Get in." Rupert wound down the window and glanced at

her.

"No thanks. I'll take a taxi," Annabel said, taking a step back.

Rupert wasn't taking no for an answer. He got out of the car and looked at Annabel with a serious expression.

"Taxis rarely pass this road at this time. I'm not leaving you all by yourself here. Who knows? You might just end up under a desk again and I would have to rescue you and take care of you for a whole night."

"Gosh!" Annabel rolled her eyes at him when she mentioned that embarrassing night. She fired back, "It was all your fault!"

Rupert was taken aback. How was that his fault? What did it even have to do with him?

"Stop looking all confused. Don't you know that Nina has a crush on you?" Annabel uttered with her eyebrows raised. If it weren't for Rupert, Nina wouldn't have made it a point of duty to pick on her at every given opportunity.

Nina had a crush on him?

Rupert was blinded to love. He never took a fancy to any woman no matter the number of green lights they flashed at him. His heart was completely occupied by that girl he met as a child.

However, his heart swayed a little whenever he was with

Annabel. He didn't understand why, but he kept fighting it. He raised his eyebrows and asked with a faint smile, "Are you jealous?"

"Me? Jealous? Are you crazy?" Pointing at herself, Annabel eyed him and turned around to leave. However, Rupert pulled her back.

He shoved her into the car and ordered, "Sit still!"

Before Annabel knew what was happening, Rupert had already gotten behind the wheel and locked the door. He fastened his seat belt and said, "I promised my grandpa that I will keep you safe, so cooperate with me."

Annabel folded her arms and didn't bother struggling.

She had also promised her grandfather to get along well with Rupert.

It appeared that they were both on the same page, so she agreed to cooperate with him. Soon, they were going to return to their normal lives and never see each other again.

Nonetheless, it wasn't as easy as it seemed. How was she going to stay with this man for three entire months?

Just as Annabel was thinking, a big hand appeared in front of her.

"What are you doing?" Surprised, she leaned back and looked at the man beside her vigilantly.

Rupert leaned close, his arm over her chest, and looked into her eyes.

The air between them suddenly became hot.

"I want to fasten the seat belt for you," Rupert answered calmly without breaking the gaze. ③

"I can do it myself." Annabel bit her lower lip in embarrassment as she held his hand. Why did she think he wanted to do something else? Her mind didn't even go to the seat belt until he mentioned it.

The warmth of Rupert's hand made her cheeks burn hot.

With a shrug, Rupert withdrew his hand, sat up straight, and started the car. A glint of inexplicable tenderness flashed through his eyes.

Just now, he perceived the familiar fragrance that Annabel exuded. It was just like that girl's own. ④

Could it be that Annabel was the girl who saved him when he was a child?

After going over the possibility in his mind several times, Rupert finally turned to her and blurted out, "Annabel, have you ever been kidnapped?"

"What?" Annabel, who had just fastened her seat belt, was stunned to hear that strange question.

Kidnapped? What sort of question was that?

This man's mind was really unpredictable.

Annabel shook her head and answered, "No." ②