## **Chapter 28**

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Alyssa returned to her office.

Mia approached her with wobbly legs. "I–I was so scared! Mr. Jasper is so good–looking! And there's this powerful presence about him! My cheeks were burning the moment I met him. D–Did I do well, Ms. Alyssa?"

"You did great." Alyssa handed her an envelope. "Take it. You've earned it."

"T-Thank you, Ms. Alyssa!" Mia took the envelope and was surprised by its thickness.

Just then, Sean handed her a document. It was a confidentiality agreement.

"I know you're trustworthy, but I think it's better to have an agreement for both parties' sake." Alyssa smiled faintly.

She continued, "Everything that happened today must remain between us. Unless I reveal it myself, sharing this conversation with a third party would be a breach of the agreement. I will get to the bottom of it."

Feeling overwhelmed by the gravity of the situation, Mia nodded and signed the papers. She promised to keep it a secret before leaving the office.

think so, Ms. Alyssa? Ms. Alyssa?" Sean said.

"The rumor has it that Jasper is a decisive person. I just can't guess what's on his mind. Don't you

Alyssa pulled herself back from her train of thought. She smiled wryly. "Mr. Jasper truly loves Ms. Gardner. He's willing to put his pride down for her."

"I heard it's his second marriage, and he treated his first wife badly. Now that Ms. Gardner is going to marry him, I guess the first wife

sowed the seeds of the future

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Alyssa slammed the table and glared at him. Sean shuddered under her cold gaze. Still, he did not know which part of his words infuriated

her.

"M–Ms. Alyssa, now that you failed to make a deal with Jasper, what are you planning to do?" Sean quickly changed the subject.

"Wait," Alyssa replied curtly.

"Wait? What do you mean?" Sean was confused.

"I'll bide my time until the pressure overwhelms Gardner Group and the day Dylan himself addresses the quality issue. They'll strive to salvage their reputation. When that day comes, I'll deliver the final blow," Alyssa sneered.

"Do you think Jasper will lend them a hand then?"

"He won't." Alyssa looked at her painting, which Jasper had praised. She felt a mix of emotions.

She explained, "He had been used because he didn't know their true colors. Now that the truth is out, I'm certain he won't support them

any longer. Besides, he loves Liana. He doesn't care about the rest. He only showed up this time because the controversy might indirectly

affect Gardner Group. Jasper's a calculating man."

Jasper had gone to great lengths for Liana. He was even willing to set aside his pride, meet Alyssa

personally, and climb ten floors of

He would do anything for Liana. Yet, he was unwilling to do something as simple as pouring Alice a glass of water.

Alyssa recalled that her stomach was hurting that day. "Jasper, my stomach hurts. Could you ... get me a glass of warm water?"

"I have something urgent to attend to. Ask Mrs. Rosie for it," Jasper said.

With reddened eyes, Alyssa suddenly grinned. "Jasper Beckett, I hope you rot yourself with Liana forever!"

It was only a drizzle when Jasper first arrived at KS World Hotel. Now, the weather had transformed into a thunderstorm. His mood was the

same.

stairs.

The atmosphere in the car was so gloomy. Jasper kneaded his brows. His head throbbed in pain.

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Xavier continued, "You've encountered many troublesome individuals before and never seemed bothered. Why this time —"

Alyssa's younger self was on Jasper's mind. He had a strange feeling about it. Yet, the girl had no semblance to the woman he just met.

Her features might have changed as she aged. It was a possibility that Jasper considered.

"Investigate the cause of the issue between Gardner Group and Taylor Group, as well as Andrew and Dylan's whereabouts. Report to me instantly once you find something."

Jasper rushed back to Beckett Group for a meeting and to tackle the accumulated work pile. He leaned back in his chair and let out an exhausted sigh.

He had hoped his relationship with Liana would go on smoothly after Alice's departure.

Jasper thought that he had finally found a place that he could call "home."