CEOs Passion 71

Chapter 71

Connor looked at Natalie. "Mommy, has Mr. Shane been busy these past few days? He hasn't come to see us."

Hearing this, Natalie caressed both kids on their heads. "Of course. Mr. Shane is looking after such a huge company. How can he find time to go out every day? That's enough; don't complain anymore. Eat your dinner and go to bed early."

"Sure." The kids nodded.

The next day, Natalie started work officially.

Natalie punched her card and then went to the procurement department to check the fabrics sent by the textile mills three days ago. After confirming that everything was fine, she walked to the CEO's office.

Hearing a knock on the door, Shane called out without raising his head, "Come in!"

When she heard the reply, Natalie pushed open the door and went in. "Mr. Shane."

At the sound of her voice, Shane's eyes flickered and he stopped writing with the pen still in his hand. He looked at her coldly and asked, "What's the matter?"

Natalie stopped at Shane's desk, "Mr. Shane, in order to prevent other designers from misusing Project Rebirth fabrics, I want to request a separate warehouse for which only I have the key."

reason she cited, she

understanding of Jasmine, she knew this woman would not stand by and watch the fabric being delivered while doing nothing. Jasmine would try anything to drive her out of the Thompson Group, so she had to take precautions. If not, there would be

"In the future, for minor issues

the indifference in his tone, Natalie was surprised. She nodded. "Yes,

someone to bring you the key." With that,

a glance before she obediently turned around

felt that he had become cold towards

done something to

closed Shane's office door and

won first place in the Golden Feather Awards!" Joyce told her

confused. "Joyce, what are you

don't know? Are

how to react.

going on. She swallowed and replied, "Nat,

grunted in reply,

She knew that the Golden Feather Awards was one of the most authoritative fashion design competitions in the country.

From the start, she had wanted to participate but because she had had too many errands to run upon returning from overseas, she missed the registration deadline.

"There must be a mistake!" Joyce frowned. "If you didn't participate, who is this Ms. Smith who won first place?"

"Ms. Smith?" Natalie narrowed her eyes suspiciously.

"That's right." Joyce nodded. "I have seen the winning design before. It was done by you. This picture is the same and it is signed by a 'Ms. Smith', so I thought it was you. I am surprised that you didn't enter the competition. Nat, did someone steal your design and pretend to be you to participate?"

Hearing this, Natalie's expression turned gloomy as the smile left her ruby red lips. "I probably know what's going on. Maybe you're right that someone has stolen my design, but she is not pretending to be me. Besides me, there is indeed another Ms. Smith."

Joyce put two and two together and realized who that person must be. "Nat, are you saying it's your elder half-sister?"

"Well, it should be her, but I have to check on the official website."

With that, Natalie put down the phone and visited the official Golden Feather Awards website. When she saw the winning design in the J City Division, her hand on the mouse stiffened.

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It really was her design!

Plagiarized down to the very last detail.

"How does it look, Nat? Could you confirm anything?" Joyce badgered her over the phone.

Returning to her senses, Natalie turned to check the designer's signature at the lower right corner of the design. She went livid when she saw Jasmine's watermark. She picked up the phone again and held it to her ear, her words as cold as ice as she scowled, "Yes, confirmed. It's definitely her!"

She had always known that Jasmine was a repeated plagiarist, but she never thought that one day, she would fall victim to that woman's crime. The piece of work, which Jasmine copied off her, had been assigned to her by her mentor a year ago, with the theme being autumn.

Back then, she had designed about twenty pieces. Her mentor only fancied eight of them, deeming the rest to be behind the times. He had told her to discard them, but she couldn't bear to discard her hard work. So, Natalie registered a secret account on a social media website for the sole purpose of honoring her designs, which she uploaded as a memento.

She did not expect Jasmine to discover her creations!

"Alright, Nat. We have proof that she copied off you. Let's expose her to the competition organizer!" Joyce exclaimed angrily with her fist clenched.

bit her lower lip, "No,

Joyce was

Jasmine plagiarized Mina's work, not mine. I've promised my mentor that I would not come out as Mina before I could make

going to let Jasmine go, just like

my life are theft and plagiarism. Since Jasmine dared to commit these crimes, I'll certainly not let her go so easily. She likes copying, doesn't she? Then she can do

Joyce began, her eyes glinting with

corners of Natalie's lips curled slightly upwards as she

talent for design, to begin with. The only reason she achieved her current status was primarily due to her acts of plagiarism. She won first place in the regionals this time, and she social media platform, allowing Jasmine to copy. When the Golden Feather Award finals rolled around, Project Rebirth would have gained great success. Then Natalie would have the reputation she needed to

the phone and went onto the Golden Feather Awards official website to check on the theme for the next session. She was ready to

moment that Jasmine marched into the office, clapping her hands. "Everyone,

put their work aside and stared

did the same

eight o'clock tonight at the Rose Booth of Sunrise Hotel. My treat. Anyone who doesn't

Naturally, everyone in the room nodded their heads profusely. Some even murmured in surprise. "Ms. Jasmine, do you have any good news to announce?"

"Dummy, didn't you watch the Golden Feather Awards announcement today? Ms. Jasmine won first place in the J City regionals! "

"That's right!" Jasmine cast an appreciative look at the person in the back. "I'm ecstatic to have won first place, so I'm going out of my way to invite all of you to dinner."

Upon hearing that, everyone else quickly stepped forward to congratulate Jasmine. Only Natalie remained in her seat, wryly observing the scene in front of her.

You only got the first place because you copied my work, and here you are proudly showing off without a shred of shame!

While Natalie was immersed in her thoughts, Jasmine suddenly turned to look at her. "Ms. Natalie, it seems you aren't very pleased about my win. Is that right?"

Natalie got to her feet and replied with a straight face, "No, not at all. You've misunderstood me, Ms. Jasmine. I was just thinking about other matters."

"Oh? Then may I know what's on your mind?" Jasmine looked at her as she stroked her bright, red nails.

Natalie nodded, her eyes fixed on Jasmine. "Of course. I was wondering why your design style varies so much from before. Care to explain, Ms. Jasmine?"

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Upon hearing her words, Jasmine panicked for a brief moment, but she calmed down immediately and responded gloomily, "Natalie, what do you mean by that? You doubt my abilities?"

"I'm just curious. It's fine if you'd rather not talk about it." Natalie smirked as she shrugged, neither denying nor affirming the other woman's allegation.

Jasmine snorted at her, "I have nothing to hide. It's totally normal for a designer to have a variety of styles. It's nothing unusual. You, on the other hand, should concentrate on your work rather than questioning me!"

After that, Jasmine strutted away in her high heels, but there was something odd about the way she walked.

Natalie watched her leave before letting loose a sigh.

It's normal to change styles? Everyone knows that every designer has only one style! Only Jasmine could have spouted such nonsense. Did she not see how everyone's expressions changed at her words?

Natalie shook her head, directing her gaze back to the computer, and went to work.

When Natalie left the office in the evening, she went to the kindergarten to pick up her kids first. Then, she took them to Joyce, who would be taking care of them for the time being, before hailing a taxi to Sunrise Hotel.

It was ten minutes to eight when she arrived at the Sunrise Hotel.

booth, she heard Jasmine call out to

walked over to her, pulled out her cell phone, and pointed at the time. "The party starts at eight, right? It's not even time yet. How can

at eight in the beginning, but later I changed it to seven. The notice was sent to the

"Sorry, I'm not in the

ask the other attendees, "Didn't

the

"Oh, pardon me. I thought they

the farce, and the corners of her mouth twitched in annoyance.

to that moment, she

full? From the very beginning, they were specifically instructed by Jasmine not to add me. That wretched woman also changed the time of the party on purpose, just so that I

Natalie pulled a chair to sit down, Jasmine placed a bottle of red wine in front of her. "Ms. Natalie, it's not your fault you're late, but you

Bingo!

wine bottle back

Her expression darkened. "What's the meaning of this, Ms. Natalie? Do you intend to

well today. I took

As she spoke, Natalie took out a packet of antibiotics from her bag and placed it on the table.

Jasmine turned blue in the face when she saw the pills.

She had not expected Natalie, that wench, to be taking the same kind of antibiotics as her!

"Ms. Jasmine, as you can see, I can't possibly drink today. But I'm fine with juice, so why don't we replace the wine with juice instead?" Natalie said, her eyes on Jasmine.

Jasmine pulled a long face. "Don't bother!"

Juice? Who makes a fool of themselves from drinking juice? She might as well not drink any!

"That's so generous of you, Ms. Jasmine. Thank you very much." Natalie beamed at her as she put away the pills.

The medicine was not specially prepared for the occasion. It was just her habit of always keeping some with her.

In the past, while she was overseas, she would often attend parties with her mentor, where drinking was inevitable. Eventually, the ongoing routine damaged her stomach. Stanley suggested she brought antibiotics along everywhere she went. That way, she would have a reason not to consume alcohol.

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Jasmine was very moody throughout dinner. The other attendees were wary of her mood, so they refrained from expressing their feelings, and they dined with repressed emotions. Natalie was the only one who seemed to be having a good time.

When she had more or less eaten her fill, she got up to use the restroom.

She was right outside the door to the restroom when a looming figure sprang out of the men's side, grabbed her by the wrist, and pushed her against the wall.

The unexpected turn of events startled Natalie. She was just about to scream when the man covered her mouth.

"Shush. Do not make a sound. Help me out here, or I'll kill you!" The man threatened her in a hoarse voice.

Natalie's pupils shrank. She dared not to move and nodded incessantly.

The man curled his lips, satisfied with her obedience. He then buried his head into her neck and imitated the gesture of kissing her.

Right then, two sets of footsteps sounded from a short distance away, followed by speaking voices.

"Keep looking! He must still be nearby. You go check the front. I'll search the restroom."

"Right!"

voices fell, and the footsteps

approaching them. As they got closer and

felt her tension and proceeded to pinch the right side of her neck. "Relax. If I'm discovered because of you, believe it or not,

found herself lose the strength

to hold her tight,

an outsider's point of view, their actions would resemble that

of this, the advancing set of footsteps passed them by and left

man released

Natalie able to

of nobility about him. The clothes on him bore not a single brand label, but that didn't stop them from looking stylish. It was obvious they were high-end customized goods, which meant that the man wearing

him up, the

eyes fell on her face, the man's light brown pupils sparkled with delight, if only for a

you when

dusted her clothes, showing no interest in shaking hands with him as she spoke flatly, "No, I don't think

background to be chased down by other people, he must be a

walking past Sean, and

Sean stroked his chin as he watched her go, eyeing her back like a predator checking out its prey until she disappeared. The woman had aroused his interest.

By the time Natalie returned to the booth, Jasmine was gone. Natalie inquired the designer beside her about Jasmine's disappearance, who told her that Jasmine had left the premises after receiving a call. She looked pale, but no one knew what that was about!

Since the protagonist was no longer around, the rest of the group did not intend to stay long. They quickly filled their stomachs and left the hotel one after another.

The next day, Natalie was summoned to the conference room for a meeting the moment she arrived at the company. She was at the door when she met Shane and Silas, who also came to attend the meeting.

"Mr. Shane," Natalie greeted him.

Shane, too, did not expect to find her here. He was just about to respond when he saw the red mark on her neck. His pupils abruptly shrank, and his mood shifted in an instant.

Who had she spent the night with? Was it Stanley? Or some other guy?

Silas caught Shane staring at Natalie with a ghastly look on his face. Puzzled, the assistant asked, "Mr. Shane, is something the matter?"

Shane did not reply. He looked away and stepped into the conference room, his face dark and brooding.

Silas glanced at Natalie in confusion. His gut was telling him that the woman had something to do with Shane's listlessness. He did not dwell on it and decided to trail after Shane.

At the meeting, Natalie stood in front of the multimedia projector screen, presenting to the senior executives. She talked about her upcoming garment-making process, as well as her ideas for the catwalk.

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Her novel ideas managed to capture their interest, for they proceeded to ask about the feasibility of her plans.

Shane was the only one who kept looking at her without saying a word, a storm brewing in his eyes.

Jasmine, who sat next to him, took note of his strange behavior.

Following his gaze, she was brought to attention the red mark on Natalie's neck. Her eyes widened, sensing a massive crisis at hand. Even her breathing had quickened.

As a bystander, she could read his body language very clearly. Shane was staring at Natalie's neck, clearly out of jealousy!

How long has it been since Natalie started working here? And yet, Shane had already set his sights on that woman. Meanwhile, I have been by his side for five years, and he hasn't even looked me in the eye! No! This can't go on any longer! I need to drive her away fast, or I'll never feel at ease!

As she kept to her thoughts, Jasmine squeezed her hands tightly and began to hatch a plan in her mind.

Before long, the meeting ended.

The attendees dispersed in twos and threes, and soon only the three of them were left in the conference room.

for the catwalk when the door

been a while!" The visitor greeted Shane, grinning

squinted his eyes, giving the man a cold stare before

Shane's surname as well? Are they

the visitor curiously, only for her mouth to fall open in

It's him!

mind, and she deliberately raised her voice as she spoke, "Ms. Natalie, are you acquainted

gaze to Natalie

but then quickly shook her head, "No,

could finish, Sean interjected and feigned sadness as he grieved, "Oh, how terrible of you to say that.

see me?" Natalie, somewhat

I specifically asked about you, and it turns out that you work here. And so

in the direction that happened to be

smirk, "Why are you avoiding me? Am I that scary? You certainly weren't avoiding me

Last night?

Shane was about to reach out to Natalie when he heard Sean's casual statement. Startled, his hand stopped in mid-air, and it took him a while to regain his sense. He retracted his clenched fist with a sullen look on his face.

So, Sean was the one who planted that hickey on her neck!

Whatever Shane had been thinking about naturally crossed Jasmine's mind as well. Sean's ambiguous choice of words was certainly not doing anyone any favors.

"Sean, what's your relationship with Ms. Natalie?" Jasmine pretended to ask out of curiosity as she suppressed her struggling emotions.

Shane's ears twitched ever so slightly. He was apparently concerned about the matter as well.

Sean noticed that brief movement from the corner of his eye and curled his lips into a smirk. "Can't you tell?"

Natalie's eyes widened, and she stared at him in astonishment. Her face flushed with anger from hearing his intentions of deliberately making others misinterpret their relationship.

Before she could rebut, however, Jasmine beat her to talk, "Of course I can. I just wanted to make sure."

She did not understand. Why is God so unfair? Why does Natalie always seem to attract such good men? First, Shane has taken an

interest in her, and now Sean... But this could be a good thing. If Natalie and Sean were to become an official couple, then Shane would have to give up on Natalie, right?

While entertaining the idea, Jasmine tugged on Shane's arm, feigning surprise as she said, "Shane, I didn't expect Ms. Natalie and Sean to be a couple."

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A couple?

Shane pursed his thin lips tightly. That particular phrase sounded extremely harsh in his ears.

Despite Natalie's rising anger, she steadied herself and rushed to explain, "Ms. Jasmine, you're mistaken. I am not familiar at all with Mr. Sean!"

As she spoke, she did not know what came over her, but she snuck a peek at Shane, somehow not wanting him to misconstrue whatever was going on between Sean and herself.

However, Shane's face had gone cold and void of expressions. She could not tell whether he truly believed in Jasmine's lie or not. For a moment, she felt a hint of disappointment.

"Nat, I know you're still mad at me." Sean's eyes suddenly dimmed, a wry smile hanging on his face.

This got Natalie stunned and confused. "What are you talking about?"

Mad about what?"

"I left you without a word back then. I've abandoned you, so..."

"Enough!" Shane bolted upright from where he was seated at the head of the table, his eyes brimming with anger.

Back then... So, Sean was the one who had eloped with Natalie back then. No wonder Connor resembles me so much. That's because I'm Sean's cousin. Of course, his son would look similar to me.

what's the matter with you?" Jasmine asked, concerned while pretending not to know why he was

across Natalie and Sean. Void of emotion, he proclaimed,

got

lower lip.

I should take it outside." Not waiting for

me go!" Natalie shouted unwillingly as she attempted to

wrist was so tight, so she could not shake

of the

had set off

seems to be some misunderstanding between

left the meeting room. As soon as he did, he caught sight

In the elevator.

Sean finally released Natalie.

while glowering at him. "Mr. Sean, why did you say those things in the conference room? They could lead to so many misunderstandings! We only just met

Sean replied, pushing up the gold-rimmed spectacles on the bridge

you think I'll

Sean shrugged. "I know you won't, but I stand by what I said. I fell in love with you at first sight. I brought up the past because I wanted them to think we go way back. That way, no other men would come near you."

Natalie's face instantly darkened. "Mr. Sean, you should be ashamed of yourself!"

What he did was shameless and crazy. I do not want to be associated with the likes of him!

Natalie took a deep breath as she strained to suppress the fury within her. Then, she stretched her hand out, ready to press the buttons in the elevator.

But Sean shifted sideways and inserted himself between her and the buttons. "Alright, I'll admit that I'm in the wrong here. So, how about I treat you to dinner as an apology?"

"Don't bother!" Natalie rejected him coldly.

However, Sean acted as though he did not hear it. When the elevator reached B1, he once again dragged her straight to his car and forcibly pushed her into it.

Having no choice in the matter, Natalie followed him to a restaurant, where they had a hasty meal. Sean suddenly received a call after lunch and left the place sulking.

Natalie took a taxi back to the Thompson Group. However, as soon as she stepped into the company building, she was greeted with nasty remarks.

"That's her! She's the one previously involved in a scandal with Mr. Shane, and now

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"Yes, I heard she's already married with two kids. And yet, here she is hooking up with other men. How disgraceful!"

"What do you know? She's probably through with her penniless husband and is looking for a better one!"

Natalie frowned as these contemptuous statements rang in her ears, making her feel uncomfortable.

What's going on? She just got back from lunch, and now she's somehow become a hussy in their eyes?

With that thought, her expression hardened as she walked towards the crowd of gossip-mongers.

Not expecting she would approach them, they quickly dropped their conversations and looked at her awkwardly.

"Who told you I'm having an affair with Mr. Sean?" Natalie stopped in front of them and asked in a chilling tone.

They exchanged glances, and then one of them came forward and replied, "Someone from the design department talked about it in the group chat."

"The design department?" Natalie pursed her lips. Suddenly, the whole thing made sense.

After that, she ignored the crowd and marched towards the elevator.

design department and entered the office, she

picked up a magazine,

The loud noise shocked

was solemn, "Who among you were instructed

was so certain Jasmine was the mastermind behind this because she knew that she and Sean only had two mutual acquaintances, namely Shane and Jasmine. Shane would definitely not pull something like

ruin Natalie's reputation in the Thompson Group. What a

office were shocked to hear her statement, whereas a handful had guilt written on their

in design, and their greatest skill was

it's you guys!"

make much sense to cover up since they had

Natalie demanded in an icy

confront her, "Why should we? You started the scandals, and yet we can't

affair with Mr. Sean, and yet, here you are adamant that I am guilty. How deceptive. I'll give you one more chance. Apologize, and clear my name in the group chat. Otherwise, I will not

small gang took no regard for her. They

no fear because

They thought they needn't be afraid of anything since they have Jasmine to back them up. How foolish. Never mind, I could take this opportunity

With that, Natalie tossed aside the magazine she had in her hand, sat down, and turned on her computer.

The small group of people snickered when they saw her do so.

They had wondered how she would assert her power, but it seemed she was just a paper tiger who could only resort to trash talk.

For a while, Jasmine's posse did not take Natalie's warning to heart as they returned to their seats. They continued to spread rumors about Natalie and Sean, deliberately raising their voices while doing so.

Natalie knew that they were directing their aggression at her, but she paid them no mind.

The more they talked, the more items she printed.

Finally, she picked up the printed pile of materials, left the design department, and headed to Shane's office.

"Mr. Shane, I want to talk to you." Natalie knocked on the open door.

Shane paused his writing when he heard her voice and lifted his head to meet her, "What is it?"

"So the thing is..." Natalie explained the case about the rumors to him as she stepped

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Shane waited patiently for her to finish. His eyebrows furrowed together. "Who spread those rumors?"

"It's them," Natalie said while handing him a piece of paper from her folder.

Shane took a quick glance at the names, pushed the paper aside, and leaned back on his chair. "What's your suggestion?"

Natalie looked at him and answered seriously, "These people not only have been spreading rumors about Mr. Sean and me and damaging our reputations, but they also refuse to apologize. So my suggestion is to terminate their employment. Besides, there's one other thing."

Shane rested his hands on his crossed knees and asked, "What is it?"

Natalie handed him all her remaining documents. "Mr. Shane, please take a look at these designs. I don't understand how would such poor

designs get through quality control and make their way into the market."

Shane leafed through the papers. His face darkened.

Shane was no designer, but anyone could tell these were just amateur designs. He took one look and knew these designs were far below the bar set by the company.

It was now clear as day why the products of his company, since its establishment a year ago, had become the least popular in the market. Truth be told, it would take more than a miracle for such second-rated designs to take the company to the next level.

Shane picked up his intercom and dialed for Silas. "Come to my office immediately!"

arrived at Shane's office. He was surprised to see Natalie but still

back at

coldly, "Notify the HR department that I want these

in with a satisfactory smile across

Shane would not dismiss people just for gossiping in the office, hence she made copies of

Shane that she knew would not tolerate workers who were not only incompetent but also enjoyed causing

out Shane's order, Natalie thought she too,

to step out of his office, Shane called out, "Hang

around and looked at him, all confused. "Yes, Mr.

this." Shane opened his drawer, from which he retrieved a black invitation card and passed it

Natalie looked at the invitation card.

international fashion critics. I want you to come with me," Shane explained succinctly and took a

Shane, are you planning

"That's right." Shane confirmed.

be there." Natalie folded the invitation card carefully,

the

"I will be on time, Mr. Shane." Natalie nodded.

Suddenly, the office door swung open, and a figure walked past Natalie. The woman rested both her hands on Shane's table and questioned him with reddened eyes, "Shane, what's going on? I was told you dismissed my staff?"

Shane raised his eyebrows and replied dryly, "Since when are you allowed to come in without knocking?"

Natalie was amused by his response and chuckled.

Jasmine was irritated by her laugh. She turned around and looked at Natalie with disgust.

Natalie shrugged and stopped laughing.

Jasmine's focus was back at Shane. She tried to explain, "I'm sorry Shane, it's all because I care about my staff, that's why..."

"That's enough." Shane raised his hand to stop Jasmine from explaining away her mistake. "Let me ask you, for the past year or so, all the designs have to go through you for approval. Is that right?"

"Yes... That's correct," Jasmine muttered. Sensing she might be in trouble, she could not look at him in the eyes.

Shane continued to fix his eyes on her. "Then will you explain to me how did these garbage designs manage to get approval from your side?"

Jasmine was at a loss. She knew she did not have a strong ground on which to stand.

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"I believe those designers are close friends with you, hence when it comes to reviewing their work, she would just approve them with eyes closed. Am I right, Ms. Jasmine?" Natalie said with a grin on her face.

Jasmine shot her a sinister look, wishing hard that she would just disappear into thin air.

The exchange of looks between the two did not escape Shane. He knew at once that Natalie was telling the truth. Pursing his thin lips, Shane looked at Natalie and said, "I want you to take over Jasmine's position for the time being. You'll oversee and approve everything in the design department."

"Huh?" Natalie was puzzled.

She came here hoping to dissolve Jasmine's power and did not expect Shane to replace Jasmine with her as the head of the design department.

This turn of events had taken Natalie by surprise.

Jasmine, on the other hand, was in a full-blown nervous breakdown. She looked at Shane in disbelief and yelled, "Shane, you can't do this!"

Letting Natalie take over her position was like a slap in the face.

never

let you take charge of

still fumbling

just follow my order and get out of here,

answered Natalie as she

but she did not want to add fuel

stop right there!" Jasmine yelled

and turned to her. "Can I help you, Ms.

walked up to her and gritted the words through her teeth. "You got Shane

I'm not displeased. I do actually have you to thank. If it weren't for you and your people's little act of spreading those rumors, they wouldn't

in her tone

gestured for her to keep quiet. "Ms. Jasmine, need I remind you that we are still standing outside of the CEO office. I'm sure you do not want to attract any more attention from Mr. Shane. Unless you don't mind him seeing the nasty attitude that

voice. "Just so you

can't wait," Natalie replied aloofly, walked

Back in the design department, the few designers were gone and their seats were empty. The way those who remained looked at Natalie was completely different than before. They now respected her, but they were also frightened of her at the same time.

How could they not?

She managed to take down a few designers and seize Ms. Jasmine's position as head of their department single-handedly.

Natalie felt their alienated gazes upon herself. Already anticipating this, she smiled politely at them and picked up her pencil to resume her work.

In the afternoon, Natalie received a phone call and came to a café near Thompson Group.

Once she stepped inside, a man sitting by the window waved at her. "Ms. Smith, over here!"

Natalie walked over, pulled up a chair across the table and sat down. "Hello, Mr. Greene I believe you already have some results regarding the job that I asked you to investigate?"

"Of course, Ms. Smith. That's the reason I called you up," Ben said while reaching into his briefcase, in which he retrieved a folder and a photograph. Natalie recognized that photograph instantly; it was the same one she took herself at the hospital.

"Ms. Smith, you were right about their relationships. The man in the photo is Warren Litch. The child in his arms is his five-year-old son, Donald Litch. Here are their DNA tests. My staff have gone to great lengths to obtain their hair samples, so I'm absolutely positive of our findings," Ben said excitedly while sliding the folder towards.

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Natalie opened the folder and pulled out the DNA test report. As she perused the report, a smile crept across her face and she let out an ironic laugh.

Twenty-six years ago, Harrison had an affair with Susan. Consequently, Jasmine was born half a year before her. Seven years ago, he even kicked her mom and all three children out of the house because of Susan.

Now that Susan had an affair with another man, Harrison got to have a taste of his own medicine. Natalie could not wait to share this piece of news with her mother when she returned to the country. She slipped the report back into the folder. "Thank you, Mr. Greene. This was helpful."

"You're most welcome, Ms. Smith," Ben replied with a smile.

After she paid him the remaining balance, Natalie left the café and headed to the kindergarten to fetch Connor and Sharon.

Two hours later, Natalie and the kids were about to enter their home when they bumped into Silas who was just leaving Shane's apartment with a suitcase.

"Hi Mr. Campbell, what are you doing?" Natalie pointed at the suitcase he was carrying.

Silas did not expect to see Natalie here. He simply said, "I was just helping Mr. Shane pack."

The man could not help but stare at Connor who was standing next to Natalie.

child is a miniature carbon copy of

they

Connor tilted his small head and asked, "Mr. Campbell, is

"Yes." Silas nodded.

Mr. Shane. Will you ask him to stay please?" She said while tugging away and said to Silas,

It's actually very sweet of them." Silas

he had to admit these kids were pretty

not keep Mr. Shane waiting. Excuse me." Silas looked at his

Campbell," Natalie said while stepping back,

of them and stepped

Natalie and asked, "Mommy, why is Mr. Shane moving out all of a

too, Connor," Natalie said, shaking her head. Gazing at Shane's closed

voice choking with tears. "Mommy, am

course you will see him again. Haven't you already met him before he moved in here? Come, let's go home and I'll cook

Sharon's grief in an instant. She raised her little

"What about you, Connor?" Natalie pushed open the door.

Connor brushed his chin a little and replied, "I want chicken wings!"

"All right, fish and chicken wings coming right up!" Natalie said while stroking their heads lovingly.

The next day, Natalie came out from the dye room in her what was once a white coat which was now in rainbow colors. She was startled to see Sean standing by the door. 'Mr. Sean, what are you doing here?"

"Good morning!" Sean smiled and waved at her. "I came here to talk to you."

"Oh, is everything okay?" Natalie took off her coat and draped it over her arm, wondering what he was here for.

Sean walked toward her and said, "I've heard about what happened yesterday. I'm sorry you had to go through that."

Ah, he's here to apologize.

Natalie lowered her guard and replied, "It's all water under the bridge, Mr. Sean. Don't worry about it."

"No, no, I feel responsible for causing all the trouble. At least let me make it up to you