

Desires DH 181

Chapter 181

"I'll drive you home," Evan said before instructing Hayden to start the car

During the ride back home, Anya was occupied with comforting Eudora and calming her child down. The fact that she had lied to Evan about where she lived completely slipped the young woman's mind. Even knew that the young woman must be recovering from the terror of nearly losing her child. That was why he kept his silence

He didn't say a single word during the entire drive.

Realization finally struck Anya when Evan's car stopped right in front of Ellie's apartment Block Ban ice where shelved

She had other things to worry about right now. She waited for Hayden to kill the engine.

The young woman pulled the door open immediately. She was womed that Evan might make a grab for her and kee

the car. But Evan didn't.

The young man simply got out of the car after Anya had

Ellie and Nathaniel were waiting at the entrance of the apartment building.

Anya walked up to the building with Eudora in her arms. That was when Evan spoke "Anya, we need

She knew it. He wasn't going to let her off that easily. After all, he had gone to so much effort just to find out where she really lived

After some thought, the young woman handed Eudora to Ellie before turning around "Thank you for what you did today. Mr.

Welton."

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Evan gave Anya a long hard look. His lips twisted into a ghost of a smile. "I haven't said a word you seem to know what! want to tell you."

"They're not your children. You don't have a say at all" Anya said calmly. If there's nothing else. Im gong to now. Eudora's got a shock. I have to let my cousin know what happened."

Anya took a step and turned around. She had said her piece. Saying more might reveal too much to the man. Evan wasn't going to let the young woman go that easily though. He reached out and grabbed her by the wrist. The next moment, was tugging her to his car and pressing her tightly into the flank of the vehicle. His towering form cast a looming shadow over the young woman. His voice was low and husky and his breath almost scalding as they hit the young woman's tender soft skin. Anya's skin burned. "I'm not going to forget what happened today if I find out that they are my you prepare yourself. Do you know what I'm going to do to you then?"

Evan wasn't trying to threaten or frighten Anya. He wanted her to yield to him

Anya was unaffected. Her previous exchanges with the man had taught her well do I guess it's fortunate that they are not your children then "

Evan didn't get into an argument with her. His eyes darkened. Then, he released his hold on the young man and let her go.

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edition cathe to an end but Anys remained guilty about the matter for a long time. des her family and Cindy

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get cold the printer and stopped feeling terrible about it.

karvad a hard lastem from the maidand though. She would never be so careless with her kids again.

The Ag far as the chaldean constantly when she brought them out to run errands.

Wada Keys the fire, like she typically did.

dei

tau klart for programa the accessories fod i els bridal gown. Once she was done accessorizing and decorating the dress, she ***** the the cond hand the gown to Lola.

deryact

Hidd

Was the keys was confident that she could come up with a design for the coat within a week.

best the end of the month

Fond suspinning that her twins are his. She couldn't stick around in Welton Group. It was too dangerous.

/dir sexually derding what the frater, Arya reaffirmed the decision that she will quit. A weight seemed to lift from berselies head dom the desk Within moments, someone arrived at JK Couture. He was from

Evan's office. He traded a breath of fresh air at the desk and smiled at the young woman politely as he handed her a small box. "This is from

The men did stick around. He turned around and returned to his office after handing Anya the gift.

000 as he went on, the usual group of female employees in JK Couture gathered and started a hushed discussion. King then methodically asked the receptionist, "Did you see that guy? He's from Mr. Welton's office."

"Dabei silly something she's got Jake, Mr. Brown and someone from Mr. Welton's office courting her."

"** * the guy from Mr. Welton's office is the one courting Anya? Maybe it's Mr. Welton himself."

"Plan de Welton be interested in someone like her? It must be his employee."

wydd

"Wer Fourbette. There are a lot of guys who like being pretty. See the men throwing themselves at her. I'm green with envy"

"Your boob but they pet want her playing"

Liverpool's words were about the wrong way

won

dripping with scorn and contempt. Anya had heard none of it. She was still caught in the grips of

stared at the gift that Evan had delivered to her desk.

The moon met the kid who openly conducted office romances. He wasn't the kind who broke his own rules too

www when he were trying to get her to fall into bed with him, he tried to keep the affair a secret. He didn't want anyone in

the company to know at all.

This wasn't like him. What happened? Why did he decide to give her a present?

Anya stared at the box. It wasn't sealed. Evan must have deliberately ripped the seal open because he was worried that she might return the gift to him. What was the man thinking?

Anya didn't care. It didn't matter what he did. She wouldn't accept the gift.

The young woman placed the box aside. She was going to return the gift to Evan later.

The box accidentally slipped through her fingers then and tumbled to the ground. Out rolled something with a pink strap. That looked like some kind of rope.

Anya had been expecting something expensive. She hadn't been expecting rope.

The woman's curiosity was piqued. She picked the object up. At first, she had no idea what it was. After reading the manual found in the box, she finally realized what she was staring at. It was a child harness.

The man had put quite some thought into the gift.

An inexplicable feeling unfurled inside Anya's chest. It didn't change things though. She was still going to keep her distance

from the man.

She shoved the child harness back into the box. Evan texted her then. She had been expecting it. "Have you received my gift?"

"Yes. Thank you, Mr. Welton," Anya replied.

"I'm meeting clients later this afternoon. Join me." The next text from Evan came swiftly.

Anya stared at it silently. She wasn't part of the secretarial or the media department. This wasn't part of her job at all.

"Mr. Welton, I'm a designer from JK Couture. I'll be spending the rest of the day at the textile mill. I won't be available. Thanks for the invitation."

Evan knew that Anya would turn down the invitation. He started typing slowly before finally sending out his reply. "It's the runway show for Dior's upcoming autumn and winter haute couture collection. It's starting at one. Are you sure you want to give that a miss?"

The runway show for Dior's haute couture collection. Every designer would kill to attend the event.

Anya was naturally one of them. But Evan was going to be there. She decided to give it a miss.

Having issued a second rejection, Anya stopped looking her phone. She packed up, then stood up. She had to tell Jake that she was making a trip to the textile mill. She had to get the final touches on Lola's bridal gown done.

As soon as she rose to her feet, she was greeted with the sight of a familiar face. Mdm. MacMillan, who had left Anya with a threat and hadn't harassed her for some time, had made an unannounced visit to JK Couture.

Mdm. MacMillan was sixty years old. She had married into the MacMillan family when she was any rong and had enjoyed a luxurious life of comfort and wealth since then. As a result, she has aged extremely gracefully Siw hardy lowes her age at all. In fact, she looked as if she were in her early fifties.

She strode confidently into JK Couture. The receptionist had tried to stop the old lady as politely as she could te mos har job to stop random strangers from barging into the office.

The young woman had not expected such strength from the old lady. Mdr. MacMillan had pushed the record with firmly. Her sharp eyes had searched the company before finally landing on Anya. Then, she had made a beeline for the

young woman.

As soon as she walked up to Anya, the old lady raised her arm. Her eyes were cold and sharp. She was going to hit Anys

Anya never dropped her guard when it came to anyone from the MacMillan family. The young worran turned away and dodged the hit in time. Mdm. MacMillan's outstretched palm swung past Anya.

The old lady's hand hung uselessly in the air. Fury surged through Mdm. MacMillan and turned her cheeks flushed with anger. Her jaw clenched tightly. "What is wrong with you, Anya? You know your sister is in love with him. Why would youth and rob your sister of her love?"

Anya knew it. Her grandmother was here because of Evan and Sydney. She was here to help Sydney make Anya's life living hell.

Anya took a cautious step back and eyed the old woman before her coldly. This was her grandmother. But she had been utterly taken in by Melissa, her dear stepmother's lies and had lost all reason. The

old lady had lost her love for Anys. "Mdm. MacMillan, perhaps you should explain yourself."

"I'm no longer part of your family. Perhaps you should explain why you're here. You don't have the right to barge into our company and then try to assault me."

Anya's grandmother had treated her like a precious treasure in the past. That had been before Anya's stepmother had joined the MacMillan family.

Melissa had spurned lies about Anya's mother and her. Gradually, her grandmother had grown to detest Anya and her mother. The old lady wished they were dead.

Anya had lived with the old woman's malice for more than a decade. She wasn't going to take it anymore.

She had borne everything silently in the past because she had still been a part of the MacMillan family. She had been young and hapless. Now, she wasn't anymore. She was no longer part of the MacMillans. She didn't have to take such abuse from the family anymore.

"Your tongue's gotten sharper," the old lady said as her arm dropped back to her side. Her lips twisted with scorn. "I shouldn't be surprised that you're picking on your sister. You're just like your dead mother, vicious and shameless."

Anya couldn't take it anymore. She had done so for too long. The young woman grabbed a glass of water on her desk and threw the water in the old woman's face. "Don't insult my mother! Leave right now. You're trespassing. We can call the cops."

Anya didn't care if the old woman called her names or insulted her. But she wasn't going to stand by and let her call her mother names. Anya loved her mother. She loved her more than anyone else in the world.

She wouldn't let anyone insult her mother.

This was the first time Mdm. MacMillan had someone throw water in her face. The fact that the person who had done it was her very own granddaughter made things worse. The old lady was momentarily stunned. It took her some time before she finally recovered from the shock. Then, she was howling with fury. "How dare you, Anya! You're going to pay for that! How could you do that to your own grandmother? Where are your colleagues? Did all of you see what she's done? Look at how vicious the woman is. She's abusing her own grandmother! Look at what she's done!"

Mdm. MacMillan yelled at the top of her voice and tried to draw the attention of Anya's colleagues.

Anya appeared unruffled. She had decided to quit. She didn't care what her colleagues thought of her.

"Look at how vicious she is!" the old lady howled. Anya threw water at her, which had driven Mdm. MacMillan into a mindless rage. She looked nothing like the dignified matriarch of a respectable family. She looked like a mad woman.

The commotion that she was causing did draw some attention. Anya's colleagues gradually gathered around Anya and her grandmother.

"My granddaughter's vicious and abusive. She's also got loose morals." the old woman gritted her teeth furiously. She seemed intent on ruining Anya's reputation. Her voice finally drew Jake out of his voice.

The man strode towards Anya's desk and stepped between Anya and her grandmother. His towering form was akin to a shield that protected Anya from the old lady. His voice was dark with anger. "Madam, you're causing a disturbance at our workplace. If you keep this up, I'll have no choice but to call the cops."

"Call the cops? Go ahead! I'll tell the cops that you assaulted me!" The old lady wiped the water off her cheeks. A cool look of composure settled on her face. She stared coldly at Anya. "Anya, don't for a second think you're going to get away with this. I have my ways. You'll learn your place."

Anya

her

ya had no idea what the old woman was talking about. She thought her grandmother was trying to blackmail her with

one-night stand with Evan a year ago.

“Go ahead and tell everyone,” Anya shot back. “You should think carefully before you do that though. Think about who you’re going against. He’s going to destroy your family. He’ll bankrupt you in a single night.”

Mdm. MacMillan knew that. But she wasn’t talking about that incident.

The MacMillans weren’t powerful enough to pit themselves against Evan.

She was talking about Anya’s mother and what the woman had done before she had died.

She wasn’t upset by what Anya had said. Anya might seem utterly fearless right now, but the young woman was going to come crawling to the old lady’s feet. Anya would be begging the old lady then.

The thought of that sent a cold smile to Mdm. MacMillan’s face. “I’m going to remember what you did today, Anya. Pray

Chapter 183

The other designers in the company gathered around and began goosding about Anys after Mom Mallar

Couture

Anys heard them. They were repeating the same things that they ratsad out her in the past.

She wasn’t interested in what they thought about her Ste dont want to care She was going to eave the company son

Jake seemed quite concerned about Anys though he had overhear the nudes decussions in the office. The young man slammed his fist heavily on the desk next to him and thundenes furiously This was the fin me te tadaised his voice in the office. “What’s everyone song? Don’t you have NOTE to get DECK Am saying your guest or your colleague? worn per secr1

No one had seen Jake so mad before

The sight was a shock to everyone. They strained themselves messy defining sorting their desks and throwing

themselves into their work

This was the first time they had seen Jake Dow up in the office coked and angry he was nothing like usual gentle

and soft spoken self. The man never yelled at them or got mad at them even when they made a mistake

The truth was staring them right in the eye Jane had fallen head over heels for

Carol stood no chance at all.

Carol had known all along that Jake

was interested in Anys. But she had never moved with her.

Because of Anys, he had blown up in the office and shown the temper

Carol could feel her guts churn with rage. She was boiling with anger

Her fingernails sank deep into her palms

She desperately wanted Anys to leave. She wanted the young woman gone from JK Couture

“Don’t worry, Anya. You can get back to work now?” Jake turned around and said gently to me after yelling at the rest of the company.

The young woman appeared a little startled. She had never seen Jake’s voice or anyone. Was this how every man looked like when they got mad? They looked exactly like Evan. The image of Evan popped up in Anya’s head instantly.

Tretman

alter

The young woman chided herself secretly. That man was the cause of all her problems and the source of all her grief.

How could she compare him to Jane? What was she thinking?

Anya chased away the image of Evan in her head immediately. “Thank you, Jake. My family life is a little complicated...I’m sorry for the trouble that it’s caused the company.”

“It’s no big deal. Talk to me if you have any problems. I’m sure your grandma said even though he doesn’t know much about

Anya’s family.

He had heard what the old woman had said earlier and had arrived at his own conclusions. Anya’s grandmother was a terrible person. Only a terrible person would abuse their granddaughter in such a manner.

What had Anya done to her? What could have warranted such hostility?

She had behaved like an evil step-grandmother that had stepped right out of a fairytale.

Anya nodded. "Thank you, Jake. I'm going to head down to the textile mill to work on Ms. Mars' bridal gown. Do you need

me in the office?"

"It's alright," Jake said. "You can go."

Anya grabbed her things and left JK Couture immediately.

She had to leave before she killed herself. The stifling atmosphere in the company was driving her crazy.

She had been brimming with hope and excitement when she had first joined the company. Now, all she wanted to do was get away from the place.

Soon. She had to get Mdm. Welton's coat done. Then, she would be free.

She had started hunting for jobs online a few days ago.

Two design agencies had responded to her applications. She had two interviews scheduled next Monday.

She could leave JK Couture. There was no reason for her to not quit.

Anya left the office in a hurry. As soon as she stepped into the elevator, she pulled her phone out and texted her best friend. "Cindy, I have to hunt for a job again."

Cindy was helping out with her family business at the moment. She texted Anya back immediately after receiving her best friend's text. "What happened? Did you get fired?"

Cindy was Anya's best friend. They had no secrets. "No. I intend to quit."

That made sense. Cindy replied with another text. "Do you want to join my company? How does a monthly salary of three grand sound to you?"

A soft smile graced Anya's lips. "I'm a designer. Your company doesn't need a designer. You'll be paying me to do nothing."

"It's only three grand a month," Cindy texted back. "You know what I mean. Take it as a paid hiatus while you look for your next job."

"Besides, I'm Eudora's and Nathaniel's godmother now. I don't want Eudora and Nathaniel to starve. Think about my Diapers and formula milk are expensive."

offer.

"Alright, I'll think about it," Anya replied.

"That's the right attitude. Why don't we have dinner tonight? I'll introduce my cousin to you. He's a lawyer. You have plans to file a lawsuit and make a claim on your mother's inheritance, haven't you?"

Anya had been feeling a little disappointed about not being able to meet Cindy's cousin. Cindy's suggestion perked her up immediately. "I'll see you tonight then."

"Yup." Cindy texted back. "See you later, alligator!"

Chapter 184

Anya felt a lot better after texting Cindy. The foul mood that she had been in dissipated.

She should spend more time talking to her friend. It really helped get things off her chest

Without Cindy, she might die from sheer anger.

Anya thought about the MacMillans. They had abused her and her mother and put the both of them through hell. But there was no point in getting mad at them. That hurt nobody but herself. She was the only one who suffered for her anger.

It wasn't worth it. Anya wasn't going to let her grandmother's unexpected and hostile visit that morning distract her from what was important.

She had to pay a visit to the factory and get Lola's bridal gown done.

Her job today was to make sure that the pearls and rhinestones were sewn onto the dress.

It took Anya half an hour to reach the factory.

She spoke to the tailor in charge of getting the bridal gown ready. After that, she sent a text to Lola. "Ms. Mars, the bridal gown will be ready today. I'll send you a photo once it's done."

"Sure," Lola texted back.

"I'll let you get back to your work now," Anya replied.

The other woman texted back again. "Have you considered my invitation? I didn't get an answer from you."

Lola was talking about her pre-wedding vacation. That had slipped Anya's mind completely. "I'm sorry, but I won't be able to attend the trip. My calendar's packed. Have a great vacation!"

Anya set her phone aside and got back to work after sending that final text.

Meanwhile, Evan had just found out about Mdm. MacMillan's unannounced visit to JK Couture and the scene that she had caused. He listened quietly as Hayden told him what had happened.

There was a hint of steel to his voice when he spoke. "I don't want any MacMillan who's not working in the Welton Group on our premises in the future. Fire anyone who lets them in. Make sure everyone knows the consequences."

Hayden nodded, "I'll let everyone know, Mr. Welton."

Lola smiled as she read Anya's text. The young woman had turned down her invitation. Lola turned around and gave her cousin a look. "Dan, she's not coming. What should we do?"

Dan was playing cards. He had a king of hearts pinched between his fingertips. "How did you ask her?"

"Nicely. Like a normal person. Were you expecting me to beg her to come?" Lola snorted. She strolled towards her cousin and took a seat across the table. "My dear cousin, I'm a celebrity. I'm not going to go down on my knees and beg."

Dan's lips quirked into a smile. "This is for Evan's sake. You want him to be happy, don't you? Think of a way to get her to join us for the trip."

"Maybe she really doesn't want to," Lola said thoughtfully. "She doesn't seem to like Evan at all."

"That's why he's interested in her. He wouldn't be if she were throwing herself at him," Dan said before throwing the card in

his hand onto the table.

"Men are such weird creatures. What's wrong with going after someone who likes you too? Why force yourself on someone who doesn't like you at all? You're just going to cast them aside after you're done with them and get bored. These poor young girls. They're the ones who end up getting hurt." Honestly, Lola was convinced that Evan was just trying to have some fun with Anya.

She knew men like Evan and her cousin. Except the partner whom their family had chosen for them, every other woman was simply a casual fling.

That included every woman who had the misfortune of catching their eye. They would end up as the men's playthings.

Things wouldn't be so bad if these women thought about the bright side of things though. They weren't exactly getting the worse end of the deal.

They would be showered with gifts, after all.

What they wouldn't get was love or status.

When it was time for men like Evan and Dan to settle down, these women would get a generous sum of money and be sent

away.

"Hurt? You'll be dating Evan. How bad can it be? He's tall and good looking. He's influential and powerful. He's also very generous," Dan said as he continued his game of cards. "I heard he's really generous this time."

"What did you hear?" Lola's ears twitched with curiosity.

"He offered to let Anya have his really expensive apartment. Is that generous enough for you?" Dan honestly thought Anya would be getting the better end of the deal if she accepted Evan's offer and agreed to be the man's lover.

She might end up with nothing after getting dumped by other men.

But she would have a million-dollar apartment after getting dumped by Evan.

There were plenty of women out there who would kill to be in her place.

Lola's jaw dropped. That was incredibly generous of Evan. "That's a million-dollar apartment you're talking about. I know actresses who would throw themselves at Evan for that. It seems excessively generous."

"He likes women who don't sleep around. I'm not insinuating anything about anyone here."

Lola rolled her eyes at her cousin.

It appeared that she had to find a way to convince Anya to come along to her pre-wedding vacation.

Chapter 186

that evening drys and the tailor at the tele mill soir the war between them and tha

yum daters was time to knock off wore

in order to keep the fall snsden from being seen beamione e Ank tot groten a 320kpartment bag for the crem Heart sacpaly in the garment bag to one would be able to sad any pictures of the gown wher be bese

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is seemed surprised by the designers efficiency Burne dion pay anything She simply instruer ter omve to 10 to

led twenty minutes to teach the factory

tis soror Ania could oor of now he sauc tande tre poured Arve a

of water "Anys,

The young woman took the glass of water from the tailor and smiles politely. She shook her head. I stood around until the driver arrives and picks up the gown. Otherwise, I won't be able to see you again."

She was worried that she might have missed something

Something might go wrong again. She would rather stand around a while longer and see the thought to the end

The tailor could tell that Anya was a serious worker so he could deeply scout her work, he counted on her admiration and respect for the young woman. "Be sure you are comfortable before going back to my work."

Anya nodded and found herself a seat

After twenty minutes, Lola's driver arrived at the factory

Anya packed the gown carefully and handed it to the driver. Her project had come to an end.

The young woman grabbed her bag and left the factory with a spring in her step

She had a dinner with Cindy's cousin tonight

twins and

It was a formal meeting with a lawyer. She decided to dress up for the occasion. Anya got home, fed her lovely twins. They played with them for ten minutes. Then, she washed up in a hurry and changed into something nice.

She decided to put on some makeup-

Anya hardly spent much time on makeup. She dressed plainly and simply and applied only a simple and light layer of makeup for work every day

She was going to be asking Cindy's cousin for a favor tonight. It was a favor that concerned her mother.

The young woman wanted to give Cindy's cousin a good first impression of her.

She spent some time putting on makeup and picked out a nice floral dress that ended right at the knees. She looked young and doll-like in the dress.

Ellie was blown away by the sight. The older woman beamed at Anya. "Anya, you should dress up more often. You're a pretty lady. You look incredible when you dress up."

"This isn't a date. We're be discussing business," Anya said. Her aunt's compliments clearly made her a little uncomfortable.

"Be careful and don't stay out too late." Ellie knew that Anya was going to have dinner with a lawyer. He was Cindy's cousin.

That set her mind at ease. Yet she couldn't help herself as she nagged at the young woman.

"I know," Anya said as she combed her fingers through her dark hair. She headed towards the door and slipped into a pair of heels.

Nathaniel came running towards Anya then. He wrapped his chubby short arms around his mother's arm. "Mommy... Mommy...pretty."

The boy seemed gifted with words. He had learned a few new words when Ellie had complimented Anya on how pretty she looked and was repeating the same compliments.

Anya giggled as her son struggled to enunciate the new words that he had just learned. She reached out and tousled the boy's hair. "That's cute, Nathaniel. Mommy has an appointment. I'll be back later. We'll hang out later, alright?"

Nathaniel didn't want his mother to go. He wouldn't let go of her arm. Eudora walked up to the two and started tugging at Anya's other arm at all. Anya's kids had both her arms hostage. She couldn't go anywhere.

This required an intervention from Ellie. The older woman walked up to the trio and lifted Eudora and Nathaniel into her

arms.

Anya seized the opportunity and darted out of the apartment. The kids were going to start crying if she didn't leave soon.

The young woman made her way to the elevator in her heels and pressed the button next to the elevator.

She rode the elevator to the ground floor and headed for the entrance.

Cindy had wanted to give her a lift to the restaurant. But something had cropped up unexpectedly. She wouldn't be able to make it for dinner. She had texted Anya the address of the restaurant and told her to call a cab. Cindy would pay for the cab fare.

Anya didn't want to be late for her first meeting with a lawyer. She hurried towards the entrance.

didn't pay much attention to the man who was headed her way. He was

Perhaps she was in too much of a hurry. She d smoking.

The moment their shoulders brushed, the man reached his arm out and caught Anya by the wrist. He tugged her toward him. Anya landed heavily against his firm chest. Wisps of cigarette smoke hit Anya in the face. The young woman heard a husky low voice in her ear. "Where are you going dressed up so nicely at night? is it a date?"

There was a clear possessive note in the man's voice. He spoke as if he owned Anya

Anya whipped her head up instantly. Her eyelids twitched violently as she stared at the man who had formed her in his

arms

What was Evan doing here?

Chapter 186

"A penny for your thoughts?" Evan finally said coolly. Anya had been staring at him like an idiot for some time.

The young woman finally broke out of her stunned stupor. It wasn't her fault. She hadn't been expecting to run into Evan

here.

Besides, she was in a rush. She didn't have the time to play his games.

"Please let me go, Mr. Welton, I'm in a rush." Anya stuck her arms out and shoved at Evan as she struggled to free herself.

Evan simply tightened his grip on her. He was standing so close that Anya could smell his breath. It was the faint, sharp scent of cigarette smoke. It didn't smell bad. But it was a little overwhelming. Anya could feel her heart skip a beat.

Evan's eyes fell on the woman in his arms. She looked a little different tonight.

She had spent some time on her makeup. Had she applied eyeliner?

She had definitely applied lipstick. Her lips were a glossy pink. They looked soft like some kind of dessert. Evan was seized by the urge to kiss her.

Her dress was pretty too. It brought out her curves. The color of the dress wasn't overly bright and didn't draw attention to itself. In the pretty little dress, Anya looked angelic and beautiful.

Evan was well aware of how beautiful Anya was, but she seemed more mesmerizing tonight than she usually was. He found himself getting lost in her beauty. His voice was husky and almost coarse with desire when he spoke. "Where are you going dressed like that?"

ne of your h

"Mr. Welton, I'm off work. What I do during my personal time is none of your business. I don't have to tell you anything," Anya said as she threw a look at her watch. She was supposed to meet Cindy at the restaurant at half past seven.

It was s

Seven

now.

She would've been able to make it if she called a cab. She hadn't expected Evan to appear out of nowhere.

Anya didn't want to be late or, God forbid, have to call off the dinner with such a short notice. She needed to start working on the lawsuit on her mother's inheritance.

The thought gave her a sudden boost of strength. Somehow, the young woman summoned an unexpected surge of strength and shoved Evan off her forcefully. Without saying a word, she turned around and started running.

Evan clearly had the advantage though. His legs were longer, after all. The man caught Anya easily and pulled her into his arms again. "I guess you're going on a date."

The man's warm, large hands were wrapped around Anya's waist and held her firmly in place. Anya was boiling with fury. She whipped her head around and glared murderously at Evan. "That's right. I'm

going on a date. Is there anything wrong with that? Are you going to stop your employees from dating? You seem to have a lot of time on your hands, Mr. Welton."

"What a surprise. I'll be joining you, I'm curious about the guy who caught your eye. Is he as amazing as I am?" Evan said

Chaw

before flicking the cigarette pinched between his fingers onto the ground. He stepped on the stub hardt.

The man pulled the door to his car open and shoved Anya into the passenger seat. He fastened the seatbelt for her before heading to the other side of the car and getting into the driver's seat

He had driven tonight. His usual driver wasn't anywhere to be seen.

Evan got comfortable in the driver's seat. Then, he pressed something and locked the doors to the car

Anya was trapped. There was no way she was getting out of the car now

After stewing momentarily in her rage, Anya finally gave up. Whatever. He could come along if he liked.

Would a multibillionaire be so shameless as to stalk, a woman who was on a date? She didn't believe it.

"Where are you going" Evan asked the woman seated next to him as he started the engine. His fingers splayed gracefully

cross the steering wheel.

"Kaiser" Anya replied frostily before pursing her lips.

She looked as if she were trying to control her temper.

Somehow, that sparked an intense surge of possessiveness inside Evan.

The man smiled faintly before slamming his foot into the

gas pedal.

The car sped away from Ellie's apartment and down the street. Neither of them spoke during the ride. The car was filled with a tense silence.

A silence that was punctuated by their breathing. There was something terribly suggestive about it all.

Anya tried to stop herself from looking at the man. She turned away and stared out the window, at the lights speeding past

The gears in her head began to turn furiously. How was she going to get rid of Evan?

Should she tell him to leave her alone? Perhaps she should ask him to join them.

The latter option didn't seem appropriate at all.

She was having dinner with Cindy's cousin because she needed his help as a lawyer. She wasn't really going on a date.

What should she do?

Anya couldn't think of a solution no matter how hard she tried. They were going to arrive at the restaurant soon. She had to say something. "Thank you for the lifC Mr. Welton."

"Don't worry. I'm not going to join you for dinner. I'm not interested in becoming the third wheel to someone else's date," the man said. He seemed to have read her thoughts

His voice was low and husky. It sounded almost sexy. "I'll be sitting at the next table. I'm going to watch."

Anya found herself at a complete loss for words when she heard that.

Well, at least he wasn't going to actively ruin her dinner. She should probably thank the gods for that.

Chapter 187

They arrived at Kaiser, a renowned restaurant in Nordeny.

Evan stopped the car. The two of them got out.

The valet standing at the entrance of the restaurant spotted Evan's Bentley right away. You could tell from its license plate number that the owner of the car was no ordinary person.

The valet was quite sure that he must be someone important.

In fact, being rich wouldn't cut it. The owner of the car must be someone with incredible influence as well.

Evan looked incredibly young. The valet wondered if he were the son of some powerful politician.

He hurried toward Evan and offered his services with a wide smile.

Evan handed the car keys to the man and led Anya into the restaurant.

Meanwhile, Cindy's cousin, Jamie Granger, was seated at a table by the window. He was waiting for Anya.

Cindy had described her cousin to Anya. Like her best friend had said, the man looked handsome and accomplished.

He was tall

He was tall and had a slim but well-defined form.

He might not be as good-looking as Evan, but he did look good. His eyes were sharp and lively and he carried himself like an accomplished member of his profession.

Anya studied Jamie briefly before she recalled her unwelcomed second shadow. "Mr. Welton, I'm going to meet my date

now."

She hadn't minced her words, Evan must know what to do.

She clearly didn't understand the man at all. Evan wanted Anya. He wasn't going to let any other man have the chance to court the woman he wanted.

His lips twisted into a condescending smirk. "I expected better from you."

The man wasn't going to leave Anya alone. In fact, he wanted her to know that he was disappointed in her.

Anya couldn't help herself, She rolled her eyes.

She didn't want to get into an argument with the man. She was going to quit soon.

An argument would be pointless.

She didn't say a word as she made a beeline for Jamie..

Evan simply stood there. His eyes narrowed dangerously as he studied the other man. After a moment, he made his way

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Thank you for agreeing to help me. Jamie Anya said. Her voice bright with gratitude

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Sure make time for you. Give me a ring whenever you need me." Anya honestly thought Jamie was a decent guy She couldn't help but like him more for it.

She had made the right decision when she asked Cindy for help. You could always rely on friends and their friends for help

Jamie didn't look down on Anya because of her dubious family background. He seemed earnest when he said that he

wanted to help Anya

toward a table near Jamie's and sat down.

His fingers tapped lightly against the table. The man looked down his nose and watched as Anya and the man had their

date.

Anya knew that Evan was staring at her like a wolf at meat. There was nothing she could do about it. She could only try to ignore him.

The young woman sat down and started introducing herself to Jamie in a soft voice, "Hi, Jamie. I'm Anya, Cindy's friend. I hope I didn't keep you waiting for too long. I'm sorry.. I was caught in traffic."

Anya couldn't tell the guy that the CEO of Welton Group had accosted her in her apartment building and that was the reason she was late.

"Don't worry about it. I just arrived." Jamie nodded. He eyed the woman in front of him. Cindy had told him that Anya was a beautiful woman but she turned out to be more beautiful than he had expected. A glimmer of interest flickered across his eyes. "Nice to meet you, Anya,"

Anya nodded nervously.

She couldn't help but feel a little uneasy without Cindy around.

This was the first time she was meeting Cindy's cousin.

She knew nothing about the man.

"You should relax. I know you're good friends with my cousin. She told me about your problem. I think I can help you," Jamie said reassuringly. He could tell that the young woman was nervous.

The man was more observant than Jake was.

He seemed to know women better than Jake did too.

He didn't put on airs and spoke in a soft and gentle manner.

Anya liked him. She wasn't interested in him romantically. He simply felt like family to her.

"Thank you for agreeing to help me, Jamie," Anya said. Her voice brimmed with gratitude.

Jamie simply smiled mildly. "It's no trouble at all. But the lawsuit might turn out to be quite complicated. We'll need to gather the relevant documents and evidence to build our case. I might need to schedule a few meetings with you during the earlier stages of the case."

“Sure. I’ll make time for you. Give me a ring whenever you need me.” Anya honestly thought Jamie was a decent guy. She couldn’t help but like him more for it.

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“Alright.” Jamie nodded. He reached for the menu by his side and handed it to Anya. “Take a look and place your orders.”

Weren’t they waiting for Cindy?

Anya took the menu from Jamie. “When is Cindy arriving?”

“She won’t be joining us for dinner. It’s just the two of us, Jamie said smoothly.

Anya froze momentarily. Tension stiffened her shoulders.

Had this been Cindy’s plan all along? Was Cindy trying to set her up with Cindy’s cousin?

This was awkward.

Chapter 188

It didn’t matter how awkward the atmosphere was. They had to get through dinner somehow.

Anya needed Jamie’s help and the man had agreed to help her. She couldn’t get up and leave him to have dinner alone. Anya shoved aside her feelings of awkwardness and started browsing the menu before placing her order.

Jamie filled his glass with red wine. He studied Anya quietly as he swirled the wine in his hand.

He had met countless beautiful people in his line of profession.

Yet, few had been as breathtakingly beautiful as Anya was.

She caught his breath instantly. He had been seized by the impulse to have her as soon as his eyes landed on the woman.

It had been some time since Jamie had met a woman as attractive as Anya.

The man quietly admired Anya's beauty. Meanwhile, Anya had no idea that she was the object of the man's appreciative

gaze.

She placed her orders and handed the menu back to Jamie.

"I'm done."

Jamie had heard her while she placed her order. "Is that enough? Don't hold back. Order whatever you like."

Anya smiled and shook her head. She wasn't hungry. Besides, she honestly thought she had ordered enough for herself. "That's enough. I won't be able to finish everything if we get more. That would be a waste."

"Alright then." The man didn't insist. He dipped his head slightly as he studied the menu and began to place his own orders.

Anya grabbed the glass of water next to her and took a sip. Her eyes slid to the side as she threw a furtive glance at the man at the next table. He was still staring at her.

Her heart skipped a beat.

She shouldn't be bothered by his stares. As long as Evan stayed at his table and didn't cause her any trouble, she shouldn't be bothered by his presence or pay any attention to the man at all.

The young woman looked away immediately and took another sip of water.

It didn't take long before Jamie was done with his orders.

They started discussing the lawsuit. The conversation went on smoothly.

The fact that Anya seemed to enjoy her conversation with Jamie clearly displeased the man seated at the table next to

theirs.

A visible look of displeasure showed clearly on Evan's face.

Honestly, Evan was aware that he wasn't in love with Anya. His desire for the woman stemmed from primal male instincts. He simply wished to possess her.

But he couldn't help but feel something grow taut inside him as he watched Anya chat happily with Jamie. He could feel something on the brink of snapping.

Evan stared at the scene before him for a long moment. He realized that he had to kill whatever emotions went beyond the possessiveness in him. He had to get rid of anything that could lead him to have feelings for Anya.

He wanted her for sex.

That was it.

He didn't care if Anya was dating another man. Even if she were, he had his ways of separating them.

After another look, Evan rose to his feet and started walking away.

He called Hayden as he stepped out of the restaurant. He needed to know who the guy Anya was dating was.

The man looked familiar.

But somehow, he couldn't put a name to that face.

Within ten minutes, Hayden managed to learn the name of the man Anya was having dinner with.

He was a lawyer working at Arrowhead Quarry Law Firm and one of the partners of the firm, Jamie Granger.

Evan had a name to the face now.

He knew the man. Jamie was famous in the legal circle for being an extremely competent lawyer.

But he was just a lawyer.

Evan was confident that he could make Anya yield to him eventually. Now...he was going to pay a visit to Eudora and

Nathaniel.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the city, where the MacMillan estate was located.

Mdm MacMillan had returned from JK Couture full of rage. Sheer fury had sent her heart palpitating. She had spent the day lying in bed before her heartbeat gradually slowed down.

She still felt awful though.

She couldn't stop thinking about how Anya had thrown water at her.

The thought of that sent daggers of pain through the old lady's heart.

She had not expected Anya to have grown so bold. The young woman seemed to think that she could get away with anything.

Mdm MacMillan got out of bed. Melissa helped her to the living room where Cornelius was waiting. The man stood quietly next to the couch. He knew that he had a verbal lashing coming.

He had heard about what Anya had done that day.

He knew that his mother was going to yell at him,

He was right. The old lady started yelling at Cornelius as soon as she sat down on the couch. Cornelius held his silence patiently and waited for his mother to finally tire of scolding him. Then, he finally spoke. "Mom, Anya's been driven out of the MacMillans family. She's no longer part of our family. Let's leave her alone."

He had little love for Anya. But she was still his daughter,

They should leave her alone since she was no longer part of the family. They shouldn't go too far.

Honestly, after venting her rage at her son, Mdm MacMillan wasn't that mad anymore. But she blew up again when he

brought up Anya. The old woman started yelling at her son again, "How dare you! Are you on her side?"

"Do you

know what she did to me? She thinks she can get away with anything!"

"I know," Cornelius said. "That's why I think we should leave her alone. Pretend she's not your granddaughter.

"Silence!" The old lady gritted her teeth angrily. "Look at how your daughter turned out! She nearly destroyed our family's reputation. Now, she's trying to steal the man that Sydney loves from her. How can I stand by and not do anything?"

Cornelius froze. He had no idea that Anya was trying to seduce Evan. The little sympathy he had for his eldest daughter vanished without a trace. He would always take Sydney's side. "Is that true, Morn?"

"Why would I lie to you? She's trying to steal Evan from Sydney. Maybe it's her way of getting back at us. I won't let her have her way," the old lady spat out viciously.

"Okay," Cornelius said. This concerned Sydney's happiness. He wasn't going to get in the way of that. "Mom, do whatever you think is right."

The old woman's eyes shone brightly with venom. "I'll make her suffer for what she did. She's going to find out the consequences of disrespecting her elders!"

Meanwhile, outside Kaiser.

Evan had collected the keys to his car. He was going to pay a visit to Ellie's apartment and see Eudora and Nathaniel.

Before he drove away from the restaurant, he called Hayden. Hayden was to come to the restaurant right now and wait outside. If Jamie didn't give Anya a lift home after dinner, Hayden was to send Anya home.

Having instructed Hayden on what to do, Evan started the car and made his way toward Anya's apartment.

He made a pitstop at a shopping mall and got a few expensive toys that he knew were extremely popular with children.

He hadn't checked on Eudora since her attempted abduction.

He thought he should drop by and see if she had recovered from the incident.

It had been a long while since he had worried about someone. The girl felt like family to him.

The results of the DNA report had said otherwise.

But his instincts told him she was.

He was going to get another DNA test done. If the results remained unchanged, he would give up.

This time, he was going to send the DNA samples to Scarlett Port.

He could trust the professionals in Scarlett Port and the results of the DNA report.

Having arrived at a decision, Evan found the tension in his shoulders easing away. The young man drove his car to Ellie's apartment

He parked the car, grabbed the toys that he had bought, and headed upstairs.

Ellie was tidying one of the rooms. The twins had just had their milk and were sitting in front of the television set quietly, watching cartoons.

The doorbell rang. Ellie didn't hear it.

But Nathaniel did. He clambered to his feet and dashed toward the door happily,

But he couldn't reach the handle. He was too short. He couldn't open the door.

The boy turned around and started yelling for Ellie, "Ellie...Ellie..."

After some time, Ellie finally heard the boy, She set whatever she was holding down and hurried out of the room.

Nathaniel was pointing at the door. "Mommy..."

The boy thought his mother had come home.

Ellie smiled and tousled the boy's hair. She opened the door without looking, "Is Mommy back?"

She wasn't. The person standing at the doorway wasn't Anya. It was the looming form of Evan,

Ellie froze momentarily. The next second, she tried to slam the door shut in Evan's face.

Evan stopped her in the nick of time. He kept the door open firmly. "I'm here to see the kids."

Ellie was no match for Evan. She couldn't shut the door at all. "Mr. Welton, it's late... this isn't appropriate at all."

"It won't take long. I won't take up too much of your time." Evan pressed on before forcing his way into the house.

Ellie couldn't stop him at all. She stood in front of Nathaniel and shielded the boy from Evan's eyes. "Mr. Welton, this isn't appropriate at all."

"You seem worried. Why are you so worried?" Evan sounded gentle. But the aura that he exuded was that of an overwhelming authority that forced everyone in his presence to yield to his demands.

"You're mistaken," Ellie said as she tried to muster a smile on her face. "It's late. I don't think we should be entertaining guests at such an hour."

"It won't take long." Evan placed the toys he had bought on the floor before addressing his next question to the boy hiding behind Ellie, "Nathaniel, do you like Transformers?"

The young man simply wanted to see the children.

He wasn't going to do anything to the kids until he got another DNA test done.

Nathaniel's eyes brightened at the mention of Transformers. He seemed a little hesitant though.

The boy lingered at Ellie's side before he finally caved. He couldn't resist the temptation of toys. Nathaniel stepped away

from Ellie.

The boy threw a curious look at the big new toy on the floor. It looked amazing.

The Transformer looked incredible,

Nathaniel couldn't look away.

Ellie saw the look in Nathaniel's eyes. After some thought, she concluded that she had no way of making the man leave now that he had gotten into their apartment. She excused herself and slipped into the bedroom. She had to call Anya and get her to come back right now.

Chapter 190

Ellie sneaked into the bedroom hastily and called Anya. The young woman was in the middle of her meal. Anya picked her call immediately. "Anya, are you done with dinner?"

She was in the middle of her dinner with Jamie. Of course, she was not. She had not realized that Evan had left the restaurant. The young woman sounded completely at ease when she replied. "Nope. I might take another half an hour."

Half an hour? That long?

Ellie was at a momentary loss. Anya had gone for dinner with the lawyer because she needed to get started on her lawsuit on her mother's inheritance. Ellie should not be interrupting her dinner at all. But Evan was in their apartment right now. She was worried that she would not be able to handle the man alone.

Ellie started pacing while clutching the phone to her ear tightly. She was struggling to put her words together.

Anya frowned slightly when she noticed the long bout of silence on the other end of the line. "What's wrong, Ellie? Why are you so quiet?"

"Anya....." After a moment of hesitation, Ellie finally decided to tell Anya the truth. She was sick with worry. Evan might be here to take Eudora and Nathaniel away. She steeled herself before finally blurting out. "Anya, Evan's in our apartment."

Her words sent Anya reeling back in alarm. Her fingers trembled. She whipped her head around immediately. Her eyes searched frantically for a familiar face. Evan was not seated at the table next to theirs.

Panic surged through the young woman like a tsunami. She seemed to have forgotten all about Jamie who was seated right across the table. Her mind was somewhere else. Anya bit her lips anxiously. "Is he really in our apartment?"

"Yes. What should I do?" Ellie had no idea what the man wanted,

"Don't panic. Keep him occupied. I'm on my way back right now." Anya hung up immediately. She turned towards Jamie with an apologetic look in her eyes. "I'm so sorry, Jamie. There's an emergency at home. I have to go now. I'm so sorry. I can't believe I'm leaving you to finish dinner alone..."

Jamie was not a petty man. He could not possibly keep Anya here when she clearly had an emergency to attend to. He knew that Anya was not lying. He had heard parts of the conversation earlier. He knew that something terrible had happened.

"Don't worry about it, Anya. Let me give you a lift." The man dabbed his lips lightly with the napkin before placing it down and rising to his feet.

Anys was not going

Anya was not going to trouble the man for a lift.

She was leaving in the middle of dinner. That alone made her feel terrible enough. She shook her head apologetically. "Thanks for the offer, Jamie. I can make my way home. I'm really sorry. I'll buy you dinner another time."

Anya seemed insistent. Jamie did not try to change her mind. He was a gentleman who respected a woman's wishes. Besides, this was their first meeting. He had plenty of opportunities to see Anya again. They were going to work on her lawsuit together. He could afford to be patient.

The man nodded. "Alright. Take care, Anya."

Anya nodded. "Bye, Jamie."

She grabbed her bag, turned away and hurried out of the restaurant.

The young woman tried to get a cab as soon as she got outside.

Evan's personal assistant, Hayden, came running towards her then. He stopped right behind the young woman. "Ms. MacMillan, you don't have to get a cab. I'll give you a lift."

Anya whipped around when she heard Hayden's voice. The man was dressed for work. She was startled to see him there. "Hayden, what are you doing here?"

"Mr. Welton instructed me to give you a lift home." It made sense. There was a reason Hayden had seemingly appeared out of nowhere. At this point in time, Hayden was convinced that Evan was interested in Anya.

That would explain why Evan had tasked him to give Anya a lift home.

Mr. Welton? Evan? Again?

Anya knew it. She did not really know Hayden. He would not appear out of nowhere and volunteer to send her home.

thought of Evan.

The look on Anya's face darkened at the thought of Evan.

She was visibly furious.

She was not going to lash out at nothing though. She had no idea if she would be able to get a cab.

She might as well accept Hayden's offer to drive her home.