

Desires DH 191

Chapter 191

Anya didn't hesitate at all. She got into Hayden's car. The man drove her to Ellie's apartment.

During the drive, Hayden wouldn't stop sneaking furtive glances at the young woman.

He was aware of how pretty Anya was. However, she was usually dressed in an understated blouse or dress..

She was gorgeous today. In fact, she looked almost like an angel.

Hayden understood why Evan had fallen for her.

Anya was truly a beautiful woman.

After some time, Hayden stopped throwing glances at the young woman. He cast his eyes away from the rearview mirror and kept them firmly on the road.

They arrived outside Ellie's apartment in no time.

Hayden couldn't possibly invite himself into Anya's apartment. He sat in the car and waited for Evan, who was currently in the apartment.

Anya, on the other hand, flew out of the car and sped upstairs.

She was sick with terror. She was worried about the motivations behind Evan's unexpected visit. Was he intending to steal her kids from her? The man was a bully who wanted to put his mark on everything. He was extremely smart. Anya couldn't fool him like she would the average man.

He had doubted the authenticity of the results of the DNA report.

That spoke volumes about the man's wary and paranoid nature.

Who knew what he was up to?

Perhaps he was really here for her children.

Terror gripped Anya's heart. She wouldn't stop pacing in the elevator. As soon as the doors to the elevator slid open, she was dashing out of the elevator and rushing towards Ellie's apartment with her keys in her hand.

She swung the door open. The sight that greeted her wasn't what she had imagined. It was neither filled with heated tension nor frigid hostility.

Instead, she heard bursts of giggles erupting from Nathaniel and Eudora. They were clearly enjoying themselves.

Anya froze momentarily. The thought of slipping into indoor slippers slipped her mind completely. She tottered into the living room in her heels.

The sight that greeted her sent her reeling with shock and disbelief.

Evan Welton, the man whom Anya had thought was arrogant, unapproachable and intimidating was sitting on the floor, playing with her two precious angels.

Nathaniel and Eudora seemed utterly unafraid of the man.

In fact, they seemed to adore him and seemed to compete for his attention.

Perhaps they were simply giving in to their instincts and behaving like how a child would in the presence of their father. What terrifying instincts.

She did not appreciate that at all. In fact, she would rather her kids stay as far away from Evan as possible.

Evan couldn't give them a home. He was destined for a marriage of convenience and a partner who was

s approved by his family. She would never be that partner.

It didn't matter if he wanted to marry her. Besides, he wouldn't.

Evan wasn't

in love with ba

What he wanted from Anya was sex, not love.

There was no way she was going to let Evan have her kids. Thoughts sped through Anya's head as she stood silently in the living room. Ellie finally walked up to her and whispered in her ear. "Anya, you're finally back. What do we do?"

Anya yanked her mind back to the present. She gave Ellie's hand a reassuring squeeze. "Don't worry. I'll take care of it."

de her way tour

Then, she the trio.

She approached the three. Nathaniel and Eudora, who were busy having fun, finally heard the sound of their mother's heels tottering into the apartment. They turned around.

Their eyes landed on their mother.

The twins clambered onto their feet immediately and started waving their chubby little arms around. They wanted their

mother to give them a hug.

Nathaniel was ready to shout “Mommy!” like he always did.

Anya ignored the twinge of pain in her chest, walked past her angels and yanked Evan up from the floor. “Mr. Welton, could we step outside for a minute, please?”

Then, she turned towards her kids. They looked ready to throw their tiny bodies at her. She shoved down the anguish rising inside her. “Nathaniel, Eudora, your aunt needs to step outside for a minute. I’ll be back before you know it. You’ll have your hugs then, alright?”

She didn’t give Nathaniel or Eudora any time to react to what she had just said.

Instead, she dragged Evan out of the apartment immediately.

Ellie rushed towards the kids and wrapped her arms around them. “Nathaniel, Eudora, have you forgotten what Mommy

Nathaniel looked utterly clueless. Eudora was equally bewildered. She had no idea what Ellie was talking about.

“Don’t you remember what Mommy told you?” Ellie said patiently. “She told you to call her ‘Anya’ when Evan is around. If you don’t, Evan’s going to take you away. You’ll never see Mommy again.”

Nathaniel finally remembered what their mother had told them. The boy nodded furiously. “I remember. I know.”

Eudora, on the other hand, still appeared confused.

But she knew one thing. Her brother was always right. She simply had to do what her brother said.

The girl nodded quietly as well.

“Remember to call Mommy ‘Anya’ when she comes back, alright?”

Nathaniel nodded firmly.

Eudora, who still seemed clueless, nodded obediently as well.

They loved the toys that Evan had bought them. But they wouldn’t trade their mother for the world, much less a stranger.

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Anya dragged Evan out of the apartment and didn’t stop walking until they stood in the walkway. Then, she released her hold and yanked her fingers back immediately.

Evan wasn’t a fool.

The look on Anya’s face when the young woman had grabbed him had been one of utter panic. Something was going on

here. Evan was no idiot. He could tell.

After Anya had pulled her hand away, the man looked down and stared at her. There were still traces of panic on the young woman’s face. His voice was gentle when he spoke. “You look worried, Ms. MacMillan. What’s wrong?”

“Nothing’s wrong. Everything’s fine,” Anya snapped. She couldn’t help the shiver coursing down her spine as she stared at Evan’s sharp and dark eyes. The aura that the man was exuding was incredibly intimidating.

She couldn’t help but feel overwhelmed by a simple look from the man.

Anya

a told herself to pull herself together. She couldn’t afford to panic.

She took a deep breath. “Mr. Welton, it’s late. What are you doing in my house? Don’t you find it somewhat inappropriate? You’re intruding on my privacy.”

The young

man stared her straight in the eye. His lips quirked into a ghost of a smile. “I was the one who saved Eudora. I wanted to make sure she’s alright. What’s wrong with that?”

“Are you worried that I’m here to steal your children from you, Ms. MacMillan?”

The conniving man was trying to lure her into saying the wrong thing again. Anya realized there was no way this conversation was going to end well. She bit her lips. “Why would I worry about that? If Mr. Welton wants kids, there’re plenty of women out there who’re willing to give you some. You’ll have no lack of children.”

“Honestly, I doubt you’re interested in my cousin’s children. They don’t deserve you.”

The woman’s words were sharp with sarcasm.

The look in Evan's eyes darkened. Without any warning, he leaned in. His towering form was like a looming shadow that surrounded Anya on all sides. The man's hand shot out and slammed into the wall behind Anya.

Anya found herself unexpectedly trapped within Evan's arms.

The man's voice was husky and had a hint of steel to it. "I want another DNA test done."

Anya's eyes widened instantly. She stared at the man in front of her with incredulity.

She knew it. He still believed that Nathaniel and Eudora were his kids.

She couldn't believe that the man was demanding another DNA test.

Anya stared at Evan's face with terror and shock as the young man steadily leaned into her. Panic threatened to overwhelm her and pull her under.

Before she lost herself utterly to fear and panic, the young woman sank her nails into her palms hard.

Waves of sharp pain erupted from the center of her palms.

They cleared her mind instantly. The young woman pursed her lips. "Do I have a choice in the matter? Am I allowed to turn down your request, Mr. Welton?"

"I believe we signed a contract. You promised not to harass my family after the results of the DNA test were out."

"Are you going to go against your word, Mr. Welton? I didn't peg you as a shameless and despicable man who doesn't keep his word. I must have misjudged you."

Anya knew her scathing words were going to upset the man and incur his wrath. But she had no other choice.

She didn't want to lose her kids.

She had suffered so much so that she could have them.

He wasn't going to steal them from her.

"Am I violating the terms of the contract? I wasn't aware of that. Perhaps you can enlighten me, Ms. MacMillan." Evan leaned in further. The little distance that separated them nearly vanished.

He was so close.

He was so close to kissing her.

Anya couldn't get away from the man. His heated breath landed on her cheeks and her lips..

They scalded her skin.

She could smell the sharp scent of cigarette in his breath.

She could smell him.

The young woman bit her lips instinctively.

She stuck her arms out and tried to shove the man away. Unfortunately, that was exactly what Evan wanted her to do. As soon as her palms pressed hard against his firm chest, he caught her wrists and tugged them towards his chest. The force of the pull brought his lips closer to hers. Another step closer and their lips would touch. "Come on, explain to me how I'm violating the terms of the contract."

“This is the first time I’m paying a visit to Eudora. I saved her and wanted to know if she was alright. What’s wrong that? Are you disallowing me from doing that?”

“Do you think I don’t deserve to say hi to Eudora?”

with

Evan seemed to make sense. Anya found herself unable to refute the man.

In fact, she couldn’t help but feel a little sheepish. Her cheeks blushed faintly.

It didn’t matter if he were right. He had to go. “Well, thanks for thinking of her, Mr. Welton. As you can see, she’s alright. Can you leave now?”

Evan didn’t seem to be in a hurry to go. He gave her a long hard look before switching the subject without any warning. He started talking about the dinner she just had. “How’s your date with Mr. Granger?”

What was wrong with the man? Why did he bring that up?

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“That’s none of your business, Mr. Welton.” Anya struggled fiercely to free herself. “I won’t agree to another DNA test. It’s inappropriate and disrespectful to my cousin. They’re her children.”

No matter how hard she struggled, she couldn’t free herself from the man’s vice-like grip.

Evan simply laughed softly. He seemed tickled. “Your cousin?”

“Why would your cousin’s kids look so much like me?” Evan tightened his grip on the young woman. His warm breath hit. Anya’s cheeks like waves of heat. Anya couldn’t pull away. Her cheeks flushed an intense scarlet.

“Mr. Welton, let me go.”

“Anya... why don’t you give me a chance? I’m better than Granger in every way...” Evan’s breathing grew heavier. The young woman in his arms smelled wonderful. She seemed to always smell like that. He couldn’t control himself any longer.

He reached out and gripped her chin tightly, then dipped his head and kissed her forcefully.

Evan kissed the woman passionately, thrusting his tongue into her mouth.

He forced his way in relentlessly. If he could, he would devour the woman alive.

His hands started wandering as he kissed Anya.

They began to fondle the woman.

Terror surged through Anya. What was wrong with Evan? The man honestly had no regard or respect for a woman.

How could he kiss her and fondle her just because he wanted to?

Yet, Anya couldn’t deny the fact that Evan was great at this. She could feel herself getting lost in Evan’s kiss. The man definitely knew what he was doing. He made sure that she didn’t want him to stop.

But she had to get him to stop.

As Evan thrust his tongue deeper into Anya's mouth, the young woman bit down hard. The man winced and finally let her

1. go.

Having finally regained her freedom, Anya flushed and raised her arm. With a downward swing, she sent her hand flying across Evan's cheek. "Mr. Welton, you disrespect me with what you've done. Please leave me alone. Don't ever let me see you at my apartment again."

Having

said her piece, Anya wasn't going to remain a moment longer in the man's presence. She whipped around and stormed back into her apartment.

She was going to quit as soon as possible.

The door to her apartment slammed shut. Evan stared hard at the door. There was no trace of anger on his face. He wasn't

upset that she had bitten him at all.

In fact, Anya's retaliation had merely sparked a bloodlust in the man.

The more she fought him, the more he wanted her.

Once Anya was back in the apartment, Ellie approached her immediately. There was fear and trepidation in her voice when her aunt spoke. "Anya, what did he say?"

"Nothing." Anya tried to exorcise the image of the man forcing himself on her as he kissed and fondled her. A veneer of calm settled on her face. "Ellie, I'll quit my job in a few days. Let's move out."

Ellie agreed instantly. "I've put the apartment up for sale."

"I'm sorry, Ellie." Anya felt truly terrible for putting Ellie through this. Her aunt had done so much for her. "I can't believe you have to sell your apartment because of me."

"It's no big deal. We're doing it so that Nathaniel and Eudora can get into a good kindergarten." Ellie honestly didn't think much of it. She never married and had no children of her own. She would have left the apartment to Anya after she was gone. "I have no kids anyway. This apartment would've belonged to you eventually."

Anya nodded. "I'll find us an apartment."

She was going to ask Cindy for help..

Her family owned several properties. She could ask her friend if her family had anything cheap that was available for rent.

"Okay."

With that settled, Anya made her way to her kids. She wrapped her arms around her precious angels and gave them at

fierce hug.

Nathaniel and Eudora were playing with their new toys.

Anya was seized by the urge to take those toys away. Evan had bought them. But she could tell that the twins truly enjoyed playing with those toys. After some thought, she decided that she could allow them to play with the toys today. She would put them away tomorrow.

She would get her kids new toys.

They could play with these toys today.

Anya sat on the floor and played with the twins. After some time, she sent a text to Cindy. "Cindy, I'm sorry I had to leave in the middle of lunch with your cousin. Something cropped up. I'm really sorry."

Cindy texted back immediately. "Don't worry about it, gal. I know what happened. My cousin's a gentleman. He won't mind. Don't worry"

"Thanks," Anya replied.

"I need your help again, Cindy. I'm thinking of renting an apartment. Do you have any properties that are available for rent? I expect a discount!"

won have to pay rent."

"Of course! We're friends. You don't even have to pay rent."

Anya wasn't going to do that. She would feel terrible. "I'll let you know when I'm available to check out the apartments."

"Sure."

Tension eased from Anya's shoulders. Cindy had agreed to help her without even batting an eyelid. She was finally going to be free from the Welton Group.

There was no way she was going to agree to another DNA test.

Chapter 194

Meanwhile on the other end of the city, in a quiet spot near Deep Water Harbor

Shane sat in a black Rolls–Royce parked in the shadows

The young man stared expressionlessly out of the window of his car and into the darkness, where the Deep Water Harbor would be Construction had not yet commenced.

He had had his eye on this piece of land. But unfortunately, the land belonged to the Weltons.

Shane had been searching for an opportunity to get his hands on the piece of land. Every time, Evan would intervene at the most opportune moment before he could succeed. That had happened the last time when Evan had bought a textile mill next to the piece of land

Shane had been eyeing that factory as well. He had had plans to purchase the textile mill too

But Evan had done it before Shane could

Now Evan had complete monopoly over the piece of land. If he managed to build a harbor, he would be able to create a new shipping route that would grant him access to other cities

It would be another step to fulfilling the man's ambition of expanding the Welton empire

Once he built an international port, he would be able to crush the Carters easily too

The thought of that made Shane frown. His future seemed precarious

He wasn't going to let the Weltons seize dominance over the Browns. He wasn't satisfied with being merely one of many rich families in the city

His ambition was to become the most powerful family of the Nordenic Quartet. He was the one who was going to take

over the Welton empire

Shane fell into a contemplative silence. His sharp eyes darkened. His long, slim fingers tightened into fists. He wasn't going to let Evan have his way

He was going to make sure the harbor never got built.

Shane stared out of the window. After a long while, he withdrew his gaze and barked out an order to his driver. "Start the

car. Let's head back home

The driver nodded instantly and started the engine without a moment's delay "Yes, Mr Brown"

The low rumbling of the car's engine sounded in the night and faded away as the car sped off into the darkness

In its wake was a trail of white smoke that had been emitted from its exhaust

Day broke. It was a bright and sunny day today. The warm golden light of the morning sun spilled into Anya's apartment.

Anya had had a restful sleep. Her eyes slowly fluttered open as she eased into wakefulness.

Instead of her vanilla white ceiling, the young woman was greeted by the sight of two adorable chubby faces. Two sets of huge eyes blinked at her. She could see the happiness in them.

Nathaniel and Eudora immediately realized that their mother had woken up.

Their small hands hugged her cheeks while kisses landed on her face. The twins wouldn't stop calling for their mother as they kissed her. "Mommy... Mommy....

Anya felt a surge of love and bliss fill her inside. Her precious angels were by her side. They were safe. Nothing could compare to the feeling of assurance that she felt as she basked in her children's presence.

She couldn't lose them.

Anya reached out and wrapped her arms around Nathaniel and Eudora tightly. "Hey, sweethearts, why are you up so early. today?"

Nathaniel and Eudora kept extremely regular hours.

They all shared similar bedtimes.

However, while Anya would wake up around six every morning to get ready for work, the twins would continue sleeping after their mother had woken up.

They would wake up around eight in the morning

instead.

But somehow, they had woken up before their mother did today.

"Mommy... phone..." Nathaniel understood what his mother had said. The boy pointed at the phone resting next to his mother's pillow. He hadn't learned the word 'cellphone' yet and, therefore, called it a "phone" instead.

Anya knew what her son was talking about, of course. Her phone must have rung.

She would put it on silent mode every night before she went to bed though.

She was worried her alarm might wake her kids.

Had she forgotten to do that last night?

Anya stuck her arm out and reached for her phone. She grabbed it and took a look at the screen. Nathaniel had been right. She had gotten a call.

She had forgotten to set it to silent mode last night too.

The call had been from Jake.

He had called at six.

That was barely a few minutes ago.

Anya released the twins from her arms. She must have been really tired. She couldn't believe that she hadn't heard her alarm go off.

The young woman sat up, lifted the twins into her arms again and made her way outside. She needed Ellie to keep an eye on the children while she called Jake back. She didn't want Jake to accidentally hear the kids. So, she handed the kids to

Ellie before heading out to the balcony to call Jake.

She mustn't let anyone else know that she's got kids.

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Anya continued to stand at the balcony and looked down at the passing vehicles on the busy street. She had gradually calmed down from the panic earlier on. Who could be the one who framed her this time? It could not be the manufacturing department's seamstresses. Was it someone from the company? She had zero evidence and leads that could disclose who the culprit was.

Anya pondered for a while more before she decided it was about time to make her way down to wait for Mr. Hanson. She recollected her thoughts and walked into the living area.

Ellie noticed that Anya looked troubled so she thought Anya was brooding over Evan's visit the night before. Ellie brought the kids out of the room and asked, "Anya, is everything ok? Are you bothered by the incident with Evan?"

"No." Anya forced a smile as she did not want Ellie to worry about her. "Aunt Ellie, I am fine. I am going to quit soon. We'll be moving out of this place as well. Mr. Welton is after all the CEO. Surely, he wouldn't keep pestering me, right?"

Ellie agreed to Anya's point. "Then go wash up and come have your breakfast."

"Okay." Anya nodded and gently caressed the twin's cheeks before going to the toilet to wash up quickly.

She settled down to breastfeed the twins first before feeding herself. She was running low on milk supply hence she only latched the kids on once every day. They would have to wean off completely in a couple of days.

Her mind was occupied by the matter Jake mentioned to her earlier this morning. It was only when Eudora choked on the milk that Anya came back to the present moment. She sat Eudora upright and

patted her back.

After she was done with feeding the twins, she gobbled a few mouthfuls of oatmeal and went downstairs.

While she was downstairs, Evan sent a text message. [I'll come pick you up at 8am.]

Evan was not angry with Anya for the slap she gave him yesterday. Actually, he felt that he had been patient with Anya recently. One possible reason could be that he hardly met a woman who was as intriguing. To that matter, that one slap was no big deal.

Anya read the message but did not want to reply and just ignored it. She walked to the apartment's gate for Jake's arrival.

She waited for about fifteen minutes and it was soon to be 8am before Mr. Hanson reached in his Audi.

The car gradually stopped before her. Jake rolled down his car window and asked Anya, "Have you eaten your breakfast yet?"

"Yes, I have eaten." Anya replied hastily.

"I haven't. Is there anywhere around here that sells breakfast?" Jake asked as he alighted from his car.

"The supermarket nearby sells some sandwiches. There are not many options around here." Anya showed him the way.

They walked on the pavement side by side. Jake turned and looked at her. He figured she was still worried about the incident from the look on her face and tried to comfort her. "I believe in you. Don't think about it too much. All will be clear

after the investigation."

Anya nodded her head in silence. She could not think of any solution to the issue at the moment so she could only ask Jake for help.

They reached the supermarket and Jake bought a sandwich and a small carton of milk. They returned to where the car was parked.

They reached the car just in time as Evan's black Bentley drove in. The luxurious car had garnered some attention from by passers as it was not a common sighting in the old vicinity. Just who was the one who owned such expensive car? People gathered around to check out but Evan could not care more as his attention was fully on Anya who was about to get into

the Audi in front of him.

Jake started up the engine and drove away.

Evan said with a cold tone, "Follow the car in front."

He could not tell that Anya was actually quite popular among men. Seemed like... his competition for the woman he loved would be high.

The two cars drove in the city one after another until they reached the underground parking area at the Welton Group.

Anya only noticed Evan when she alighted.

Evan was wearing his usual black shirt with black suit pants and a black mechanical watch worth at least a million on his wrist. He had also alighted and stood poised beside the Bentley.

The aura coming from the CEO was overbearing, like he would swallow Anya alive. Even Anya who was standing three meters away could feel it.

The agenda for

for Anya was to discuss about Lola's engagement details being leaked. She couldn't care more about Evan now. She turned to leave with Jake to talk about the next steps back at JK Couture.

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It seemed like the more Anya tried to avoid, the more likely it would come in her way.

As Anya walked to the lift lobby with Jake, Evan slowly walked over as well. He would not do anything to her while they were in the vicinity of the Welton group. He upheld the behavior of a gentleman. He was interested in Anya and was keen to get to know her better but that was about it. It was not to a point of infatuation. Evan knew better than to react violently to Jake who happened to be walking beside the woman he admired. He had outgrown the age of a reckless teen. With his assistant, they walked calmly to the other side of the lift lobby and waited.

On the other hand, Jake noticed the CEO and walked over to greet him out of formality. "Good morning, Mr. Welton."

It

was on

only natural that Anya who was walking behind Jake to greet the CEO as well. "Good morning, Mr. Welton."

Evan acknowledged both of them briefly but his eyes glazed towards Anya for a moment.

As they were waiting for the lift, suddenly, a young man came out of nowhere. He had a black cloth tied around his face, covering his mouth and was holding a glass bottle in his hand. He shouted as he charged towards Anya.

He was Lola's die-hard fan. As soon as the news Lola's engagement was reported, he could not accept the fact that someone leaked the news and he wanted to get back at the person for doing so. Naturally, Anya, who was the designer at JK, was the biggest suspect. He appeared in the office

building, wanting to teach the culprit a lesson to keep mum about such news and not bring unnecessary rumors to his goddess.

Everyone including Anya was startled, all except for Evan who had his attention focused on the attacker as he approached. Anya. In a swift action, he stepped in front of Anya, grabbed her hand with his big warm hand and pulled her behind him. The attacker raised his hand with the glass bottle. Evan kicked

the attacker swiftly in his chest that there was a crack sound possibly from a fractured bone. His accurate attack sent the attacker falling to the ground, groaning in pain.

Evan took up training in boxing previously so it was unlucky for the attacker. He rolled on the floor with his hand on his chest. He was in so much pain that he could barely groan anymore.

Anya watched the man on the floor and slowly got back to her senses. She looked at the man in front of her who protected her in the face of harm. Her heart throbbed but she quickly dismissed it as an abnormality.

She tried to pull her hand back from Evan's grip but the grip was too tight and he had no intention of letting go.

Anya panicked and hinted softly to him. "Mr. Welton, we are in the office building." She knew that Evan would not do anything to her as long as they were in the building.

When Evan heard her, he turned his head and looked at her. He slowly released his grip on her hand, just as she had thought he would.

As soon as his grip loosened, Anya pulled back her hand and gently caressed it with her other hand.

Jake just recovered from the shock as well so he missed the part where Evan was holding on to Anya. He walked over to Anya to check if she was okay. At this point, the attacker suddenly stood up again.

He endured the pain and raised the glass bottle at Anya. "Anya MacMillan, you evil scheming designer! How dare you expose the engagement details of our Lola! I'm going to kill you!"

The man roared as he swung down the glass bottle. Shaken, Anya tried to dodge but before she managed to do so, the man in front of her stretched his arm across to block the glass bottle. The sound of glass shattering was loud in the enclosed lift lobby. Following shortly was an exclamation from Evan's assistant. "Mr. Welton, your hand is bleeding!"

Anya turned to Evan, still dumbfounded by what just happened. At the back of Evan's hand was a long cut from the shattered glass and blood streamed down.

Looking at Evan, the strange thumping in her heart acted up again for a split second. Since Anya knew that it would be Impossible for anything to happen between Evan and her, she dismissed it again as gratefulness and nothing else.

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"Mr. Welton." The assistant said anxiously. "I'll call the infirmary."

Anya slowly recovered from the shock. She glanced over at Evan as her mind processed what she should do next. Although Evan had abused his authoritative rights a few times before, she shouldn't be so cold-hearted. After all, he saved

her this round.

Anya walked over to Evans after pondering. "Mr. Welton, thank you for helping me block the attack just now."

"I have wet tissue here." Anya pulled out a pack of wet tissue as she spoke and handed a piece to Evan.

Evan gave her a thoughtful look and took the wet tissue offered to him. Thankfully, the cut by the shattered glass was not too deep. Evan pressed the wet tissue against the wound until it stopped bleeding.

The young fan who attacked Evan earlier was being held down by the body guards who rushed over and he would be handed over to the police upon their arrival.

"What happened at JK this time?" Evan asked as he continued pressing the wet tissue against the back of his hand and then wiped off the remaining blood around the wound. His dark eyes drifted between Anya and Jake. Evan had guessed it had something to do with Lola Mars since the attacker mentioned her name several times during the outbreak and his angst was directed towards Anya.

“Mr. Welton....I...” Anya knew that she could not keep this under wrap from Evan for long. She frowned and pursed her lips as she intended to tell Evan the details of the incident.

Jake, who sensed that she was about to confess, suddenly spoke up and interrupted. He wanted to be the hero and took on the blame upon himself. “Mr. Welton. This morning, the paparazzi caught wind of Ms. Lola Mars’ engagement and her wedding gown was also exposed to the public. That man was Ms. Mars’s fan. He probably saw the news and waited at the parking area for an ambush on Anya.”

“So, the person who leaked the news... was Anya?” Evan understood the situation upon Jake’s explanation. His glance landed on Anya’s nervous look.

Anya noticed Evan looking at herself and thought Evan believed that she had leaked the information. She hurriedly defended herself, “Mr. Welton, it wasn’t me. I didn’t leak the news to the paparazzi. I can swear by my words!”

“You don’t have to do that. I didn’t say I don’t trust you. What is the hurry?” Evan peered down at her. He said in a gentler tone, “JK is a brand under the Welton Group. Do you think I will brush this off?”

This incident could be blown out of proportions but it could also be contained easily. Evan was on good terms with Lola and she was also Dan’s cousin. Evan could easily talk to Lola and settle the matter, but this would not restore Anya’s reputation if they chose not to investigate on the matter. It was either they choose not to investigate or they get to the bottom of it and find out who was behind all these. That way, Anya would be cleared of any speculations,

“...” Anya decided to keep quiet after the ‘lecture’ by Evan. She thought Evan would not bother himself with small matters like this as a CEO.

Jake noticed that Evan was concerned about this matter, But was he concerned because it might affect the Welton Group’s

image as a whole or it was because of Anya? He recalled back on how Evan protected Anya earlier on. It dawned on Jake that Evan could be interested in Anya. Could it even be possible? From his understanding, with a billion-dollar net worth, there would be plenty of women around Evan. Surely, he would not fall easily for a simple lady like Anya? Anya was attractive but there would be better women

out there. Jake shook the idea out of his head. Evan probably did what a man would do to help a woman in need.

Jake buried his suspicion shortly after and shelved the thought. He continued his conversation with Evan. "Mr. Welton, I also believe that Anya was not the one who leaked the news. No one in the right mind would do something that can cause harm to the company's image and in turn affect her own future."

Chapter 199

"Please investigate on the matter." Evan nodded. He turned to look at the petite lady beside him. He was well aware that some things shouldn't be said in public, hence, he went ahead and took the elevator with his assistant.

The young man who was pinned to the ground was handed over to the police.

After Evan was gone, the carpark was quiet once more.

Jake looked at Anya. Being a gentleman, he comforted her, "Anya, don't worry. I'll take care of this matter. You can have a peace of mind and do what you need to."

How could she not worry? This issue was fatal and could potentially sabotage her design career in future. Since she did not have any other solutions yet, she needed to take it easy. "Okay."

Lola Mars' fame was beyond the charts. Before noon hit, everyone was talking about her on the internet soon after the news broke. Many marketers and gossip news portals started to follow in on her news. Even her fiancé was not spared. Someone dug out information about him despite how well Lola had kept it under wraps. He was an Australian Chinese, currently a CEO of a local renowned investment bank. He came from a wealthy family and had accomplished a lot in his career life even he was still young. Fortunately, only the details were released and his photo was not made known to the public. Otherwise with Lola's character, she would have hit the roof.

Nevertheless, this news had affected her mood severely. Engagement was supposed to be a happy news. But because it was made public, netizens had been lashing out nasty comments at her.

Some said she was a liar for pretending to be single and went onto matchmaking variety shows despite having a boyfriend. Because of the news, she had also lost some fans. It was tormenting for her. Her

initial intention was to slowly release hints of her engagement and finally announce about it when the time was right. Who knew Anya would expose her and

disrupt her plans?

She didn't even dare to log into Twitter. She feared to read the comments calling her a liar. Although Lola had no intentions to continue her career in showbiz for long, she was passionate about her job and she didn't want to leave immediately. Ultimately, it was Anya to be blamed for all these she was made to go through.

Lola was mad, but she knew she should not be angry at her because Evan was interested in Anya and he would definitely help Anya out on this matter. Lola could only swallow her rage and keep it within her.

Her fiancé had comforted her saying it was alright since it was a matter of time that news would be made known to the public. But Lola did not want it to be announced in this manner. She had plans to announce it via her official twitter account, which would be romantic and potentially receive a better feedback from the public. After all, a wedding engagement was an once-in-a-lifetime occasion. She wanted it to be perfect, which was why she felt frustrated about the whole issue. Men and women had different mindsets about this. Hence, her fiancé was not upset with the leak.

Luckily, Lola's good friend Rain came over to check in on her. Rain hugged Lola, "Lola, don't be sad about it. It can't be helped that your engagement news had already be made known to the public. Why not hold an official press conference

and admit the matter?

"Be earnest and truthful. Your fans will still love you."

Lola let out a sigh, "The main issue is that I went onto a dating variety show previously and got paired with a male actor. Now, they see us as a couple."

“What’s the big deal? In this day and age, all these variety shows were meant to entertain and shouldn’t be taken at seriously. Don’t the netizens know?” Rain peeled an orange for her as she spoke. “But this matter was being exposed by that woman Anya MacMillan, right? Is she out of her mind?”

“What did your cousin see in her though? Rain did not suspect the lie that Anya and Dan were dating. She said distastefully, “She seems horrible as a person.”

“I don’t want to talk about her.” Lola loved the wedding gown that Anya designed for her and she was looking forward to the finished product. But this ordeal left a bad taste in Lola’s mouth.

She couldn’t care more that Anya was someone Evan saw highly of. She was done with her. She wouldn’t be inviting Anya for the pre-wedding vacation.

On the hind sight, Lola felt apologetic towards Rain for keeping her in the dark about Anya and Evan.

Chapter 200

At JK Couture, 9am in the morning.

Anya did not sit at her table at all and went straight into Jake’s office when they arrived to discuss a solution to the problem.

By then, the internet was filled with rumors and negative news that JK had an unreliable designer. JK’s reputation was at

stake.

Jake did not have any solution to the issue either. The other designers in the company got to know about this news from various online sources. They started to diss and complain about the situation.

“Why is Anya MacMillan so contemptible? Not only does she like to seduce other men, her character is also horrendous? She is getting on my nerves. If she wants to end her career, go ahead and do so! Why did she have to drag the entire JK down with her? Now our reputations are also at stake.”

“Yeah! How can she be so despicable? She just graduated and already stirring so much trouble. She’s here, trying to be smart. Why don’t she become the CEO then? What would JK do now? It is a huge mess now and the reputation of the company will just keep declining. By that time, who would come work with us for designing?”

“Such a troublemaker. The previous incident with mangoes had just been tided over. And now she has done it again. Why

on earth?”

“Lola Mars had been so forgiving. She already forgave her once. She just had to sabotage, didn’t she? What is wrong with

her character?”

“Let’s not bother ourselves with Anya for now. We should focus and think of a solution to resolve this. This matter she stirred up will eventually have an impact on JK, The other designers out there will disrespect us. Our regular clients would also feel the same. New clients won’t come to us anymore. This is frustrating! What should we do?”

“You have a point. But what can we do? She really got us into hot water this time.”

“Let’s wait for Mr. Hanson to settle the matter. He should have a way to protect JK.”

“We are doomed if Mr. Hanson chooses to stand on her side though.”

“Mr. Hanson isn’t dumb. Surely he will make the right choice.”

“Stop, stop! Let’s not speculate anymore. This affects us directly. We can try to think of a solution too.”

“I agree. Let’s have a brainstorming session.”

The colleagues started to think of various ways to mitigate the situation, as this would also affect their careers in a way of

another.

The only person who stayed out of all the discussions and brainstorming was Carol Walker. She already had plans to join another high-end design company, EU Designs. The company had reached out to her to offer her a contract, but on the condition that she brings some of JK's prestige clients over. It would be an easy task for her, without having to bat an

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eyelid.

Carol sat along in her office, looking at her colleagues seated outside scrambling for a solution. She picked up her desk phone and dialed Tammy Florence's direct line via intercom. Carol intended to bring Tammy along with her to EU Designs. She was a senior designer at JK and her clientele was made up of top-notch clients in the company. If she was able to convince Tammy to join EU Designs together, her efforts would be appreciated by EU Designs' top management.

With regards to Jake, she had given up on admiring him. He was faithfully helping Anya all along. He couldn't blame Carol for poaching his designers over to her future company.

Meanwhile in Jake's office. Jake spoke with Anya to understand the details of her design process to see where could have

gone wrong.

He concluded that they should investigate and look for leads starting from the manufacturing factory side. He called the tailor at the factory immediately to check if anyone had been over to the factory recently.

The tailor pondered. Without his permission, no staff from the factory could go into his office at all. So, the only people who had visited him in the office were Anya and Carol.

The tailor added on quickly after, "Mr. Hanson, recently Ms. Walker had come in to my office too. But I don't think she is that kind of person?"

Carol Walker? Jake paused for a while before he hung up. He turned to Anya, "There was someone else who had been to the factory. Carol Walker."

Anya was not surprised when she heard about Carol. Carol and Tammy were probably the two people who hated Anya the

most.

"Mr. Hanson, are you going to ask Carol about it?"

"Yes, I will." Jake nodded his head gently. "Leave it to me."

Anya nodded and remained silent. It was probably best if Jake put the question out to Carol directly instead of her.