

Desires DH 201

Chapter 201

Anya came out from Jake's office and walked back to her own desk.

Along the corridor, she could feel the looks of despise and rage from other designers. Anya knew she could not blame them for thinking that she was the culprit.

This did not just affect her alone, but it implicated all the designers from JK. She had to bear with the accusations for now, until she found out who the culprit was. This couldn't be the end of her career!

Anya returned to her desk, but her mind was deep in thought. She was uncertain if Jake could handle Carol on his own.

With all that on her mind, she would not be able to get any work done at this rate. She could only think about the situation and tried to think of ways to solve it.

Half an hour passed, a female designer exclaimed out loud from her desk. "Oh my! Everyone, look at the internet! Our CEO, Mr. Welton, has taken action. That is awesome!"

"What is going on?" The designers started to check online for updates as soon as Mr. Welton's name was mentioned.

"Quick, check it out yourselves!" The designer said excitedly. "Mr. Welton is so powerful! He managed to get all the trending topics and tweets from yesterday off Twitter!"

"Oh, does that mean all the slandering articles about JK are also gone?" Someone asked.

"Yes!" the female designer said respectfully, "He is so influential. Not only did he remove all the negative posts on JK. Couture and Welton Group, he also posted a tweet on Welton Group official account, along with a lawyer's letter. How impressive!"

“What lawyer

“What lawyer’s letter?”

“See for yourselves!”

Without further prompts, everyone in the office was already on their devices. Anya heard the commentaries and bit her lips as she went into the official Twitter account of Welton Group. There was a post pinned at the top of the news feed, saying The Welton Group would investigate and take legal actions against the accounts which fabricated the news involving Lola Mars and JK’s designer.

In other words, Evan had mobilized Welton Group’s legal consultants and issued a legal notice to take action on the accounts respectively. In the lawyer’s letter, it was also mentioned that the female designer implicated was framed and Welton Group would not tolerate and hesitate to take legal actions against defamations.

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this, as long as Anya could find the necessary evidence, JK Couture and herself would be free from allegations!

Indeed, things became easier to manage when Evan took control. The other designers in the industry and clients would still be able to trust JK’s reputation since it was a case of defamation.

Anya heaved a sigh of relief. She just needed to find the evidence but where should she start?

Anya felt a headache creeping in. As she drew a few lines on the sketch she was working on, her phone vibrated..

It was a text message from Evan. [Let’s have lunch together. I want to understand the details of the incident.]

Anya read the message. She was hesitant at first but she knew the situation had impacted the whole JK Couture and Welton Group. She should not decline. [Okay, Mr. Welton.]

Shortly after, Evan sent another text message. [I thought you are going to be stubborn with me and reject my invite.]

Anya stared at his reply. It was a different matter altogether. Her agreement to go for lunch together was for a professional agenda. She had the responsibility and obligation to report the happenings to him as an employee of the company.

[Mr. Welton, the matter was caused by me. I owe you an explanation.]

Evan received her reply. He pursed his lips as he read the message. An explanation would not solve this issue. It would take more than that..

He put his phone down and stared out of the window wall. He picked up his phone after a while and called Lola to invite her along for lunch too.

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Lola was still furious about the situation, even Rain could not appease her anxiety no matter how hard she tried. Who wouldn't want their wedding to be a joyous occasion? But this whole ordeal on the internet, how could Lola stay calm about

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She thought about it again and figured, surely Anya would be smarter than to leak out the news to the media? What merit would she get if she was really the one who leaked the news? Lola calmed down a little after she realized that it could have been someone behind this doing. Could it be her archenemies?

Just as Lola was brooding over this, her phone rang. It was Evan. Lola saw the caller's name on her screen and frowned. She knew there was only one reason why Evan would be calling her at this moment. It would have something to do with Anya

Lola grabbed a cushion on her couch and screamed into it to relieve some frustrations. She got up to answer the call. She would not dare to reject Evan's call. Lola sneaked towards the side door to get to the swimming pool as she did not want Rain to overhear. But Rain caught her arm before she could do so and asked, "Who is calling? Why are you so secretive?"

"Oh, it's...my cousin. He wanted to discuss some personal matters." Lola gave a forced smile as she didn't want to mention that it was Evan. She knew that Rain liked Evan, but Evan was interested in Anya instead. It was probably not a good time to complicate matters at this point.

"Oh okay. Go ahead then." If it was Dan, Rain would not question any further. She smiled, "Please knock some sense into your cousin and tell him to consider carefully about his relationship with the wrench."

"I know what to do." Lola replied hastily and quickened her pace to the swimming pool with the phone vibrating non-stop in her hand. She picked up the call after she had stepped out and pulled the glass door shut behind her.

"What's the matter, Evan?"

"The incident on the net this morning, you have seen it right?" Evan said slowly.

"Yes." As per Lola's predictions, Evan was really calling her because of the incident. She could almost foresee that his next sentence would be putting in good words for Anya.

"My agent had informed me this morning. You have got all the negative posts down, haven't you? Thank you for doing so."

"My pleasure. This matter implicated the Welton Group as well." He continued. "Are you free this afternoon? I'll treat you to

lunch."

"Treat me to lunch?" Lola paused, but soon she understood the agenda behind the lunch invitation. "Will Ms. MacMillan be there as well?"

With Evan's character, he would not invite Lola alone for lunch now that she was engaged, so as to prevent any

unnecessary rumors. Anya would be present for sure.

"Yes, she will be there too." Evan said truthfully.

"Are you trying to put in some good words for her? Actually, you don't have to treat me for lunch. With our friendship, I won't

do anything to her." Lola sighed and in a pitiful tone, "Evan, you really don't have to say good things about her at all. I

understand."

Evan was tickled by Lola's comment and laughed. "It wasn't her. She is not dumb to do something that will end her

livelihood."

Lola raised her brows. "Evan, what do you mean...?"

"There is likely someone else behind all these. Do you really think that a fresh graduate would sell out a popular celebrity and sabotage her own career? It is either you over-simplify matters or she is just not that smart." Evan was very sure of Anya's character. This woman had rejected his gift of a house valued at four million dollars, let alone to leak out the news to the media. What could she get out of it? The leaked news would not be worth four million dollars even. Anya had Evan's trust on this. Furthermore, there was no bad blood between Lola and Anya. Why would she sabotage her?

Lola thought about what Evan mentioned and indeed, it did sound suspicious. Anya did not look like someone who did not like doing her job. Otherwise, she wouldn't have waited for Lola in the rain just to design for her.

“Okay then. I’ll join you for lunch. We can talk more about it later.” Lola kept her suspicions at bay for now.

“Great. It will be at the restaurant in Century Hotel”

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Lola ended the call with Evan and went back into the house from the swimming pool.

Rain sat on the couch, eating the oranges she peeled. She noticed Lola coming back in. “Done with your call? Did you knock some sense into your cousin?”

“Sure did.” Lola gave a forced grin at Rain. She felt a little guilty towards Rain for not being able to tell her the truth, but it was not a good idea to create any rumors or potential trouble around Evan. It would be best that Lola just acted as if she did not know anything about it.

Meanwhile at JK Couture, Anya was finishing up the last design for Mdm. Welton’s coat. When she was halfway through, her phone vibrated and it was Cindy. She had most probably seen the news on the internet. After all, the news spread quite vastly before Evan actioned and terminated the sources.

“Anya, are you okay? I saw the news on the matter with Lola this morning.” Cindy was so concerned about Anya that she called her the minute she reached office before she settled down at her desk.

“Will this impact you in any way?”

“Let’s just say, if I don’t explain or rectify the matter publicly, I may lose my job and not be able to work as a designer in future.” Anya said solemnly.

“Don’t say that! I am with you for sure!” Cindy said gently. “And who said you cannot work as a designer in future? You still have me. I am going to set up a company in future, a design company. You will be my lead designer

Cindy's words comforted her like the warm sun embracing a flower that had weathered a harsh storm. Tears welled up in Anya's eyes as she tried to sound as normal as possible. "Thank you, Cindy. I'm so glad to have you as my best friend."

"You don't have to thank me. What are best friends for right?" Cindy continued in a serious tone, "But I was not joking about what I said earlier. I do intend to start my own business in future. I can't rely on my parents forever, right?"

"So, leave your word of thanks to later, after my business gets on track and I employ you officially."

"Yup."

"Oh right. When are you available to come by for house-viewing?"

"Today might be tough because of the whole saga. I'll see if I can sort it out later and probably come over after that?"

"Sure, no hurry. Anyway, my house is vacant now. You can move in anytime you want."

"Okay."

Anya was truly touched by her best friend. This friend of hers was the best thing that had happened to her in this lifetime, of course other than her two precious kids.

Anya put down her phone. She pulled out a tissue to wipe the tears as she pursed her lips.

She got up from her seat and made her way to the pantry to get some water. She got to the cooler and placed her mug down to refill. Another designer, Fann Crater, came into the pantry as well to make a cup of tea. When she saw Anya, her face immediately contorted in anger. A few moments ago, her client called her to call off the deal. It was a contract worth twenty thousand dollars. That would equate

to 1.5 thousand dollars of commission. Her fat commission had gone down the drain because of the wrench.

The more Fann thought about it, the more enraged she became. Usually Fann was neutral about Anya, but losing her commissions because of her made Fann think otherwise. She couldn't resist not showing her displeasure after her hard work pursuing the deal had got her nothing in return.

Fann waited for Anya to refill her mug before she splashed the remaining tea in her own cup onto Anya. Anya's pink blouse

was drenched.

"All thanks to you, Anya. My client canceled her contract with me because of the trouble you created with Lola Mars. There are also some clients who wanted to renegotiate their deals. Why are you even still here in JK?"

"I am not the one behind all those Anya said coldly in her drenched blouse. Anya had been tolerant towards the bad attitude from her colleagues but it did not mean she would keep quiet about it.

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"If it was not you, who could it be? Don't deny it." Fann thought that Anya was trying to wiggle her way out of the situation, so she continued to contempt her "You should quit immediately and never come back to this industry"

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"What evidence is there? Evidence that points to you being the culprit?" Fann raised her hand and was about to smash the mug in her hand onto Anya. But a strong hand from behind grabbed her mug in time before she could do so

Fann was pulled back. She turned back to see who tried to stop her. It was the CEO's personal assistant, Hayden Lang.

Fann was cautious of the people in the CEO's office. She retracted her hand and her rage simmered instantly. She stuttered and asked, "Mr. Lang, what brings you here?"

"Mr. Welton invited Anya to his office to talk about the issue this morning" Hayden was aware that Evan was interested in Anya so he moved Anya to the side and protect her if he needs to. "Do all designers in JK like to resort to violence? What is with the splashing of water? Mr. Welton is keen to groom JK's employees. If he knew that the people here bully, what would he think about JK as a whole, Ms Crater?"

Hayden's hint was obvious enough for Fann to understand the meaning between the lines. He indirectly meant Fann pulled down the reputation of the designers in JK

Fann went pale. She was afraid this might cause her her job and quickly defended herself. "Mr. Lang, I didn't do it on purpose. It was an accident"

She did not want to leave JK yet JK Couture was one of the better design firms in the industry and it had the support and backing of the established Welton Group

"I'd have known if it was an accident, because I saw it with my own eyes." Hayden retorted

Fann was lost and didn't know what to do "Mr. Lang, I'm sorry"

"Ms Crater, your apology seems to be directed at the wrong person"

Fann flushed with embarrassment.

Although she was pissed with Anya for her loss of commission, she should not be arrogant in front of the CEO's personal assistant and could only apologize to Anya. "Ms MacMillan, I'm sorry about my actions earlier on. Please forgive me."

Anya would not have forgiven Fann if it was in the past because the apology was not heartfelt and was just for show. If she had accepted it easily, the others would continue to bully her anyway. But now with the matter on hand, she did not want to waste her time on a minor dispute like this. After the incident was resolved and she had completed her designs for Mdm. Welton, she would quit

Anya grabbed some paper towels from the counter and tried to soak up as much liquid off her blouse as possible. "Ms. Crater, I will not admit to the things I did not do. So please refrain from any accusations. And as mentioned, I will look for the evidence I need to prove my innocence. I'll not implicate the other designers in JK."

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Anya turned to Hayden and said, "Mr. Lang, can we go now?"

Hayden nodded and replied, "Sure, let's go." He could not tell that Anya had such a strong character. She was definitely not the timid woman he had imagined. He seemed to understand why Evan was

interested with her.

They walked out of JK and made their way to the CEO's office upstairs. She could vaguely hear the other designers gossiping on her way out, but she chose to ignore all of it.

They reached the office at the highest level. Hayden knocked on the door and only opened it after the man behind it replied with a low yet attractive voice. Hayden went in first and ushered Anya into the office.

The spacious office was well-lit by the daylight coming in through the window walls. A suave man sat poised at the luxurious polished table. He was spinning a pen as he was focused on the documents in front of him.

Hayden stepped in front of the table and said respectfully. "Mr. Welton, Ms. MacMillan is here."

Evan looked up. His glance fell on her blouse that was still slightly wet from the incident in the pantry earlier. He frowned, "Why is your blouse wet?"

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"This is nothing, Mr. Welton. I accidentally spilled some water on myself earlier on." Anya did not want to complicate matters. She did not like staying in Evan's office as she felt pressurized and nervous. "So, I understand that you were looking for me, Mr. Welton?"

"Yes, I'm bringing you for lunch later." Evan was direct with his words even though his assistant was around.

Anya felt uncomfortable about his openness. She said in an awkward tone, "but we still have some time before the lunch appointment?"

It was about 10:30am when she was in the pantry earlier. Their appointment was at 11:30am, which left them close to an

hour to spare.

“It is about right. For some restaurants, we need to be there earlier.” Evan then signaled to his assistant and said, “Please buy a dress for Ms. MacMillan. You can refer to the measurements I mentioned before.”

Hayden nodded and scrambled off to his task.

Anya looked flushed. How did Evan know about her measurements? She did not remember telling Evan at all. But she knew better than to ask and open a can of worms. “Thank you, Mr. Welton. The blouse will dry in no time. There is no need to buy a new dress,”

“Just how soon do you think your blouse will take to dry completely?” Evan said in a warm tone, but his eyes looked intensely into hers.

Anya was dumbfounded and she quickly looked away. “It will probably be dry in 30 minutes.”

Evan anticipated that Anya would decline his offer. This woman had always been so stubborn, but he did not mind at all. He put his pen down and stood up.

He strode over with his long legs as he moved towards Anya. With a commanding voice, he asked, “Want a drink?”

“I am good, Mr. Welton.” Anya leaned back a little as she was not comfortable with Evan being too close to her. She did not want to take a chance in case he decided to force a kiss on her again. Anya slowly inched away to avoid the scenario and continued, “Mr. Welton, since we are not leaving yet, I’ll go back to JK first.”

Evan looked deeply into her eyes again and said unhurriedly. “Are you sure you’re okay wearing that drenched blouse to the restaurant? Don’t you think that your blouse is a little see-through now?”

Anya blushed as she looked down on her top, but didn’t know what to reply Evan. Indeed, her top became translucent when in contact with water, but it was not as bad as how he made it sound like.

The things Evan thought about and how his mind was wired. Evan had been trying ways to woo her. She expected it but Evan really had no filter on when he spoke at times.

She had planned ahead. After she explained the incident to Evan, she would make her way back to JK. Anya just had to tolerate him a little longer. She bit her lips, "Mr. Welton, please give me some respect, would you?"

Respect again. Evan wanted to laugh. A man could do anything to get the woman he wanted. He was no different, except he had his limits. He could resort to any tricks up his sleeve but he would not

unless circumstances call for it.

At this point, if he was not interested at all, he would not even bother himself with her. Needless to say, even take a glance at her. But the more Anya rejected his advancements, the more he wanted her.

Evan looked at her and was about to say something but his phone rang.

The caller was Dan. Evan turned to Anya. "Have a seat on the couch." With that, he walked towards the window wall to

answer the call.

Anya heaved a sigh of relief and proceeded to the couch.

Chapter 206

Dan called regarding the news reported this morning on Lola Mars and Anya. He was concerned as he was the one who pulled the strings between Anya and Evan.

"You have settled the Incident this morning?" Dan sat in his office, his fingers gently drumming on the table as he spoke.

“Not exactly. I have sent some people to investigate on the matter.” Evan took a cigarette from the cigarette case on the side table and put it in his mouth. He lit the cigarette and took a puff. He said unhurriedly, “This is not a big issue. You don’t have to be concerned about it.”

“Let me know if you need help.” Dan felt he had some responsibility as he was the one who recommended Anya to Evan. But in the end, this happened. If it was not handled properly, JK could easily go out of business. It was not a small matter so Dan had to reach out to ask.

“Do you

feel that I can’t even handle a minor matter like this and still need your help? Surely, I can do better than that, don’t you think?” Evan laughed and did not seem too bothered by it. “Don’t worry. It’ll be fine.”

“Okay.” Of course, he knew his good friend could make things work but they were good friends, so he wanted to help if he could.

“If there isn’t anything else, I’ll hang up yah?” Evan took another puff on the cigarette.

“Okay, bye.”

After the call ended, Evan walked over to the side table and tapped the cigarette in his hand on the side of the ash tray. He looked over at Anya who was seated quietly on the couch. This woman could

behave like an obedient kitten when she was quiet. But of course, she could also turn into a ferocious cat when she was rebellious.

Evan looked away leisurely. Hayden knocked on the door and came in with a paper bag. He had called the nearest high-end boutique and asked them to deliver a dress over within 5 minutes. The high-end boutique indeed had the most efficient customer service and delivered within the stipulated time.

Hayden brought the dress in once it was delivered. It was an elegant one-piece with ruffled hem. “Mr. Welton, Ms. MacMillan’s dress is here.” Hayden extended the black paper bag to Evan. Evan took a quick glance and said, “Give it to Ms.

MacMillan.”

Hayden nodded and turned to Anya who was still seated on the couch.

Anya did not want to accept the gift. The things Evan gifted were not cheap and they costed at least a few thousands. Even when Anya was still in the MacMillan family, she had never bought dresses from luxury brands. Not to mention this brand that Hayden ordered from, their in-season dresses could easily be twelve thousand dollars. It probably didn’t mean much for Evan, but that was a lot of money to Anya.

Anya did not take the bag from Hayden since she had no intention to accept it. Instead, she rejected politely. “Mr. Welton, my blouse will be dry soon. Thanks for your thoughts.”

Evan knew Anya would reject but he wanted her to accept it no matter what. He exhaled some smoke from the cigarette and replied, “Ms. MacMillan, are you really going to wear a wet blouse to lunch with me and trash Welton Group’s

professional image as well?

“Don’t forget, Ms. Lola Mars will be there too. And we are leaving in a few minutes. Are you sure your blouse will be completely dry within minutes?”

Anya pressed her lips together and remained silent. Her blouse would not be completely dry any time soon. What more, they were leaving already.

Anya was caught in a dilemma. Evan added on, “Ms. MacMillan, please don’t waste any more time.”

“Are you planning to let Ms. Mars wait for you or you just want me to continue waiting?”

Anya could not reject any further. She stood up and took the bag from Hayden. “Well then, I’ll return the dress to you tomorrow, Mr. Welton.”

As she was about to walk out of his office and change at the public restroom along the corridor, Evan stopped her. “You don’t have to go to the washroom outside. You can change in my room inside.”

Anya was startled as she stopped in her tracks. She then realized that there was another small room in his office.

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The room connected to Evan’s office was as luxurious as a five–star hotel room. That was Anya’s first impression of the room when she pushed open the door.

The color scheme of the room was similar to the office, with charcoal grey and black tones. Though the room was a little dark, every furniture in there was exquisite and the materials used were of high quality. These little details added up to make the room look modern and posh.

Anya looked around but she did not explore much. After all, she was not there to tour the room as they were about to leave for the lunch soon. She quickly took off her own clothes and took out the dress from the paper bag. Her eyes sparkled as she laid out the dress. It was a pink dress with ruffled hems which was in line with this year’s trend.

Anya put on the dress and it fitted like a glove. It hugged her curves so well. The tip of Anya’s ears became red and she frowned slightly. How did Evan know her measurements so well?

She did not have the luxury of time to dwell into it now. What was more important was to clear up the air with Lola on the

incident.

Anya pulled the door open and stepped back into the office. Evan was the only one left in the room as Hayden had stepped out. Evan sat on the sofa smoking with his long legs extended out. His eyes peered through the smoke and landed on Anya. The fitted pink dress accentuated her curves and showed her

long straight legs. Her long black hair draped over her shoulders and her back. The pink tone of the dress brought out a glow on her fair skin. This woman was indeed gorgeous.

Evan was dazzled by what he saw. It was a pure physical attraction that Anya looked amazing to him. That was not love.

“Mr. Welton, shall we go?” Anya was uncomfortable with the dominating and overpowering look Evan was giving her. She did not like the look of lust coming from Evan as it made her heart beat rapidly. Hence, she decided to break the silence.

Evan heard her and recollected his thoughts. He extinguished his cigarette in the ash tray and got up. He walked slowly towards Anya and stood in front of her. “Let’s go.”

Anya nodded. “Mr. Welton, the dress.. I will send it for dry cleaning tonight and return it to you tomorrow.”

Evan was not keen to have the dress back. So what if she really returned it to him? Was he supposed to take it and gift it to another woman? Or he should keep the dress himself? He strode towards the door. “Let’s put a pin on this topic for now. What is more crucial now is the discussion we will have later about the incident.”

Lola was the one who needed to hear from Anya. Evan was fine with it. He knew that this woman cared about her designs a lot and wanted to resolve this as soon as possible. But what mattered more was that both parties involved could get to

the same understanding.

Anya was taken aback by his reply that she had no comeback for it. Reverting to the topic of the lunch agenda, she said, “Yes, Mr. Welton, I will explain in detail later.”

“That’s good.” He turned to look at Anya for a short moment and continued to make his way out.

They entered the elevator from the highest floor down to the underground car park. In between, they did not see any other employees from Welton Group. Anya heaved a sigh of relief. She was glad about it so that there wouldn't be any strange

rumors about them popping up.

But the moment they reached the car park, a familiar face appeared. It was her step sister, Sydney MacMillan. Sydney was coming back from a meeting off site and she just parked her white BMW in the parking lot.

Alighting from her car, she glanced over at Anya who was wearing a beautiful knee-length dress following closely behind Evan and they were walking towards his Bentley.

Sydney's eyes widened in surprise. Why is this wretch with Evan? Or they were really dating?

Sydney did not want to draw any conclusions. She feared that her thought of them dating was true and Anya would take advantage of it.

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Anya followed Evan to the car and got on. The Bentley was driven out of the carpark soon after.

Sydney was still stunned and did not move an inch. Her eyes were bloodshot with jealousy. She continued gazing after them for a few more seconds before a thought came into her mind. She quickly jumped back into her car and tailed them. She needed to verify if the two of them were really dating or they were an item.

The restaurant for their lunch appointment was secluded. But the environment was serene and conducive. It would not be a surprise that the restaurant was popular among celebrities and affluent people.

Anya and Evan entered the restaurant. The waitress recognized Evan immediately and led him passionately to the table by the window as per his reservation.

When they reached the table, Anya was about to sit opposite Evan. But Evan shot a judging glance at her and said, "Come,

sit beside me."

Anya pursed her lips. She was cautious and unwilling to budge. "Mr. Welton, I'm good here." She had been guarded against Evan and she had a hunch that this lunch wouldn't go by as smoothly as she had hoped.

Evan could guess what Anya was thinking. He held the glass of water with his slender fingers and drank a sip of warm water. "You want me to sit beside Ms. Mars? So, you want rumors to fly between us?"

Anya frowned as she did not have the intention of doing so. But it should be fine if Lola sat beside her?

"I can sit with Ms. Mars actually. That way, there wouldn't be any rumors about both of you."

"We are representing Welton Group for this lunch. Do you think it is an appropriate business etiquette to sit beside her in this case?" Evan had been used to business appointments since he had been at it for a few years. There was no way this newbie would be able to win the argument.

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Indeed, Anya could not think of a good rebuttal. Being a fresh graduate in the working world, she was still learning ropes of the business world and could be led on easily. She could not win Evan in terms of experience and negotiation skills.

She paused to think for a while and eventually sat down beside the demanding man. Now that she was seated beside Evan, she could smell the faint minty cigarette smoke from him. It added on to his muscular scent that made Anya purse her lips even more. She purposely held back on any drastic reactions and sat slightly away from Evan, just in case he got the wrong idea.

In the next ten minutes, Lola arrived at the restaurant. Sydney, who was tailing Anya, secretly followed behind. Sydney did not dare to show her face in front of them, so she chose a table that was on the

other end where she could still observe them. As she watched them, she started drawing up some guesses. If the two of them were here on a date, why would they invite Lola? So, this possibility was ruled out. The only thing that could relate the appearance of the three of them together would be the incident reported this morning. That would make sense if Evan brought Anya over to apologize to Lola for the incident.

Sydney concluded that they were not an item and that it was a business lunch. It was just Anya trying to get some attention from Evan by wearing that attention-catching dress. What a wretch! So despicable that she would resort to any

tactics just to attract Evan. Sydney kept cursing Anya in her heart until she was calm enough to place her order. She planned to continue monitoring them while she ate her lunch.

Sydney's phone rang. It was her direct manager calling her to come back to the office for a meeting. Why would there be a meeting when it was lunch time? Sydney was unwilling but couldn't wiggle her way out of it. She reluctantly gave up on her lunch plans and exited the restaurant from the other side..

Back at Anya's table, Anya started apologizing sincerely once Lola settled down. "Ms. Mars, I am really sorry about this morning's matter."

This was not what Lola wanted from Anya. Since Evan had given her a call earlier, it did not matter to her if this apology came or not. She was only concerned about how to resolve this issue. She said, "It is fine. I don't think you did this anyway."

Anya did not think that Lola would believe her. She was half expecting Lola to throw her temper at her, but she did not.

Anya replied gratefully, "Ms. Mars, thanks for believing in me."

"Actually, there is something that is bothering me. How did my pre-wedding photos get leaked out?" Lola asked as she looked at Evan, who behaved like Anya's guardian angel, and back at Anya.

“Mr Hanson called the factory earlier to verify some details.” In actual fact, Anya had no idea how the photos were leaked. The tailor at the factory had worked with JK for many years and there had not been any issues with trust and reliability. Previously, he had also handled some important projects before and nothing of such had happened before.

“There is a suspect and Mr. Hanson is looking into it.” Anya said truthfully.

“Who is it?” Lola raised her eyebrow.

“One of JK’s designers had been to the factory to look for the tailor who was tasked to make the sample for your wedding gown. Currently, there is no other evidence against the person so Mr. Hanson is still investigating.” Anya did not want to disclose Carol Walker’s name as yet. Carol was a senior designer who had been with JK for many years. It would be better not to mention names, especially since she did not have any concrete evidence.

Lola nodded. She did not trust Anya initially but after thinking through the situation and having the chat with Evan, she felt that it could not have been Anya. Unless Anya did not want to continue as a designer, there was no reason for her to leak the news with her own name. The leak would not benefit her in any way either.

Lola rationalized and her anger towards Anya simmered. She said, “If you do find anything, please inform me immediately. I will pursue the matter through legal means to protect my rights.”

“Understood.”

“So, can I take it that the misunderstanding between you two is resolved?” Evan chimed in gradually as the conversation between the two ladies concluded. He added on in an affectionate tone, “Ms.

MacMillan, you don’t have anything to worry

about anymore.”

Anya acknowledged Evan briefly. She did not notice any difference in Evan's tone, but Lola picked it up immediately. Seemed like Evan was really into Anya..

Actually, being Evan's girlfriend had its privileges. Though it could not be announced publicly, he would fulfil what he needed to do as a boyfriend, or even more. Evan was a gentleman and kept the other ladies at bay. Not too bad for a boyfriend, no?

"But, now that the news is being announced, my fans will still be disappointed with me even if I find the real culprit behind this." Lola wanted to stay in the showbiz, so she got a little depressed while they were on this topic.

Evan said, "It is actually not a bad thing. Even if you announce it later, there will still be repercussions." After all, there would still be a difference whether a celebrity was unwedded or wedded.

He continued after a pause, "Why not fix a day with Anya to hold a press conference and address the matter directly? Who knows, maybe your fans may just understand your stand and things will improve from there?"

"Would that really help?" Lola was not confident about the suggestion.

"Give it a try and you will know. No matter how things would turn out, at least you have given it a shot. Rather than worrying about the current situation." Evan shrugged.

Lola remained silent for a moment and thought, Evan had a point. Even if the news was released later, she eventually had kept the fact that she had a fiancé under wraps. She might as well make use of the

opportunity to clear things up. It would be better than staying in status quo.

"Okay, let's go with your plan."

Evan nodded his head and passed the two menus on the table to the ladies. "Place your orders."

The ladies took over the menus and absentmindedly flipped through the pages.

This restaurant was known for their steaks. Anya did not have much appetite, hence, she ordered a small portion of steak and placed the menu back on the table. Lola was watchful of her diet since she was a celebrity. She ordered a salad as she refrained from eating meat in general. Evan placed his order of steak after them.

Lola's salad came first and then the steaks came. Anya was about to pick up her cutlery to cut her steak, but the man beside her picked up her plate and put it next to his. He started cutting her steak into small pieces, each just right for a mouthful.

Anya's heart skipped a beat. But she did not say anything in case she accidentally say the wrong thing and Lola got the wrong idea.

But Lola already read the situation very well as she looked across the table at Evan who was cutting a steak for a woman. It was obvious enough, that Evan was truly in love.

Chapter 210

"Evan, you can be really considerate towards Ms. MacMillan, aren't you?" Lola teased as she glanced at Evan and smirked.

Anya immediately jumped in after Lola's comment. "Ms. Mars, please don't be mistaken. There is nothing between us."

Evan just listened and did not comment. He continued to cut the steak into small pieces for Anya.

Suave, generous, young yet successful... while he was always aloof and never amiable. A close friend of Evan would know that his indifferent attitude was only to deter the ladies he was not interested in away from him. As for Anya whom he was interested in, he would dote on her generously

Lola thought it would be anyone's honor to have a bachelor like Evan, who was born with a silver spoon and managed one of the top companies in the industry, to take an interest in them. But to Anya, it felt like men thought that they could have everything, including ladies, and manipulate them when they had the wealth. But she did not like it that way.

“Evan is really taking good care of you.” Lola continued teasing as she glanced at Evan who was still at Anya’s steak. “After all, Evan hasn’t cut steaks for any other ladies before.”

Anya was slightly startled by her remark and paused. She pursed her lips slightly. Wanting to distant herself from Evan, she replied, “Ms. Mars, Mr. Welton is nice to all employees in the company. Please don’t be mistaken.

“He treats everyone with the same kindness.”

In any case, she would want to avoid imposing on Evan.

The moment she finished her sentence, Evan became solemn and put his cutlery down. He placed the plate of cut steak in front of Anya. With a commanding voice, he asked, “Ms. MacMillan, do you really think I treat all employees the same? You really think I am that generous?”

Anya fell silent as the atmosphere became a little awkward. She subconsciously bit her lips and started eating her steak as she did not want to comment any further. She was afraid that the more she said, the messier the situation would become.

Only Lola was enjoying herself while teasing them. This couple... one who was wooing and another rejecting the courtship. If she had not seen it for herself, no one would probably believe that Evan, the CEO whom thousands of women highly sought after, would be rejected by a lady.

Lola chuckled as she could not hold back her laughter anymore. She knew she shouldn’t continue teasing them otherwise Evan would be unhappy about her bullying his woman. She smiled to herself and ate her salad.

Meanwhile at Jake’s office while Anya and Evan were out for lunch, Carol sat down in the seat off the other side of Jake’s desk. She seemed well prepared and tranquil as she was being questioned by Jake.

“Ms. Walker, the tailor at the factory mentioned to me, you went to visit him in his office last week?” Jake asked though he was quite unwilling to suspect Carol. Carol had been working with Jake in JK for many years. There had not been issues with her character before. Or at least, he did not come across

any situation where it showed her flawed character or that she betrayed the company in these years being colleagues. Jake wanted to remain tactful so he did not get to the point immediately.

But Carol was not dumb. She knew what Jake was getting at. She smiled calmly and said, “Yes, Mr. Hanson. I have been to the factory, but that was for the major deal from overseas you mentioned to me. Didn’t you ask me to source for a suitable factory?”

“I have been to several factories to find out if they would be able to meet our requirements. Are you implying that because I visited the factory, it made me the person who leaked the news or sabotaged the company?”