

Desires DH 231

Chapter 231

Jamie was investigating Anya's mother's inheritance case and he happened to have a few things to tell her.

After he drove to Oak View Mansion, he headed straight to his cousin's villa.

Even though the lights were on in the living room when Jamie entered the villa, there was no one in sight, but the sound of their laughter could be faintly heard upstairs.

Jamie automatically went to the second floor.

He followed their laughter after he climbed up the stairs and eventually found them sitting on the bed in the bedroom on the southern side of the villa.

The dim wall lamps lit up the woman's face softly and gave her a hazy soft glow.

Jamie went into a daze looking at Anya as he leaned against the door. Anya was genuinely gorgeous.

She was even more stunning than the first time he ever laid eyes on her.

Jamie could not help feeling a little attracted to her. However, now was not the time to think about this. He quickly suppressed his feelings before he reached his hand out and knocked on the door gently a few times.

The girls instantly stopped laughing and turned to look and were surprised to see him.

Cindy promptly realized it was her cousin, so she smiled and said, "Jamie, what brings you here? Why didn't you tell me you were coming?"

“Well, I needed to talk to Anya, so I came over” Jamie slowly strode over to the ladies as he looked at them with his deep

eyes.

“What do you need to talk about?” Cindy felt curious and continued, “Also, how did you know we were here?”

“Have you forgotten? I already asked you where you were going in the evening this afternoon,” said Jamie as he reached his hand out and tapped her head indulgently with his finger.

“Hmm?” Cindy touched her head as she said, “I completely forgot.”

“Jamie, what did you want to talk to me about?” asked Anya politely as she broke her silence.

“I wanted to talk to you about your mother’s inheritance case,” said Jamie as he handed Anya the folder in his hands. “I already gathered some preliminary evidence for your case, but I’m sure it won’t be enough.”

“Already?” Anya took the folder in surprise before she quickly perused its contents.

Cindy pulled Anya’s arm and said, “My dear, don’t read it here in the bedroom. Go downstairs and read it in the living room. Let me make you some tea. I just happened to have learned Japanese tea ceremony. Come on.”

“Sounds good. I haven’t had your tea in some time.” Jamie had no objection.

He felt it was inappropriate to discuss such a serious subject in the bedroom as well.

“Sure thing” Anya agreed with them.

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“Then let’s go.” Cindy pulled Anya along as Jamie followed behind them.

The three of them chatted as they walked to the brightly lit living room on the ground floor. Cindy headed to the kitchen to prepare tea for them.

Anya followed behind Jamie and took a seat on the couch.

“Why don’t you take a look at the material I have here and ask if you have questions?” said Jamie casually after taking a seat.

Anya carefully went through the documents like he said. Since her head was lowered, her dark hair kept scattering forward. For a moment, Jamie wanted to help pull back her long silky hair.

However, he suppressed this urge. He was a gentleman, so he could not touch a woman’s hair as it was simply rude. Instead, he simply sat quietly and looked at her.

After Anya was done going over the material, she asked quizzically, “Jamie, does this mean a case has to be made in my

name?”

“Yes. Since your mother has passed away, you will inherit her assets and become the sole executor of her will in theory, so you naturally have to sue the MacMillan family and make your case. Your father has already remarried, so the key document is the agreement your parents made when they got divorced. I have taken a look at this document and it seems to be a forgery.”

“A forgery?” Anya furrowed her brows when she heard what he said.

“Something is wrong with the official family stamp. Also, your mother’s signature doesn’t look right. It is highly possible that your father forged this agreement at the time of divorce.”

Anya nodded. No wonder the MacMillan family insisted there was no such inheritance from her mother whenever Anya

asked about it.

It seemed the MacMillan family had been plotting about this all along. They had already planned on making her mother leave the MacMillan family without a dime by forging this agreement.

The MacMillan family was absolutely despicable.

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“In that cas

case, what should I do now?” asked Anya as she handed the documents back to Jamie.

“We have to prove that this document was a forged but that is quite hard,” said Jamie solemnly. “Also, we need to prove that the MacMillan family lied to your mother when she signed the divorce agreement. That is the only way for us to have any chances of winning the suit.”

Since it sounded hard to prove the legitimacy of the divorce agreement, Anya was at a loss about what she should do now.

“Jamie, my mother signed this agreement ages ago. It sounds hard to prove their legitimacy. How should we go about proving it?”

Jamie noticed how worried Anya was, so he comforted her thoughtfully, “Don’t worry about proving the agreement’s legitimacy. I will come up with something.”

“I appreciate it, Jamie.” Anya was so grateful Jamie was willing to help her with the case that she did not know what to say.

She looked worried and vulnerable.

“You are welcome. Since I agreed to take on your mother’s case, I will do everything I can in my power to help you.” Jamie smiled as he said, “Also, you are my cousin’s best friend. How could I stand by and not help?”

“Thank you.” Anya thanked him once more.

“Anya, don’t worry about it.” Cindy walked out with a small pot of floral tea after Anya thanked Jamie. She smiled as she chimed in, “My cousin is a good guy and a top lawyer in the industry.”

“Cindy, cut it out,” Jamie interrupted Cindy right away when she flattered him. He did not want Cindy to brag about him with Anya around. “Is the tea ready?”

“All done. Have some.” Cindy placed the floral tea on the coffee table and poured them a cup of tea each. “My master is highly revered in the Japanese tea ceremony industry.”

“Thanks.” Jamie smiled as he cooled the cup of tea in his hand and took a sip. It was genuinely sweet and fragrant. He could also taste the scent of roses on his tongue. She was genuinely getting very good at making tea.

“Not bad at all.”

“That goes without saying. I learned from the best after all.” Cindy lifted her chin smugly before she said to Anya, “Have a sip.”

“Sure.” Anya picked up the teacup, took a sip, and felt it was excellent. “It’s really good.”

Cindy smiled even more happily when she won both their praise. “Then you should have more.”

“Oh yes, Ms. MacMillan, I heard Cindy saying you are going to move in here,” said Jamie as he put down the teacup when he recalled the matter.

He was curious about why she was moving into the villa out of the blue.

“I plan on changing jobs, so I wanted to move.” Anya trusted Jamie a lot. Since he was her lawyer, she was rather honest about the situation. “Cindy was so kind to let me stay here.”

“I see.” Jamie finally realized what was going on. He promptly smiled and said, “This is a good district. Also, I happen to live nearby. That way, it will be easier to talk about the case.”

“Jamie, are you planning to hit on Anya?” Cindy could tell her cousin was interested in dating Anya, so she could not resist teasing him.

Jamie smiled without retorting and seemed to be making silent admission.

Anya felt awkward and blushed a little. It never crossed her mind that she could date an elite lawyer like Jamie. After all, she was the mother of two children. Also, she was a single unmarried mother.

She was keenly aware it was impossible for a man of Jamie’s status to accept someone with a background like hers.

“How could he possibly be attracted to me considering how ordinary I am?” said Anya as she cleared her throat shyly.

Jamie noticed Anya’s uneasiness, so he said, “Drop it. You are making Ms. MacMillan feel uncomfortable.”

“Fine. Let’s chat about something else.” Cindy did not want to make Anya uneasy, so she changed the subject.

“Okay.”

Anya, Cindy, and Jamie chatted at the villa for about 30 minutes before leaving.

Jamie wanted to send Anya home, but Anya turned down his offer. He did not insist when she took a ride from Cindy.

On the way back, Cindy started promoting Jamie. "My cousin is a really great guy. Why don't you give him a chance?"

Anya felt a headache coming on. She did not want to date anyone, so she simply smiled and said, "Do you think it's possible? Considering my low status and how good your cousin is, do you think it's possible between us?"

"Why not? You are going to be an incredible fashion designer one day. How can you be so hard on yourself? There is no need for this low self-esteem." Cindy felt she must have low self-esteem owing to the things that transpired with the MacMillan family.

Anya sighed. She did not have an inferiority complex, it was simply the truth.

"You know about the twins. Also, I can't go anywhere without them." Anya looked at the scenery outside the car window as she spoke gently, "No one is willing to accept a single mother with two kids like me."

"Also, don't tell Jamie about my kids. Even if he finds out, I will tell him they are my cousin's children. I don't want to attract any trouble. As for Evan, he insists on doing another paternity test." The moment Anya finished her sentence, she veered her eyes and looked at Cindy.

Cindy knew what she meant. "Don't worry. I won't tell him about the kids. He will never know about this."

"Thanks.

"My pleasure." Cindy was more than happy to help.

As long as they were friends, she would help Anya till the day they died.

Anya nodded.

The two of them dropped the subject and started chatting about something else. Before long, they arrived at Ellie's apartment.

Cindy parked her Maserati to let Anya off the car. Anya bent over and said to Cindy as she got off, "Cindy, take care and drive safely. After I am done moving, I will buy you dinner.

"Sounds like a plan." Cindy nodded. "I can stay over to hang out with my foster son and daughter after you move into Oak View Mansion."

Anya smiled. "Then it's settled. After I move over, you must move in as well."

Cindy gestured okay. "No problem."

"Drive safe," said Anya once more as she waved goodbye.

Cindy turned the car around and headed to her apartment.

The moment Cindy left, Anya stood where she was for a while before she headed back to Ellie's apartment. A few steps later, she spotted a black Bentley parked downstairs and this stunning man standing in front of the car smoking.

Streetlamps beside the apartment scattered down over his well-chiseled features as he smoked making him absolutely

gorgeous.

Anya went into a daze as she looked at him from a distance. Her eyelids twitched uneasily.

What was he doing here?

Anya looked at him for some time before she finally walked over. Since he was already standing there, there was no escaping him...

The man finally spotted her when she came closer.

He flicked the cigarette in his hand and said huskily, "Where have you gone gallivanting?"

"Mr. Welton, since it is after office hours, I really don't think my whereabouts are any of your business," said Anya angrily.

Evan pursed his lips before he said confidently, "You are my woman. Why can't I ask?"

Anya went speechless.

When did she become his woman?

She did not recall agreeing to this.

"Mr. Welton, you shouldn't be cracking such jokes in the middle of the night. I am just an insignificant employee, how could I be your woman? If you are not here to talk about work, I am heading back to my apartment. Good night," said Anya before

she left.

Evan reached his hand out to pull her against his powerful chest as he spoke huskily in a domineering tone, "I see you are getting more daring by the day. It seems it is about time I teach you a lesson."

er in his

Anya

ya could smell his intense sexy scent as his body rubbed against her while he spoke vaguely with her in his arms. His body felt soft and strong.

The situation felt dangerous. Her ears instinctively turned red as she bit her lip and retorted. "Stop acting like a hooligan, Mr. Welton!"

A hooligan? Evan looked at her coolly as he said calmly. "If I were a hooligan, I would have pinned you down on my bed already."

Anya went speechless..

Anya gritted her teeth as she struggled and said angrily, "Mr. Welton, this is my home!"

Evan could tell she was genuinely annoyed, so he stopped holding her. He let her go and retrieved a big bag of toys from

inside the car. "These are for Nate and Dora."

Anya glanced at him and refused to take the gifts. "Mr. Welton, thanks but we have plenty of toys at home."

"Are you trying to make me bring it upstairs?" said Evan deeply.

Anya's face stiffened. She hesitated briefly before taking the bag of toys from Evan and said stiffly, "Mr. Welton, thanks for being so good to my cousin's children." The moment she finished her sentence, she turned and strode quickly into the

apartment.

Evan did not go into the apartment with her. Instead, he leaned against the car as he watched her leave from behind.

It suddenly dawned on him that he was unknowingly becoming increasingly indulgent and tolerant towards the woman.

Even though it was more than just wanting to sleep with her, he knew it was impossible for him to take the relationship seriously.

Evan looked at her for some time before throwing the cigarette on the ground and putting it out before he turned to get

onto the car.

Chapter 234

Anya went into the apartment with the bag of expensive toys Evan had just given her. She wanted to take the toys for now and return them to him when she tendered her resignation.

However, Nathaniel quickly spotted the bag of toys in her hands the moment she came, so he kept asking for the toys.

“Nate, you can’t play with them. These aren’t for you. I bought them for someone else.” Anya did not want him to play with the toys. If her son accidentally broke them, she would not be able to return them to Evan.

She held the bag as she comforted him.

Nathaniel refused to stop. He saw a robot logo on the bag and wanted to see its contents, so he looked at his mother with his eyes teary and whined. “Mom, let me take a look, will you?”

Nathaniel kept whining about the toys so miserably that Anya felt softhearted. Also, Eudora always mimicked everything her older brother did, so she hugged Anya's leg and started to whine as well. "Mama. Mama.."

Anya felt a headache coming on, but she refused to cave in. Ellie did not know the toys were from Evan and thought Anya genuinely got them for a friend, so she said, "Anya, why don't you let the kids have a look at the toys?"

"Ellie, these toys are from Evan!" Anya frowned as she said powerlessly, "How can I return them after the kids are done playing with them?"

"He gave you the toys?" Ellie instantly looked at the bag in shock.

Anya nodded. She watched as the kids hugged her and whimpered about the toys before she hesitated for a few seconds and said, "Fine. I will let you have a look. You two are really starting to be difficult."

"This is normal. Nate and Dora are already very obedient kids." Ellie touched their heads and said indulgently, "They are growing up so quickly. As they grow up, their personalities will start to develop, so it's normal for them to be a little persistent about what they want."

Anya felt powerless. She squatted down and opened the bag. There was an extravagant custom-made robot and a customized Barbie doll lying inside.

Anya glanced at the price tags.

How could a couple of toys cost \$7000?

Why were they so expensive?

Everything Evan owned was insanely expensive.

Anya really did not dare to take them out now and let the children touch them. Every moment the children played with them, their depreciation was worth over a thousand dollars.

“You can only have a look at the toys. Do you understand? I helped my friend buy them, so you can’t damage them. If you break the toys, I have to pay for them,” said Anya patiently as she coaxed them.

Nathaniel had an inkling of what his mother was saying, but Eudora was completely oblivious.

Since their mother said they could not touch them, they were rather obedient and simply encircled the extravagant toys and

looked at them.

Nathaniel really adored the toy robot and wanted to play with it badly.

Anya refused to give in and immediately put the bag away before she consoled them, “After I get paid next month, I will get you something else, okay?”

Nathaniel wanted the toy robot badly, but he felt bad about letting his mother work so hard.

He stopped insisting on wanting the toy robot and patted her with his chubby hand. “Okay.” Eudora came close to her mother and kissed her cheek as she said sweetly. “Okay, Mama.”

Anya’s heart turned to mush when Eudora kissed her. She smiled as she carried Eudora and held Nathaniel’s hand to go. play in the living room.

All she needed were her children.

The next morning at daybreak, at Evan’s posh apartment. Evan went over to the gym to work out shirtless when he woke

1. up.

Mdm. Welton came over with homemade soup while he was working out.

She was here to find out if he had found himself a girl yet..

Chapter 235

Mdm. Welton entered the apartment passcode with a soup canister in hand. The maid saw her while cleaning the apartment, and recognized her instantly, so she came over to greet her, "Mdm. Welton, how do you do?"

"I am here to see my grandson." Mdm. Welton chuckled as she handed the soup she made to the maid and asked, "Is he up

yet?"

"Mr. Welton is already up. He's working out at the gym!" The maid carefully took the soup canister and went to put it aside.

She placed it on the dining table before coming back to Mdm. Welton.

"Mdm. Welton, shall I go tell him you are here?"

Mdm. Welton sneered teasingly, "What's the point of working out every day if he doesn't have a girlfriend?"

The maid smiled as she said, "Mr. Welton has plenty of choices. Lots of pretty girls show up here every day."

However, none of them were allowed to come in unless Mr. Welton was well acquainted with them.

“Have sleazy girls been visiting his place again? Mdm. Welton never liked coquettish and trendy young women. She was. always more conservative and preferred decent girls like Anya.

“I would hardly call them sleazy. Most of them are high society young ladies and celebrities,” said the maid.

Mdm. Welton smiled as she sneered once more and went over to the gym with the maid. “Let’s go see him.”

The maid nodded. “Certainly.”

The two of them headed over to the luxurious gym area to see Evan running on the treadmill,

Evan saw Mdm. Welton coming in through the reflection in the mirror and promptly stopped the running machine. He took a towel to wipe his sweat as he turned to say to Mdm. Welton, “Granny, what brings you here?”

“I am here to see if you have found a girlfriend,” sneered Mdm. Welton annoyingly.

Evan could not help laughing. “Are you worried that I can’t find one?”

“That goes without saying.” Mdm. Welton said as she walked over, “I brought you some soup. Come over and have some.” Mdm. Welton said to the maid beside her, “Please serve the soup I brought over.”

The maid acknowledged her and went over to prepare the soup.

Mdm. Welton continued, “So have you found a girlfriend yet? The maid was just telling me about the seedy girls who come knocking on your door. I hope you know better than to mess around!”

Evan rubbed his brows. He could feel a headache coming on. “Do you think I am that sort of man?”

“Of course not.” Mdm. Welton had absolute faith in him, but he refused to find a steady girlfriend, so she could not help

being anxious. “You are already 28, so it’s about time you found yourself a girl.”

“I will introduce one to you by the end of the month.”

Mdm. Welton glanced at him in disbelief. “Really?”

“Of course it’s true. Didn’t I already tell you about it previously?” Evan did not know what to do about his grandmother. “I promise to bring her over soon.”

“Okay, I will trust you this once.”

“I will go drink your soup now,” said Evan as he walked into the living room with Mdm. Welton.

The moment he brought up the soup, Mdm. Welton got excited. “This time, I added deer antler in your soup. It’s very nourishing.”

Evan went quiet.

Had it dawned on his grandmother she might have gone overboard with all this nourishment?

He was not even 30 years old. To be precise, he was only 28 years old, so he was too young for tonic.

However, he appreciated the gesture.

He walked over to the living room with Mdm. Welton to drink the soup she made him.

Mdm. Welton said while he drank the soup, "Don't let random girls into your apartment. It's bad for your reputation."

Evan smiled. "Got it."

A lot of women often came over to his place, but he never once let them through the door.

Chapter 236

"I am glad you know that." Mdm. Welton took some tissue and wiped the sweat from his brow as she asked, "Oh yes, what do you think about Ms. MacMillan?"

"Anya MacMillan?" Evan put down the soup spoon and looked at Mdm. Welton.

Mdm. Welton nodded excitedly. "Yes. Have you ever considered getting to know her better?"

"Granny, do you like her that much?" The moment she brought up Anya, Evan smiled.

His grandmother naturally adored Anya. Although Anya did not hail from a powerful family, Mdm. Welton liked her nonetheless. "I think she is pretty, good-natured, and sweet. She is a nice girl."

Good-natured, and sweet?

Evan suddenly felt like laughing. Anya was like a little wild cat in private.

Every time she was annoyed, she would scratch him with her claws.

Perhaps one day after she had submitted to him and became his woman, she might be sweet to him, but she was definitely

not sweet for now.

“Why don’t you try and get to know her?” Mdm. Welton kept probing when he refused to answer.

Evan smiled. “Granny, since you like her so much, I don’t mind giving it a shot with her.”

“Good.” Mdm. Welton felt relieved. “You should have tried dating someone ages ago.”

“Okay.” He genuinely wanted to try dating someone now.

He was not planning for marriage, but he simply wanted to try it out.

Meanwhile, at Anya’s apartment.

Anya took the morning off work so that she could get started with packing. She thought about the posh villa Cindy had offered her and felt bad about moving in.

However, it was imperative for her to move. Otherwise, Evan might keep coming over to the apartment to look for her. She was genuinely worried he might just snatch Nathaniel and Eudora from her one day.

Since she couldn’t take it if it happened, she should move as soon as possible now that she had found a place.

She no longer wanted to drag her feet about the move.

First thing in the morning. Anya started packing. The moment Ellie saw Anya packing, she thought Anya was packing all this stuff for a business trip, so she came over to help. “Why are you packing all this stuff at this hour? Are you going for a work trip?”

Anya shook her head as she said, “I’m not going on a business trip. I forgot to tell you that we can start packing today and

prepare to move.”

“Already? Have you found a new place?” Ellie was caught by surprise.

“I did.” Anya placed a few cotton shirts at the bottom of the suitcase as she said, “Cindy found me a great place. I feel a little bad to take her up on her offer.”

“Where is our new place? Is the rent expensive?” Ellie was puzzled. She already knew Cindy was rich.

“It’s a villa at Oak View Mansion.” Anya felt embarrassed just talking about it. “Cindy didn’t ask for me to pay rent. She said she will move in with us as well.”

“A villa? Are you sure that’s a good idea?” Ellie was a little overwhelmed by the news. Cindy was simply too kind. “That’s Every

generous of her.”

“I feel bad about it too, so I turned down the offer initially, but she insisted,” said Anya as she smiled. “I will make up for it when I earn more money in the future.”

“That sounds more like it. We can’t stay at her place for nothing.” Ellie could not bring herself to take up the offer.

“Yeah.” Anya felt the same way. “Ellie, why don’t you start packing up? I will take the morning off today and go in the afternoon. Let’s pack up the important things first before selling off or throwing away the rest of the stuff.”

“Sure thing. I will get right to it.” Ellie got up and went to her bedroom and started packing as well.

Anya continued squatting in the bedroom packing while her kids slept peacefully.

After packing for some time, Jake called her. Now that JK Couture's reputation was no longer at risk and the air was cleared, he wanted to buy the designers dinner tonight.

Anya was naturally invited.

Anya was more than happy to go. Since the designers were no longer biased against her, she wanted to hang out with them before she tendered her resignation.

Chapter 237

Anya agreed to have dinner with the designers, so Jake quickly made reservations.

Anya continued packing her stuff for the move. She worked hard all morning before she finally packed most of the stuff. Only a few loose objects needed to be taken care of.

Nathaniel and Eudora went into a daze when they saw all the bags and luggage lying around in the house.

They had no idea what was going on.

Nathaniel asked curiously, "Mama, what's going on?"

"Nothing, my love. We are just moving. The new place is absolutely beautiful." Anya touched his head as she said, "Nate and Dora, I promise you will love it."

Nathaniel blinked his big, beautiful eyes in surprise. "Mama, are we moving?"

"Yes, Nate. We have a new place. We are moving to a new place and it is huge," said Anya. Eudora pulled Anya's arm as well and looked at Anya quizzically as she said sweetly, "Mama.."

Anya instantly hugged her daughter. "Dora, we will have a huge swimming pool at our new place. One day, I will teach you two how to swim, okay?"

Eudora was unfamiliar with the term swimming pool, so she had no reaction. Since her mother said their new place was fantastic, she must be right.

She had to check out the swimming pool her mother was talking about at their new place.

Eudora nodded her tiny little head adorably. Anya touched her head lovingly before carrying her to the living room for some food.

After packing a little bit more, she finally took a break before she washed up and changed for work.

Jake came over shortly after Anya sat down at her desk. He had some dessert in his hands.

“Anya, why don’t you try this? I happened to walk past a new bakery on the way here and got you some. It looks delicious. I am sure women love eating dessert soufflé, right?” Jake placed the dessert in front of Anya gently.

He could hardly suppress the urge to look at her lovingly.

Anya failed to detect the love in his eyes. Instead, she felt he seemed embarrassed and uneasy. “Mr. Hanson, I don’t like

dessert.”

In reality, she had nothing against sweet food and simply did not want to accept his offer.

She knew Jake liked her. Since she was unable to accept his love, she turned down the soufflé.

“Oh, I didn’t know you didn’t like dessert.” Jake honestly thought all women liked dessert.

"I don't like sweet things." Anya replied with a sheepish smile as she turned down the cake.

"Don't worry about it. I will eat it." Jake did not realize she was turning down the soufflé because she did not like him. Instead, he simply assumed she did not like dessert and took the cake before leaving her desk. Just as he was about to head back to his office, he suddenly thought about their dinner plans and reminded her, "Anya, don't forget about dinner tonight."

"Got it."

"Okay. I will leave you to your work." Jake nodded before taking the dessert soufflé back to his office.

He was planning to send her home tonight and confess his love to her after dinner. He did not want to continue waiting for the perfect time and wanted to do it immediately.

Anya watched as he went back to his office before she finally heaved a sigh of relief. She rubbed her wrist and got cracking with work.

Her main task today was Mdm. Welton's coat.

Anya leaned over the drafting table as she sketched the coat. Before long, her phone vibrated on the table. Evan had sent her a text: [Shall we have dinner tonight?]

Anya glanced at the text message before she refused him without hesitation: [Mr. Welton, I have a date tonight.]

Evan asked: [Is it Jamie Granger?]

Anya went quiet.

Evan certainly had a good memory so he could even remember someone like Jamie.

[Yes, I'm dating Jamie. If you know better, you should stay out of my way.]

Evan pursed his lips as she looked at her reply. Was she blatantly provoking him?

However, he did not reply to her message.

Instead, he narrowed his eyes as he contemplated.

It appeared he had to see Jamie tonight.

Chapter 238

In the evening when it was time to knock off, Jake checked his watch and decided it was about time for dinner when he was done with his work.

He walked out of his office and headed over to the design department before he clapped his hands and said, "Why don't you all pack up? I am buying dinner tonight."

"Yay! Mr. Hanson, you look exceptionally handsome today!" The moment the designers heard he was buying them dinner, everyone stood up one after another and flattered him happily.

"Mr. Hanson, where are we going tonight?" asked a sweet young female designer.

"Shall we go for karaoke after dinner?"

"Let's go party instead!"

"So are we going to the karaoke or club?"

"Let's do dinner first. We can draw lots and decide after dinner!" suggested someone.

“Sounds good.” Everyone felt this was a good idea and quickly agreed.

Anya did not mind doing karaoke or going to the club as long as she did not have to go home late. She had a pair of twins waiting for her at home.

“In that case, let’s pack up and go.” Jake left it to them. He did not mind going to the karaoke or club. They could go wherever they preferred.

The most important thing tonight was confessing his love to Anya. That was the main event happening tonight.

“Perfect. Let’s go!” Everyone wrapped up work and packed up happily.

Carol and Tammy were not interested in going out tonight, but it was inappropriate for senior employees like them to bail on the gathering since the managing director was buying them dinner. Despite their reluctance, they put away their displeasure and pretended to head out enthusiastically.

Tammy sat in Carol’s car. As they drove to the restaurant, they stopped the pretense since they were both thinking about leaving JK Couture. “Tammy, are you taking up my suggestion to join EU Designs?”

“I am still considering my options.” Tammy had nothing against going to EU Designs. However, she would be completely new to the company, so she was unaware if she would enjoy the same benefits as she did in JK Couture as a veteran designer.

After all, the designers working for EU Designs were breakthrough talent. She was nothing compared to them, so she was apprehensive about leaving JK Couture.

“What is there to consider?” Carol held the steering wheel as she looked ahead sternly and said, “Haven’t you heard about Mr. Hanson wanting to take an intern like Anya to Paris for the design convention?”

“Don’t you find it annoying? Despite your credentials, he refused to take you there and insisted on taking a fresh graduate.” Every word Carol uttered struck Tammy deeply and hurt her pride. “Isn’t it

blatantly clear that he is not interested in grooming veteran designers like us? He only cares about the newbies.”

Tammy sneered, “Is this considered grooming new talent? I think Anya must have seduced him.” The moment Tammy finished her sentence, she sent something amiss. After all, Carol had a crush on Jake.

Tammy smiled apologetically to Carol. “My bad. The moment I talk about her, I tend to get a little blunt. Don’t mind me.”

Carol remained composed and said calmly, “Don’t worry about it. I stopped liking him a long time ago.”

“Really?” Tammy sounded disbelieving.

Carol had a secret crush on Jake for years.

Tammy did not want to get involved since it was none of her business, so she changed the subject. “Give me a few more days to think about joining EU Designs, okay?”

“Fine. I will give you more time to think about it. Don’t take forever. The offer won’t be waiting for you forever.” Carol naturally knew Tammy’s concerns.

Tammy was simply concerned that she would not be able to get a good position at EU Designs.

Tammy had nothing to fear with her around. She would take good care of Tammy!

“Got it,” sighed Tammy as she looked out the car window.

Carol and Tammy continued chatting about working for EU Designs on their way there. Everyone arrived at the destination one after another half an hour later.

They stopped chatting about EU Designs when everyone started arriving. They acted warm and friendly as they chatted with their colleagues while they entered the private room for dinner.

Anya went in last with Jake and another female designer.

After everyone had entered the private room, the three of them finally went in.

Jake told the waiter to send the food when everyone was seated. Since he was in a good mood, he was very generous with the food.

In Anya's opinion at least, he had ordered rather expensive dishes. However, Jake was highly paid and could probably afford it.

Anya quietly ate throughout dinner. The atmosphere was warm and lively over dinner on the surface at least.

Carol was especially nice to Anya. Was she deliberately acting chummy with Anya in front of Jake? Or did she have some other plans?

Halfway through dinner, Carol stood up with a glass of fruit juice in hand and said to Anya, "Allow me to offer you a toast. I know there was some misunderstanding between us in the past, I hope we can move on and be friends."

Carol was a respectable senior designer, so Anya would definitely drink with her, but Anya could still keenly remember everything Carol tried to do to her.

Anya was no pushover. Since they were in public, she automatically pretended everything was okay.

She acted humbly as she thanked Carol, "I look forward to working with you even more closely in the future."

"That goes without saying." Carol narrowed her eyes as she finished the glass of juice with an ambiguous smile on her face.

Anya finished her drink as well as a sign of respect.

However, Carol always had some way to get back at Anya. The moment Carol finished drinking the juice, she made her intentions clear. "Where is the fun in just drinking juice?"

"What do you think?"

How could any of the other designers object when she asked?

Everyone promptly chimed in, "Then shall we order some red wine?"

"Anya, would you like a drink?" said Carol as she poured half a glass of wine for herself before going over to Anya and picking up the wine glass in front of her. "Let me pour you some."

"My bad. I can't drink." She was still breastfeeding her children. How could she drink alcohol?

"What's the matter? Am I not good enough for you to drink with?" said Carol put on a fake smile. "Do you not want to put things behind us?"

Anya glanced at Carol as she sneered in her heart. She certainly had no intention of being friends with Carol. She could still keenly remember Carol poisoning her drink previously. Although there was no hard evidence against Carol, no one else in the company would want to hurt her as Carol did.

Since there were a lot of designers watching, it was not the right time for her to get into a fight with Carol, so she could only reply gently, "I honestly can't drink alcohol."

“Forget it. It’s true that she isn’t much of a drinker.” Jake noticed what was going on and promptly helped Anya get out of this situation.

The moment he tried to help, an evil look blazed in Carol’s eyes. Her lips curved into a smile as she laughed coldly. “Mr. Hanson, are you her savior or something?”

Jake turned the wine glass in front of him as he said firmly. “If you were unable to drink wine, I would have done the same for you. Go back to your seat. Let’s continue partying elsewhere after dinner,”

Carol chuckled. She did not go on making things hard for Anya. However, she suddenly came close to Anya’s ear as she turned and whispered, “Anya MacMillan, you aren’t going to be lucky forever.” The moment she finished her sentence, she wanted to head back to her seat with her wine glass.

Anya suddenly cut her off and smiled with confidence. “I will keep investigating the poisoning incident.”

She was not going to let the culprit get away with this.

The moment she finished her sentence, Carol’s face went slightly stiff. She was dying to pour red wine at her. Since all her colleagues were present, she could only keep a straight face as she went back to her seat angrily.

Chapter 240

The tense atmosphere swiftly subsided as the other designers clinked glasses.

Carol returned to her seat and drank by herself angrily. Tammy did not want to appear too close to Carol in front of everyone. She did not want Jake to make things difficult for her if she wanted to jump ship and work for EU Designs.

She cautiously kept a distance from Carol.

After eating for an hour, they finished dinner and proceeded to go drinking. They drew lots and decided to go to one of the most popular clubs in town called Lavo.

Anya planned on going home right after dinner to see her children. Since Jake and the other designers, who had changed their opinions of her insisted she stayed, she could only go to Lavo with them.

Lavo was very popular with the youngsters. Most of its clientele consisted of people from rich families or celebrities.

Of course, common folk visited the club as well. Since they were unable to spend as much money, they rarely came.

Jake was determined to give them the time of their lives tonight, so he generously spent \$5000 for a private booth. Along with all the drinks, Jake spent over \$20 000.

Since Jake had an annual income of \$45 000, \$20 000 was nothing to him.

His salary and designer commission added up to about \$100 000 income per annum.

Considering his income, he did not flinch when he spent the money, especially since he was doing it to court Anya.

Jake was more than happy to splash out as long as Anya was happy.

Anya was not in the mood. The clubhouse music kept blasting in her ears so hard that her eardrums nearly split. She preferred a quiet ambiance. Since everyone was so happy tonight and she was already here, she decided to blend in.

She forced herself to revel in the club's party atmosphere.

"I will send you back later." Jake opened a bottle of juice for Anya and handed it to her warmly. "It will be late by the time we go home, so it's a bad idea for you to go back on your own by cab."

“It’s fine, Mr. Hanson. I might go back a little earlier tonight.” Anya did not want to cause any misunderstanding by taking a

ride from Jake

Jake did not want to pass up on the opportunity to confess his love to her tonight and said gently, “It’s too late. I’m worried about letting you go on your own.”

“Anya, please don’t turn down my offer. I’m really worried about you going back alone at this hour.”

Anya went quiet. She genuinely did not want a ride from Jake!

“Mr. Hanson, I can get my friend to pick me up. It will be perfectly safe.”

The moment Anya said this, Jake choked and did not know what to say. After an awkward silence, he finally said, “Sure.” He did not want to force her against her will.

If Anya wanted to get a ride from her friend, he did not want to insist otherwise, but he was determined to confess his love for her tonight.

“In that case, can I at least see you to the door?” He tried holding onto every opportunity he had.

Anya did not refuse him this time and nodded in agreement. “Sure.”

“It’s settled then,” said Jake gently.

He started feeling nervous since he had never confessed his