

Fall for You 201

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After getting off the car, she walked towards the villa while calling Madeline.

“Madeline, did you go out to play?”

“No, the agent arranged an event for me at the last minute, and I’m already on my way back.”

After confirming Madeline’s safety, Briana returned to the villa.

Just finished taking a bath when I received a message from Maxim.

You said before that you would treat me to a meal, when do you plan to do so?

Briana opened Grayson’s chat box, asking when he would be free.

“I’ve been free these past few days. However, since Ms. Schneider wants me to play your boyfriend, calling me Mr. Joyce all the time seems too formal. From now on, just call me Grayson, and I’ll call you Briana, okay?”

“Alright.”

Just as Briana had confirmed Grayson’s schedule and was about to reply to Maxim, his call came through.

The moment the call connected, Maxim’s voice came through.

“Briana, you promised to treat me to a meal, you’re not thinking of backing out, are you?”

“Of course not, if you are free tomorrow night, how about I treat you to dinner then?”

There was a pause of a few seconds on the other end of the phone, then Maxim said in a low voice, “Okay, book the restaurant and send me the location.”

After hanging up the phone, Maxim called Rayan.

“Cancel the dinner with Christopher tomorrow night.”

“Mr. Yoder, Christopher was to return to his country the day after tomorrow morning. If you didn’t meet him tomorrow night, there would be no chance to collaborate with Christopher.”

Maxim said indifferently, “Book a flight for the day after tomorrow morning on the same plane as Christopher, I’ll talk to him on the plane.”

Rayan was somewhat surprised, “Mr. Yoder, do you have anything important to do tomorrow night?”

“Mm—hmm.”

After notifying Rayan, Maxim hung up the phone.

On the other side, after confirming the time with Grayson, Briana picked up a towel and began to dry her hair.

The sound of a car engine echoed from outside the villa. She got up and walked to the window, seeing Madeline stepping out of the passenger seat of a red Bugatti.

Soon, the person in the driver's seat also got out.

Recognizing Brycen, surprise flashed in Briana's eyes. Had Madeline become so close with Brycen?

In the past, even if Madeline finished work late, she would never let her male colleagues or male celebrities drive her home, for fear of being photographed by paparazzi. Unexpectedly, she made an exception for Brycen.

Briana was walking down the stairs as Madeline was just coming in through the door.

"Briana, hadn't you gone to sleep?"

Briana nodded, "Hmm, how did Brycen end up bringing you back?"

Speaking of this matter, Madeline immediately showed a speechless expression

"Don't even mention it, on my way back, my car suddenly had a flat tire. Luckily, he was passing by, so I asked him to give me a ride home."

Thinking about owing Brycen a favor and having to invite him for a meal in a couple of days, Madeline felt somewhat irritated.

Briana couldn't help but laugh, "Looking at your expression, why do you still seem unhappy?"

Madeline sighed, "I was planning to invite him for dinner in a couple of days, but I don't want to go alone..."

As she spoke, her eyes suddenly lit up, "Briana, why don't you come with me!"

This way, not only could I repay Brycen's favor, but also make him understand that I had no interest in him whatsoever.

Seeing the anticipation in Madeline's eyes, Briana nodded and said, "Okay."

No sooner had the words fallen than Madeline had embraced her tightly.

"Briana! I loved you!"

"Let go of me first... If you strangle me to death, there will be no one to accompany you to dinner."

Madeline quickly let go of her, "I was just too excited."

"Alright, you go take a shower and rest now, I'm going to sleep too."

"Good."

Returning to her bedroom, Briana was about to go to sleep when she received a call from Melody.

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“Briana, just now the legal department called me and said that Theodore and Samuel wanted to settle this matter privately. They are willing to compensate.”

Briana remained silent for a few seconds and said indifferently, “Continue with the lawsuit. You can handle the matter from here on, there’s no need to report back to me anymore.”

“Okay.”

The next morning, as the meeting began, Owen asked his secretary to bring a document to Briana.

“This is the fabric supplier that I had my secretary organize overnight last night, Ms. Schneider. Please take a look and see which one is more suitable.”

Briana opened the file and glanced through it, realizing that the fabric prices in the file were similar to the market prices.

However, there were also a few that were significantly lower than the market price, making it hard for people not to notice.

She lowered her gaze slightly. Owen was quite clever, knowing to use this tactic to catch her attention.

However, the vendors who cooperate with him should not be among these few low-priced ones.

She closed the file and smiled, saying, “The prices you provided for these potential partners are quite good, but I already have a preferred factory now. I will decide after I visit that factory.”

There was no change in the smile on Owen’s face as he nodded and said, “Alright, these are just for your reference. It would be the best thing if you could have better options.”

“Well, let’s start the meeting. Today, the main topic of discussion is the issue of MY Corporation’s market share. There is no problem with the design and quality of MY Corporation’s clothing, as long as we

maintain the current status. However, the sales have always been lower than the CharmDress. Have any of you conducted research to find out why?”

The shareholders began to express their opinions upon hearing the words. Briana instructed the secretary to record the discussion one by one. Finally, they reached the conclusion that MY Corporation did not perform well in brand promotion compared to the CharmDress. Furthermore, the CharmDress had the support of the Yoder Group, which could be utilized for advertising purposes and would also enhance its popularity.

At the end of the meeting, Briana spoke up, “Now that we know the problem, the next step is to solve it. I will assign the brand promotion to the publicity department. Can we expect at least three promotional plans from them within this month? Shouldn’t be a problem, right?”

Owen quickly said, “Ms. Schneider, rest assured, we will do our best.”

Briana nodded, “Well, let’s end it here for today. Meeting adjourned.”

After everyone left, Melody couldn't help but give Briana a thumbs up.

"Briana, it's you again! Owen wanted to get involved in the fabric business, and you immediately arranged for him to handle the branding and promotion. It seems like he will be busy this month."

Briana picked up the files and stood up, saying as she walked out, "If you don't give him something to do, he will just find trouble out of

boredom. Of course, we have to keep him busy."

"Is what you said about the intention factory true or false? Why haven't I heard you mention it before?"

"Of course it's true, I should be going on a business trip to visit the site in the next few days."

"Did you want me to go with you?"

"No need, I'll take William and Charlotte."

It was soon time to get off work, and Briana was waiting downstairs for Grayson to pick her up.

Grayson drove a white BMW. Briana got in and fastened her seatbelt before he started the car.

"Mr. Joyce, the person who will be dining with us later is Maxim, the President of the Yoder Group. If he gives you a hard time, you don't have to worry, I will handle it."

Upon hearing this, Grayson couldn't help but smile and said, "My identity is your boyfriend, if I let you protect me, others would think I'm a freeloader."

Seeing the smile in his eyes, Briana pursed her lips and slowly said, "I just don't want you to offend Maxim too much, as I assume there will be future cooperation between your family and the Yoder Group."

"Don't worry, I have a clear idea in my mind."

Seeing him say this, Briana didn't say anything else.

When the two people pushed open the compartment, Maxim had already arrived.

Seeing Briana, his lips curled slightly, and then he saw the man walking into the compartment behind Briana, his eyes narrowed instantly.

"Briana, what do you mean by this?"

Briana smiled and said, "Mr. Yoder, let me introduce you. This is my boyfriend, his name is Grayson."

"Grayson, this is Maxim, you can call him Mr. Yoder just like me."

Grayson smiled and looked at Maxim, "Mr. Yoder, hello, thank you for saving Briana last time."

He reached out his hand to shake hands with Maxim, but the latter did not move. His icy gaze fell upon him, as cold as thousand-year-old ice, reaching the extreme.

Maxim coldly looked at Briana and said, "Do you think I would

believe it if you found just any man to pretend to be your boyfriend?"

Briana's hand hanging by her side involuntarily tightened, she didn't expect Maxim to be so perceptive.

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She was about to speak when her hand was grasped by Grayson.

Briana stiffened for a moment, forcing herself not to pull her hand away. She didn't really like physical contact with others.

"Mr. Yoder, I really was Briana's boyfriend."

No sooner had the words fallen than Maxim's sharp gaze fell on his hand holding Briana's.

"If you still want that hand of yours, I suggest you let her go right now."

Grayson didn't move, a faint smile playing at the corners of his mouth.

"I held my girlfriend's hand, Mr. Yoder shouldn't have had any right to interfere, right?"

Briana thought Grayson was truly brave. Did he even know who Maxim was, to dare provoke him like that?

Seizing the opportunity, she withdrew her hand, smiling as she said, "Grayson, sit down first."

Grayson looked at her indulgently, "Okay."

After they sat down, Maxim said coldly, "Briana, come sit here!"

Briana frowned at him, just about to speak, when Grayson began to talk.

"Mr. Yoder, I went to sit beside you

Maxim's face instantly turned as black as the bottom of a pot, even Briana was taken aback, a strange thought emerging in her mind.

Grayson wasn't crushing on Maxim, was he?

So you agreed to pretend to be my boyfriend, just to get a glimpse of Maxim?!

Maxim coldly stared at Briana, seeing her gaze darting back and forth between him and Grayson, he knew she must be up to no good.

"Mr. Joyce, I was not familiar with you."

Grayson chuckled, stood up and said, "Once a stranger, twice an acquaintance. After a few more meals, we'll be familiar."

Maxim: "....."

Briana increasingly felt that her thoughts were very likely, and had already supplemented a melodramatic scene in her mind.

Seeing Grayson really come over and sit next to him, Maxim gritted his teeth and said, "Grayson, if you want the Shen family to go bankrupt tomorrow, just keep sitting here!"

A shadow passed over Grayson's eyes as he said, "Well, if the Shen family goes bankrupt, I can have Briana take me in."

Briana almost spat out her water. She just wanted Grayson to play the role of a boyfriend who ate more and talked less, but he really could improvise.

However, seeing Maxim's face almost freezing with cold, Briana felt refreshed again.

He deserved it for pestering me even after he got divorced!

Maxim's icy gaze turned to the indifferent Briana, coldly saying, "Briana, you're really something!"

Even though he knew she was acting, Maxim's anger was successfully provoked.

Briana looked at him calmly, "Mr. Yoder, tonight is to thank you for saving me a few days ago. Order whatever you want, my boyfriend is paying."

No sooner had the words fallen than Maxim sprang to his feet and strode quickly towards Briana.

Grayson sensed something was wrong and quickly stepped in front of Briana to block Maxim.

"Mr. Yoder, you..."

Before the words were even finished, they were coldly interrupted by Maxim.

"Get lost!"

His voice carried an unprecedented anger, like a provoked lion ready to pounce and bite the neck of its prey at any moment.

Feeling the powerful pressure from him, Grayson's face changed, but he still continued to stand in front of Briana.

"Mr. Yoder, you've already divorced Briana, now she's my girlfriend, please stay away from her!"

"Divorce?"

Maxim sneered, "Who told you I divorced her?!"

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The moment the words fell, the expressions on Grayson and Briana's faces changed.

"Maxim, what did you mean by that?!"

In response to Briana's questioning gaze, Maxim didn't answer, but simply turned around and left.

For some reason, Briana felt a sense of unease.

"Mr. Joyce, you go ahead, I still have some things to do."

Having said that, without caring about Grayson's expression, Briana turned around and quickly followed in the direction Maxim had left.

When she arrived at the parking lot, she saw Maxim standing by the car, clearly waiting for her.

She quickly walked up to Maxim, gritted her teeth and said, "Maxim, shouldn't you explain what you just said, what do you mean we're not divorced?!"

No sooner had the words left his mouth than his waist was grabbed.

A flash of anger passed through Briana's eyes, she lifted her head, about to curse him, when his handsome face suddenly magnified in front of her.

She wanted to dodge, but her chin was held by Maxim.

His lips descended in a kiss, aggressive and demanding. Briana felt enveloped by his icy presence.

She bit Maxim hard, but far from letting her go, he became even more brutally abusive on her lips.

Madman!

Briana reached out to brace against his chest, struggling desperately but failing to budge his body even slightly.

Even though her strength was already much greater than that of an average man, she didn't expect to have no chance of resistance in front of Maxim. She could only let him manipulate her.

It was only when he noticed that she was struggling to breathe that Maxim released her, coldly saying, "Will you provoke me with another man next time?"

Briana's face turned ashen at his domineering tone. She wasn't his possession, what gave him the right to talk to her like that.

She pushed Maxim away, wiping her lips with her hand as she coldly said, "We're already divorced. You have no right to interfere, not even if I sleep with other men, let alone dating!"

"You dare!"

Briana looked up to meet his angry gaze, and said word by word, "Why wouldn't I dare? Maxim, you wouldn't expect me to remain chaste for you after our divorce, would you?"

Seeing the mockery in her eyes, Maxim felt anger rising in his chest, almost reaching the point of explosion.

"Briana, you can give it a try. Any man who dares to touch you, I'll make sure he won't be able to be a man for the rest of his life!"

"You were simply a jerk!"

Maxim lowered his head to look at her, his eyes filled with anger, "If I see you with Grayson again, I guarantee you'll receive news of Shen's bankruptcy within three days!"

Briana coldly averted her eyes, not wanting to give him another glance.

After a long time, Briana's emotions finally settled down.

"Maxim, what's the deal with you saying you're not divorced?! You didn't fake a divorce certificate to deceive me, did you?!"

Maxim glanced down at her, his expression unchanging as he said, "Do you think I need to tell such a lie? If you don't believe me, you can check for yourself at the courthouse!"

"Then why did you say that just now?"

"Because I didn't want to see you pretending to be intimate with Grayson in front of me, it was annoying!"

Briana frowned, "You don't have to look."

Maxim sneered, "Briana, there's no benefit for you in making me angry."

Briana rolled her eyes, irritably saying, "Even if I did cheer you up, it doesn't seem like I'd benefit from it, so why should I make you happy?"

Maxim: "....."

After a few seconds of silence, he said in a deep voice, "I'll take you home."

"No need, I took a taxi myself."

She turned around and left, only to have her wrist grabbed after a few steps.

Noticing that his palm was very hot, Briana couldn't help but frown, "Let go of me!"

"We held our ground here all night, or I could take you home, you choose

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A flash of anger crossed Briana's eyes, she gritted her teeth and said, "Maxim, do you know, what I hate most is your arrogance and dominance. You always do things according to your own thoughts, regardless of whether others are willing or not!"

"In your eyes, I was not an independent person, but more like a machine that unconditionally obeyed your commands. Once I refused to listen, you would force me to obey you with harsh methods. I really had enough!"

Maxim looked at her coldly, with no warmth in his eyes.

"If I hadn't considered you as an independent person, I wouldn't have agreed to divorce you in the first place!"

Briana sneered, her expression mocking as she said, "You agreed to the divorce just so you could be with Kiley openly and honestly!"

"I really wanted to know what was going on in your head!"

If he really liked Kiley, would he keep bothering her over and over again?

Briana shook off his hand, coldly saying, "Anyway, it's not you who's being affected!"

After speaking, Briana turned around and quickly walked away.

"Briana, stop!"

She turned a deaf ear, her pace quickening.

Suddenly, a "bang" sounded from behind.

She glanced back and found Maxim lying on the ground, completely motionless.

Briana halted in her tracks, gritting her teeth, "Maxim, don't think I'll believe you just because you're playing the victim!"

She stood still for a moment, noticing that Maxim hadn't moved, she couldn't help but turn back.

Just as Briana crouched down next to Maxim, she noticed an abnormal redness on his face.

She reached out and touched his forehead, which was burning hot to the touch.

Briana frowned, picked up his previously injured hand to check the wound, and sure enough, it was inflamed!

Briana moved Maxim into the car, then called Rayan. After confirming Maxim's current address, she mentioned a few names of medicines for Rayan to buy and deliver. She then drove Maxim's car back herself.

Just arrived at Maxim's villa, saw Rayan standing at the door with medicine, his eyes full of anxiety.

Briana stopped the car and helped Maxim out of it.

Rayan wanted to help her, but he was rejected by her.

"You go open the door first, do you know the password for the villa?"

..Mr. President, this is a fingerprint lock."

"Alright, then you move aside."

Watching Briana move Maxim all by herself, Rayan fell silent on the side. As a grown man, he was less strong than a woman. He felt he couldn't go on...

After unlocking with Maxim's fingerprint, Briana helped Maxim into the bedroom to lie down and took the medicine from Rayan's hand.

"Go get a glass of water, and later give him the fever-reducing medicine."

After speaking, Briana crouched down and began to re-dress Maxim's wound.

Seeing the gauze still wrapped around his hand was the one she had casually bandaged for him that day, she couldn't help but frown. Hadn't he changed his dressing these past few days?

No wonder the wound got infected!

Rayan brought over some water and, seeing Briana changing Maxim's bandages, couldn't help but say, "I guess it's because Mr. Yoder has been busy these past few days, that's why he forgot to change the bandages."

Briana didn't speak, but her eyes were somewhat cold.

So busy that you couldn't even spare ten minutes to change the medicine?

Seeing that Briana didn't speak, Rayan continued, "By the way, Mr. Yoder was supposed to meet with Mekton's major client, Christopher, to discuss cooperation tonight. But in order to have dinner with you, he directly cancelled the dinner appointment he had with Christopher."

Briana's movements paused for a moment, then she said coldly, "I didn't ask him to do this. If there was a problem, he could have refused me. Rayan, you don't need to defend him to me, we're already

No sooner had the words fallen than Maxim slowly came to, his usually cold eyes now quietly watching her, seemingly filled with a hint of grievance

Briana didn't look away, after bandaging the wound, she stood up and said. "Starting from tomorrow, change the dressing every day until the wound heals"

After she finished speaking and turned to leave, she was stopped by Maxim who grabbed her wrist.

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"Stay and take care of me!"

Briana frowned, turning back to look at him with a cold expression,

"Maxim, I have my own things to deal with when I get back, would you mind letting go!"

"What's going on, conspiring with Grayson to annoy me?!"

Briana: "

Rayan on the side also hurriedly said, "Ms. Schneider, why don't you stay here and help take care of Mr. Yoder? What if he gets a fever again at night?"

Briana turned to look at him, her expression indifferent as she said, "Aren't you his secretary? I think it's more appropriate for you to take care of him here."

Rayan choked up and didn't speak again.

Maxim's eyes grew cold, he let go of Briana's hand and said, "You can go now."

Briana didn't waste any words either, she turned around and left directly.

Maxim stared intently at her retreating figure, not taking his eyes off her until she disappeared into the bedroom doorway.

Sensing the temperature in the entire bedroom dropping rapidly, Rayan hurriedly said, "Mr. Yoder, I'll stay in the living room. Call me if you need anything."

"No need, you can go back."

"But you here..."

"I was fine."

Rayan could only nod, "Alright, call me anytime if anything comes up."

"Mm-hmm."

After Rayan left, Maxim looked down at his bandaged arm and couldn't help but chuckle.

This woman said she would leave and she really did, she was truly ruthless!

After leaving Maxim's villa, Briana immediately took a cab back to Elm Bay.

When I got home, Madeline had already fallen asleep, and a wall lamp was left on for her in the living room.

She walked over to the sofa and sat down, staring blankly at the pattern on the carpet.

She hadn't expected that Maxim would see through her and Grayson's pretense at first glance.

And his subsequent actions made her even more confused.

Perhaps it was because I suddenly didn't like him anymore, so he couldn't accept it.

Anyway, it was impossible to like her, no matter what.

And even if he did like her, she could not possibly turn back, because

her affection for Maxim had already been exhausted through repeated disappointments.

I was worried when I saw him having a fever today, only because I didn't want anything to happen to him because of me.

Realizing this, Briana's mood improved significantly. She got up, went upstairs, took a shower, and went to sleep.

The next day, Briana asked Grayson out and apologized to him for what happened yesterday.

"Mr. Joyce, I'm sorry about what happened last night."

Grayson chuckled softly, "Ms. Schneider, there's no need to apologize. If you ever need my help in the future, I'm at your disposal."

Briana shook her head, "It shouldn't be necessary anymore, Maxim has already figured out that we're faking it. There's not much point in continuing the act."

"Didn't Ms. Schneider ever consider turning the fake into reality?"

Briana was taken aback by Grayson's serious expression.

"What did that mean?"

"Ms. Schneider, actually, it was me who asked Melody to introduce me to you, because I really like you."

No sooner had the words fallen than Briana hurriedly said, "Mr. Joyce, what kind of joke are you making?"

Shock was all over her eyes. She had made it clear to Grayson from the beginning that she just wanted someone to help with the acting. Grayson had agreed perfectly well, so why had he suddenly changed into a different person?

"I'm not joking, I've liked you since the first time I saw you."

Briana's eyes widened involuntarily, "The day before yesterday?"

Grayson shook his head, "No, we first met four years ago when

Melody was working at MY Corporation. I ran into you in the elevator when I came to pick her up one day after work. I fell in love with you

at first sight."

Briana: "....."

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After a long silence, Briana finally spoke, "Mr. Joyce, I appreciate your affection, but I'm not planning to consider matters of the heart

recently,"

Grayson nodded, "I know, I can wait for you, wait for the day you plan to start a new relationship."

Briana pursed her lips, deciding to make her point a bit clearer.

"Mr. Joyce, I hoped you wouldn't wait for me, because I also didn't know if I would ever want to start a new relationship again. You deserve someone better."

"In short, I really appreciate your help over the past two days... So, was it a lie when you said your family wanted to get into the clothing industry?"

Surprise flashed in Grayson's eyes, he didn't expect that she still remembered this matter.

"No, this matter is real, and wanting to pursue you is also real."

"If there was anything in the future in the clothing industry that needed my help, I would definitely do my best to assist Mr. Joyce. However, when it came to feelings, I was destined to be unable to respond to Mr. Joyce."

Grayson's face was filled with disappointment, he gave a bitter smile and said, "Actually, I knew from the start that you would reject me, but I still wanted to try. Since you really don't like me, I won't pester you."

Hearing this, Briana finally breathed a sigh of relief. She didn't plan to

try with Grayson for another reason – Grayson was Melody's cousin. If they really started dating and then broke up, things might become awkward with Melody.

"Mr. Joyce, thank you, you really are a good person, you will definitely meet a better girl."

"Was I just friend-zoned?"

Briana quickly explained, "No, I was genuinely complimenting you, definitely not friend-zoning you!"

Grayson looked up at Briana and slowly said, "Could you call me Grayson again?"

"Grayson."

"Thank you."

Upon returning to MY Corporation, Briana immediately called Melody into her office.

"Melody, shouldn't you explain to me about Grayson's matter?"

Surprise flashed in Melody's eyes as she exclaimed, "Grayson confessed to you?!"

"I guess so."

"He always felt he wasn't good enough for you, I didn't expect him to actually muster the courage to confess!"

Seeing the excitement in Melody's eyes, Briana said coldly, "I've already rejected him."

"Oh." There was no surprise in Melody's eyes. "I told him from the start that you weren't into his type, but he still wanted to give it a try."

Briana glared at her. "If you dare to do this again in the future, I will deduct your year-end bonus!"

Melody hastily tugged at her sleeve, "No, I barely have a little money to buy New Year's goods during the New Year. If you deduct my bonus, isn't that equivalent to taking my life?!"

Briana laughed in amusement, "You do know how to use idioms."

"Anyway, no matter what, you couldn't deduct my money."

"As long as you were honest, I certainly wouldn't deduct."

Melody: "....."

"Fine, go back to where you came from and don't introduce me to anything blindly in the future!"

"Understood!"

After Melody left, Briana called William and Charlotte in.

"You went back and packed your things, you were to accompany me on a business trip the next day, which was expected to last about a week."

After William and Charlotte left, Briana picked up the document and continued reading.

On the other side, Charlotte found a secluded place and made a phone call.

“Hello, Ms. Schneider asked me to go on a business trip with her tomorrow.”

Something was said over there. Charlotte nodded and said, “Okay, I understand *

Early the next morning. Briana had already left on a business trip with William and Charlotte

Maxim, busy with work, forgot to change his medication again. Rayan called Briana, hoping she could come and change Maxim’s medication, but her phone was constantly switched off

He told Maxim about this, and Maxim immediately said, “Go find out where she is now!

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Ten minutes later, Rayan came back to report.

“Mr. Yoder, Ms. Schneider was on the plane to Vertown.”

Maxim frowned, coldly asking, “What was she doing in Vertown?”

“I wasn’t sure either.”

“Understood, you go ahead first.”

Briana had just gotten off the plane when she received a call from Madeline.

“Briana, did you forget about going to have dinner with Brycen and me?”

Madeline attended an event yesterday. It got too late in the evening, so she directly checked into a hotel.

Now back at the villa, seeing the note Briana left for himself, he realized she had gone on a business trip.

Briana paused for a moment, only then remembering that Madeline had indeed mentioned this to her before.

“Madeline, I’m sorry, I’ve been too busy these past few days and I forgot about this. I’m currently on a business trip to Vertown. When I get back, can I make it up to you by taking you out for a meal?”

“No worries, I originally planned to have dinner with him tonight, but since you’re on a business trip, I’ll wait until you come back to arrange

1. it. Take care of yourself out there, and feel free to call me anytime if anything comes up.”

“Good.”

After hanging up the phone, Briana left the airport with William and Charlotte.

Outside the airport, a middle-aged man was holding a sign with the name Briana written on it.

He wore a grey jacket that had been washed until it started to turn white, and a pair of army green canvas shoes on his feet. Although they were worn out, they were at least clean.

Briana saw the sign with her name on it and quickly walked towards it.

"Hello, may I ask if this is Mr. Stapleton?"

Kennedy Stapleton quickly nodded, putting down the sign he was holding.

"Is it Ms. Schneider?"

"Um, hello Mr. Stapleton."

"Hello, your car is parked at the entrance, let's go back first."

While speaking, he reached out and took Briana's luggage, "Let me carry it."

"No need, I could do it myself."

What came to pick them up was an old-fashioned van, which looked dilapidated and seemed like it would fall apart at any moment.

William and Charlotte exchanged a glance, both seeing shock in each other's eyes.

Didn't they come to see the fabric factory? Was the owner of this fabric factory so poor?

There was no change in Briana's expression. After the two of them put down their luggage, she got in the car and started chatting with Kennedy.

On the way back, Briana had basically understood the situation of Rosecliff Village.

The car stopped as soon as it reached the entrance of the village. Kennedy looked at Briana somewhat embarrassedly and said, "Ms. Schneider, I'm sorry, but cars can't go up in our village. We need to walk up."

Briana nodded, "Okay."

She took down her luggage and looked at Charlotte, asking, "Can you walk?"

Charlotte wore a pair of high heels today, which might not be very convenient for walking around the village.

"Sure, I brought flat shoes."

She took out flat shoes from her suitcase to put on, and dragged her suitcase behind Briana.

Kennedy had wanted to help Briana with her suitcase, but she had refused him, "Mr. Stapleton, you help her. I can manage on my own."

Seeing Briana's relaxed demeanor, not as if she was being polite to herself, Kennedy nodded and said, "Okay."

He turned around and walked up to Charlotte, "I'll carry your suitcase for you."

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Charlotte was really struggling, so she didn't hesitate to hand the suitcase to Kennedy.

"Sorry for the inconvenience, Mr. Stapleton."

Kennedy chuckled heartily, "No trouble at all."

A few people arrived at their destination half an hour later. William and Charlotte were drenched in sweat, looking somewhat disheveled. In contrast, Briana was breathing steadily, showing no signs of having just climbed a mountain for half an hour.

After setting down Charlotte's suitcase, Kennedy looked at Briana and said, "Ms. Schneider, this is the accommodation our village has prepared for you for the next few days. It's a bit modest, we hope you won't mind."

Briana nodded, "Hmm, thank you, Mr. Stapleton. By the way, how do we solve our daily meal problem?"

"You ate at my house, you rested first today, and I brought you lunch later. Starting tomorrow, I took you to visit the fabric factory in the village."

"Alright, thank you for your hard work, Mr. Stapleton."

"No problem, I'll head back first then. Feel free to call me anytime if you have any questions."

"Alright."

After Kennedy left, Briana looked at the house in front of her. It was an old-fashioned mud house. Having come all this way, Briana knew this was the best house in their village.

From the moment Charlotte found out that this was the place they were going to stay for the next week, her eyes couldn't help but show disdain.

She had never seen such a rundown house before. Could anyone actually live in here?

"How could one live here?"

Briana glanced back, her expression indifferent as she said, "I just checked, there are three rooms, one for each of us."

Charlotte frowned, her expression full of dissatisfaction, "That's not what I meant. I can't live in such a house!"

"So what did you want?"

"I needed to find a hotel, at the very least it should have a place to shower, right?!"

Had she known the conditions of the business trip location were so poor, she would have definitely feigned illness and not come yesterday

"Charlotte, it seems you've misunderstood something, we're here on business, not for pleasure!"

Charlotte bit her lower lip, irritably saying, "Anyway, I can't stand living in such a house for even a day. If you, Ms. Schneider, insist on forcing me, I can only resign!"

"As you wish."

After speaking, Briana turned around and dragged her luggage into the room.

Charlotte gritted her teeth in anger, but she was in an unfamiliar place and didn't know who to turn to even if she wanted to leave.

William, who was standing by her side, noticed her embarrassment and said, "Charlotte, since you're already here, just grit your teeth and bear it for a week. Even if you're really planning to quit, you should wait until we get back to Bridenville."

Under William's persuasion, Charlotte reluctantly said, "Fine, as soon as I return to Bridenville, I will resign immediately. I came to be a secretary, not to endure this kind of hardship!"

When Charlotte dragged her suitcase into the living room, Briana had already made the bed.

Seeing Charlotte, her expression was indifferent, with neither anger nor the joy of Charlotte agreeing to stay in her eyes.

William noticed the awkward atmosphere between the two and quickly said, "Charlotte already realized her mistake, don't take what just happened to heart."

Briana was calm, "I didn't take it to heart. It was just a job. If you want to do it, do it. If you don't, then don't. It's that simple."

Charlotte's face fell a little, her eyes full of grievance.

William, fearing that Charlotte would start arguing with Briana again, quickly said, "Charlotte, you go choose a room. I take whatever is left."

"Mm-hmm."

After Charlotte had chosen the room, the two went to put away their suitcases.

Th the time the two had tidied up and left the room, Kennedy had already brought over the food

"Mi Schneider, I'm worry, we don't have much to offer in our rural area. I hope you won't mind "

Charlotte glanced at the dishes on the table, a braised chicken, a plate of scrambled eggs with tomatoes, a plate of stir-fried vegetables, and a soup of vegetable meatballs

It was indeed very rudimentary

Briana shook her head and said. "It's already very abundant, you don't need to prepare so much in the future Just stir-fry a couple of

vegetarian dishes for us. The vegetables in your village are all homegrown, night"

By the time the two had tidied up and left the room, Kennedy had already brought over the food.

“Ms. Schneider, I’m sorry, we don’t have much to offer in our rural area, I hope you won’t mind.”

Charlotte glanced at the dishes on the table, a braised chicken, a plate of scrambled eggs with tomatoes, a plate of stir-fried vegetables, and a soup of vegetable meatballs.

It was indeed very rudimentary.

Briana shook her head and said, “It’s already very abundant, you don’t need to prepare so much in the future. Just stir-fry a couple of vegetarian dishes for us. The vegetables in your village are all homegrown, right?”

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Kennedy’s eyes lit up, and he seemed less constrained than before. He smiled and said, “Yes, they are all grown by the villagers themselves, without any pesticides. You can eat them without worry. If you like, Ms. Schneider, I can pick some for you when you leave.”

“Alright, thank you.”

“Then I won’t disturb you while you’re eating. Just leave the bowls on the table when you’re done. I’ll come over to clean up later, and I’ll also take you around the village.”

“Alright.”

After Kennedy left, Briana looked at Charlotte and William who were on the side.

“Let’s eat.”

In the morning, without having time to eat, Charlotte and William sat next to Briana, and the few of them began to eat in silence.

Charlotte didn’t expect that the dish didn’t look appetizing, but it tasted quite good. Unknowingly, she ate two bowls of rice.

After dinner, Kennedy came over to take a few people around the village.

Rosecliff Village was a village with hundreds of households. The young people in the village had all gone out to work, leaving behind only some middle-aged and elderly people with low levels of education and left-behind children.

Kennedy was walking and introducing the village scenery to Briana. When they reached a fork in the road, a little girl suddenly ran from the other side and collided with Briana.

“Ah!”

The bowl in the little girl’s hand was thrown out, and she also fell to the ground.

Briana steadied the little girl with one hand and caught the falling bowl with the other. Before the people nearby could react, she had already handed the bowl back to the little girl.

“Got scared, didn’t you?”

Her voice was gentle, her face adorned with a faint smile. The little girl was mesmerized, forgetting to reach out for the bowl.

Kennedy looked at the little girl and asked, "Jodie, where are you going? Why are you so restless?"

The little girl named Jodie snapped back to reality, took the bowl and said, "Uncle Village Chief, Hector has returned. I'll go bring him some food."

Kennedy couldn't help but laugh, "You, Hector, have already had dinner."

"That didn't stop me from bringing him food."

"Alright, you go ahead."

After Jodie left, Kennedy took the initiative to explain, "The Hector she mentioned used to live in our village. He later went out to look for work and was discovered by a talent scout to become an actor. He seemed to have won a Best Actor Award or something recently..."

Surprise flashed in Briana's eyes. She hadn't felt anything when Jodie mentioned Hector earlier, but now that Kennedy said it, could that person be Hector?!

"Mr. Stapleton, was the actor you mentioned surnamed Shi?"

Kennedy quickly nodded, "Yes, he is very famous. So, Ms. Schneider knew about him too."

Briana hadn't expected this to be Hector's hometown. She slowly said, "Hmm, I know him."

Hearing this, Kennedy was taken aback for a moment, then quickly said, "Since Ms. Schneider knows them, I'll take you to see the Baldwin family. We would probably run into them in the next few days anyway."

"Good."

On the way to Hector's house, Kennedy was pondering whether the business deal would be easier to negotiate if Briana knew Hector?

Just as she arrived at the Baldwin family's doorstep, she heard Hector teaching Jodie how to read. Kennedy knocked on the door.

Soon, the door was opened from the inside.

Hector saw Kennedy, smiled, "Kennedy, you came to find me..."

Seeing Briana standing next to Kennedy, a look of shock flashed in his eyes, "Briana, how could you be here?!"

Briana chuckled and said, "I've been looking for suppliers recently. I saw Rosecliff Village's fabric factory online, so I came to inspect it in person."

Hector nodded, "Oh, I heard from Kennedy a few days ago."

"I didn't expect this to be your hometown. Have you been here for your vacation all this time?"

A strange glint flashed in Hector's eyes, followed by a smile as he spoke, "Yes, I come back here when I'm not working."

Moreover, recently the Baldwin family had been constantly contacting him, urging him to return to Haseton to acknowledge his ancestry. He couldn't be bothered to deal with it, so he simply came here to avoid it.

"Then we won't bother you anymore."

Hector looked at her, with a lot to say but not knowing where to start. He nodded and said, "Okay."

Kennedy dropped them off at their home, and as he was leaving, he looked at Briana and said, "Ms. Schneider, I'll come to pick you up at

eight tomorrow morning to visit the factory."