

## Fall for You 221

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"Alright, tell me after you get home."

Just as Briana was about to leave, Melody couldn't help but say, "Briana, you're not in a relationship, are you? Why are you always on your phone replying to messages?"

Unexpectedly sharp, Briana put away her phone, opening her mouth with a nonchalant expression: "No, I was just replying to a client's message."

"Oh, let's go for hot pot tonight."

"Um, okay."

The time to get off work came quickly, and Melody took Briana to a newly opened hot pot restaurant next to MY Corporation.

After they had ordered their food, Melody turned to Briana and said, "Maxim saved you this time, shouldn't you properly thank him?"

"How should one have expressed gratitude?"

"How would I know that? But he rushed over as soon as he knew you were trapped in Vertown. I don't believe he doesn't have any feelings for you!"

Briana pursed her lips, took a sip of water, and surprisingly, did not refute Melody.

"Honestly, haven't you ever considered getting back together with him?"

Briana choked on the water and coughed violently a few times.

Melody quickly handed her a few tissues, "Calm down, I was just saying it casually, I'm not asking you to be with him right now."

After a few seconds of silence, Briana suddenly spoke up, "Do you think I should get back together with him?"

Melody pondered for a few seconds, then shook her head and said, "Honestly, given his relationship with Kiley, it's impossible for them to cut off contact. If you get back together with him, you might continue to be disgusted by Kiley. I suggest not to."

"However, if a man had appeared and saved me when I was on the verge of death, I wouldn't know if I would have fallen for him."

Briana's fingers, clutching the water cup, were turning slightly white, her eyes downcast, lost in thought.

Soon, the dish was served.

As the two chatted, Melody brought up Oliver.

Recently, Oliver had been trying to pursue Melody again.

At first, it might have been out of guilt and a desire to make it up to Melody, but later on, he fell in love with Melody again and wanted to win her back.

These past few days, I had tried every possible way to invite Melody for a meal several times, but Melody remained unmoved.

Briana couldn't help but frown upon hearing this, "Didn't he used to really like Adeline? Why has he suddenly changed as if he's a different person?!"

Melody shook her head, "I'm not sure, maybe he suddenly lost his mind. But I have absolutely no feelings for him now, and it's impossible for us to be together again."

If she truly let go of a relationship, she really let it go. No matter what Oliver did, she wouldn't change a bit.

"Adeline used to like Oliver that much? She didn't pester him?"

Melody sneered, "Her father has recently invested in several plays, and she's been busy acting and networking. She doesn't have time for Oliver. However, I heard she's been getting along well with a rich second-generation who's family is in the film industry. She probably has already forgotten who Oliver is!"

Thinking about Oliver's defense of Adeline the few times we met, Briana felt a little sad.

With the Newman family's financial resources, she would have had a much better career in the entertainment industry if she had been willing to help Adeline, but Adeline gave it all away.

Neither she nor Oliver was worthy of sympathy.

After finishing their meal, the two people left the hot pot restaurant.

Seeing the black Maybach parked by the roadside, surprise flashed in Briana's eyes. She then said to Melody, "Melody, you go back first. I want to take a walk alone."

She had also figured things out about herself and Maxim.

She just hadn't figured out how to compensate Maxim yet.

After Melody left, Briana walked over to Maxim's car, opened the door and sat inside.

Maxim glanced at her, whispering, "Finished eating? I'll take you home."

"No need, I had something to tell you."

After she had said what she intended to say later, Maxim would probably have kicked himself out of the car.

Maxim's hand, clutching the document, suddenly tightened as he turned to look at her.

"You've thought this through, haven't you?"

“Yeah.”

Briana nodded and began with a serious look: “I think we may still not be suitable.”

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“Why?”

Sensing the anger hidden beneath Maxim’s calm, Briana pursed her lips.

“To be honest, I was really grateful that you saved me, I was even wavering, and had thoughts of getting back together with you.”

“However, every time I tried to make up my mind to be with you, the image of you with Kiley would pop up in my mind.”

“That time you came to save me in Rosecliff Village, when the huge wave hit, you didn’t hesitate to cut the luxury lifeline. It was the first time you firmly chose me. But I knew very well that it was all because Kiley wasn’t by your side. If Kiley had been there, would you still have chosen me so firmly? I guess the answer would probably be no.”

Maxim’s gaze turned cold, staring into Briana’s eyes as he spoke, “This is just your assumption, you’re being unfair to me.”

Briana gave a bitter smile, shaking her head and said, “I know, but I dare not gamble anymore. I’ve gambled three years of my life, and now that I’ve finally managed to get out, I don’t want to make the same mistake again.”

“Briana, did you have so little faith in me?!”

“It wasn’t that I lacked faith in you, it was that I lacked faith in myself. Even if we forced ourselves to be together now, it would be hard for me to trust you again. We would inevitably part ways once more.”

As her words fell, the carriage plunged into silence.

After an unknown amount of time had passed, Maxim finally spoke: “I understand now.”

“Thank you, you saved me twice, consider me owing you two favors.”

Maxim was all irritable inside, not wanting to hear her words trying to distance herself from him at all.

“Enough, I don’t want to hear it, you can leave now.”

He was afraid that if he continued to stay in the same space with Briana, his emotions would completely explode.

Briana silently got out of the car, and as soon as she closed the door, the black Maybach started and left.

Watching the car disappear from her sight, Briana felt a pang in her heart and a slight sting in her eyes.

She blinked her eyes, turned around, and sped off in the opposite direction of Maxim’s car.

They were never from the same world to begin with, and persisting would not yield any results.

Returning to the villa, she was surprised to see Hector waiting at the entrance.

“How did you come?”

No sooner had the words left her mouth than she was tightly embraced by Hector.

Just as Briana was about to struggle, she felt a warm tear drop on her neck.

She paused for a moment.

Hector...cried?

“Briana, I’m sorry, I should have let you go first back then.”

He couldn’t imagine what would happen to him if Briana really died because of him.

He had been in a daze all day yesterday, until he heard the news of her safe return just now. He hurried to wait for her at her doorstep.

Hearing the guilt in his tone, Briana didn’t push him away after all, gently patting his back and feigning nonchalance, “I’m fine, aren’t I? You don’t need to feel guilty.”

“I wouldn’t let you fall into such danger again!”

He wouldn’t let himself fall into that kind of helplessness like yesterday again!

Watching Maxim cut the rope and jump into the water, he felt worse than when he was on the brink of death himself.

“Alright, I understand now, let go of me first, you’re choking me.”

Hector quickly let go of her, his eyes filled with guilt.

“I’m sorry.”

Briana shook her head, “It’s okay, it’s not early anymore, you should go home and rest.”

“Alright, you should rest earlier.”

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He was supposed to come over tonight to express his feelings to

Briana, but seeing her tired look, Hector decided to wait a bit longer and find a more suitable moment.

“Okay.”

Briana opened the door and walked into the villa, the living room was pitch black, Madeline hadn’t returned from the event yet.

She simply didn’t turn on the lights, went straight upstairs, took a bath, and then went to sleep.

Since rejecting Maxim, Briana's life had returned to its previous tranquility. Although they were in the same city, they had not seen each other since that day.

MY Corporation had a lot of issues to resolve. At first, Briana would occasionally daydream, but as she got busier, she seldom thought of Maxim.

After returning from Rosecliff Village, Charlotte resigned. Briana asked Melody to recruit a new female secretary for her, but they couldn't find one that satisfied Briana, so the matter was left unresolved.

Half a month later, the design competition was officially held in Bridenville.

The day before the opening ceremony, Vincent Yearwood, the president of the Yearwood Group, invited all the judges to his house to discuss the competition.

Briana was delayed due to some issues, and by the time she arrived, the other judges had already left.

Upon seeing her, shock flashed in Vincent's eyes.

"Are you Elia?!"

He knew Elia was from Bridenville, but he never imagined that Elia was actually Briana, the lost daughter of the Schneider family who had been found after missing for over a decade!

Didn't they say she didn't even graduate from high school?!

Briana nodded, "Hello, Mr. Yearwood."

Vincent, being a man of the world, quickly composed himself and with a smile, said, "Ms. Schneider, please have a seat."

After going over the steps he had discussed with the other judges, Vincent looked at Briana and said, "Ms. Schneider, is there anything you would like to add?"

Briana shook her head, "Mr. Yearwood, the plan you've come up with is already perfect, I have no other suggestions. However, for this competition, it should still be the same as before, the judges don't need to show up, right?"

"Um, this time, even when the design drafts were submitted, they were only marked with the contestant's number, no names appeared, and the contestant numbers were randomly drawn before the competition started, all in the name of fairness."

"Alright, then I don't have any questions."

Vincent still found it hard to believe that Briana was actually Elia. He asked, "Ms. Schneider, does your family know you're Elia?"

"I didn't know, so I hoped Mr. Yearwood could keep this matter confidential for me. I didn't want this to get out."

Some time ago, Mallory held a press conference to publicly announce her break up with Briana. He had also heard about it. Would the

Schneider family regret it to their guts if they knew how excellent Briana was?

Vincent quickly said, "Rest assured, Ms. Schneider, I will definitely keep this matter a secret."

"Thank you, Mr. Yearwood. If there's nothing else, I'll be on my way."

"Alright, do you need me to have someone take you?"

"No need, I drove myself."

Briana got up and left, and as she started her car to leave, she just happened to pass by the car of Miss Pamela Yearwood from the Yearwood family.

Pamela returned home and saw her father sitting in the living room, looking thoughtful. She couldn't help but ask, "Dad, who was that woman who just left our house?"

Vincent glanced at her and said, "Your idol, Elia."

"What?!"

Disbelief filled Pamela's eyes, "Elia is so young?! You're not lying to me, are you?!"

At that moment, she was filled with regret. If she had known that person was Elia, she would have stopped her and asked for her autograph!

Vincent glanced at her irritably, "What benefit do I get from lying to you?! She's the same age as you, but now she's a judge, and you're just a contestant!"

It's really frustrating to compare oneself with others. If he had such an outstanding daughter, he would definitely have his wife show her off every day. Who knows what the Schneider family was thinking?

Pamela glared at him, "What's wrong with being a contestant? Do you think this design competition doesn't require any standards?! Elia is a once-in-a-century genius. If you expect me to be as good as her, it would only happen if the Yearwood family's ancestral grave was on fire!"

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"Also, you knew Elia was my idol, and you didn't even get me an autograph just now. That's totally outrageous!"

Vincent gave her a cold glance, "Go practice immediately. If you don't pass the preliminary test tomorrow, you'll be the laughingstock!"

Pamela: "

"

The next morning, Briana went straight to the venue of the design competition.

To host this competition, the Yearwood Group rented a venue and many high-tech surveillance devices from the Yoder Group. They monitored the contestants as they drew their designs from all angles, and

even broadcasted the event live, allowing people nationwide to watch the process of the contestants drawing. Of course, their competition numbers were not visible.

In addition to allowing the judges to provide anonymous feedback, they also selected a thousand designers online to review and vote, serving as one of the references for the competition score. Therefore, this competition was lively both online and offline.

Briana had just entered the venue when a person in work clothes hurriedly approached her and said, "You're the new assistant, right? Move those bottles of water in the corner to the players' lounge."

The other party seemed very busy, they hurriedly left before Briana could even speak after giving instructions.

Briana looked around, but didn't see anyone resembling the assistant the other person had mentioned.

She checked the time, the game was about to start in twenty minutes.

The door to the rest room was closed ten minutes in advance. All contestants, unless they forfeited, could not come out for the next three hours of the competition. If water was not brought in, they would have to endure for three hours without it.

Briana hesitated for a few seconds, but still turned and walked towards the mineral water piled on the side.

Just as I lifted two boxes, a surprised voice rang in my ear.

"How could you be here?!"

Briana turned her head and saw Kiley standing not far away, looking at her with a surprised expression.

Maxim was standing next to her. Having not seen him for half a month, he seemed even colder, exuding an aura of unapproachability.

During this period, she occasionally saw news of Maxim attending parties with Kiley. It seemed that after she rejected Maxim, he must have come to terms with it and got back together with Kiley.

Briana indifferently withdrew her gaze, not intending to greet Kiley, and turned to walk towards the lounge with her water.

However, Kiley didn't seem to intend to let her go, taking a few steps to her side and asking, "Are you really short of money? Why are you even doing this kind of job?"

Briana couldn't be bothered to deal with her, and just kept walking forward on her own.

"If you really didn't have any money, you could have told me, I could have lent you some."

Annoyed by her words, Briana turned her head and coldly stared at her, "Aren't you bored?!"

Kiley looked aggrieved, "I'm just looking out for you. It breaks my heart to see you constantly doing this kind of laborious work."

Impatience flashed in Briana's eyes, "Thank you, but I don't need it."

Not wanting to see Kiley's smug face again, Briana quickened her pace and left her behind.

Kiley didn't pursue any further, after all, her goal of humiliating Briana had already been achieved.

"Maxim, I didn't want to see my sister suffer like this. Could you please speak to the staff at the Yearwood Group and ask them to fire her? I'll go home tonight and discuss with my parents about transferring some money to my sister."

Maxim's icy gaze fell on her face, his voice devoid of any warmth, "Weren't you supposed to participate in the competition? Time is running out."

Kiley felt a bit resentful, looking at Maxim and saying, "Maxim..."

Maxim interrupted her impatiently, "Kiley, the only reason I'm here with you today is because of the condition I agreed to before. Take care of yourself!"

After speaking, Maxim turned around and left directly.

Watching his retreating figure, a flash of resentment and anger flickered in Kiley's eyes.

The first condition she had previously requested from Maxim over the phone was for him to take her to drinking parties and banquets for the next three months, in order to familiarize their business partners with

her. This way, when Zane went to negotiate business deals, the other party would be wary of her relationship with Maxim and would not make things difficult for Zane.

Indeed, in the past half month, the Schneider Group had made more deals than in the previous half year.

Zane's attitude towards her and Mallory improved as well, he even stopped mentioning divorce altogether. He even encouraged Kiley to hold onto Maxim, urging her to marry Maxim as soon as possible.

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But Kiley knew very well, all of this was fake.

In public, Maxim was very nice to her, but in private, he didn't give her any chance to see him at all.

Thinking of this, Kiley's hand involuntarily clenched.

All of this, it was all because of Briana!

But now she was participating in the design competition, while Briana could only work as a temporary worker to earn hard money. This was the gap between them, and also her confidence. Just based on this, Briana would never be able to stand at the same height as her in this lifetime!

Thinking of this, a confident smile hooked up at the corner of Kiley's mouth.



Once she won the design competition, Maxim would realize that she was the only one who should stand by his side.

After setting the water, Briana left.

Stepping out of the lounge, she saw Maxim standing not far from the door, on the phone. Briana calmly withdrew her gaze and turned to walk towards the referee's room.

Maxim made the call, then turned around to see Briana's retreating figure, his eyes darkening a bit.

Just as I was about to catch up, a voice filled with surprise rang in my ear.

"Mr. Yoder, you're here! I've been looking for you for a long time!"

Maxim turned his head, it was a staff member from the design competition

"Mr. Yoder, Mr. Yearwood sent me to pick you up, let me take you inside."

"Mm-hmm."

Briana walked into the referee's room, found a small room with her name on it, and sat down.

Each referee had a separate small room, and before entering, all communication tools would be collected by the organizer. The purpose was to prevent contact between the contestants and the referees, informing the referees of their competition numbers, and colluding with the referees to cheat.

Briana turned on the computer, quietly waiting for the first competition design draft to be completed.

Several minutes later, a design draft, numbered 48, appeared on all the referees' screens.

Briana took a glance, then promptly wrote a comment in the input box.

Soon, the score and comments for number 48 appeared on the big screen and were simultaneously posted online, sparking a wave of heated discussion.

"The design of skirt number 48 was honestly quite good, it's just that the color matching was somewhat disappointing. After the judges' feedback and modifications, it instantly improved by several levels!"

Ah! The judges this time were so capable, their evaluations and revision suggestions were great!

Elia's assessment was too spot-on, basically covering all the points mentioned by other referees!

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There was a heated discussion online, but the referees in the referee room started to get busy.

As the number of people completing the design drafts increased, each draft was randomly assigned to two judges for evaluation, because there were only twenty judges, but there were thousands of designers participating in the preliminary competition.

As the results of each design draft came out, online designers also began to vote. Each of them only had ten votes, with one vote representing 0.1 points, and each design could only receive one vote.

Because there were so many design drafts, the judges even had their lunch in the judging room, and continued reviewing and evaluating the drafts right after they finished eating.

Briana read very quickly and also wrote reviews quickly. By around three in the afternoon, she had already finished reviewing the design drafts assigned to her.

She stretched lazily, got up and left the courtroom.

After asking the staff and finding out that she could leave early, Briana immediately left the competition site.

Just as I reached the roadside, I was stopped by Rayan.

“Ms. Schneider, the president wanted to see you.”

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Briana furrowed her brow, “Is there something wrong?”

“Ms. Schneider knew once she went.”

After a few seconds of silence, Briana still went to see Maxim with Rayan.

“Mr. Yoder, what were you looking for me for?”

No sooner had the words left his mouth than a black card was handed to him.

“If you ever run out of money in the future, just use this card.”

Seeing his presumptuous expression, Briana realized that her act of carrying water earlier had led to his misunderstanding.

She pursed her lips, not taking the card.

“No, I have enough money to spend.”

“Do you need odd jobs to pay for it?”

Briana didn’t bother to explain, but began coldly, “Mr. Yoder, this is my business.”

“Briana, if you listen to me and re-enroll in college, you won’t have to do this kind of work.”

Detecting the subtle contempt in his tone, Briana frowned at him.

“Mr. Yoder, even working as a slave is my own business, and I don’t feel ashamed of it.”

“If you have a college diploma, there are more options!”

Briana nodded, "I won't deny that what you're saying is right, but I should have the right to choose my own life. I won't listen to you and change myself."

After speaking, Briana immediately turned around and left.

Maxim watched her retreating figure with a cold expression, a hint of anger flickering in his eyes.

Returning to the villa and seeing Madeline at home, Briana was somewhat surprised.

"You don't have to attend today?"

"Well, this time is supposed to be used for rest, but because of this activity, I did not have a good rest, I have talked to my agent, and I will not do this activity in the future."

"You really should get some rest. You've got that dark eye over."

"No way, I feel like my attractiveness has decreased recently because I've been so tired. By the way, where did you go today?"

"Went out to handle some matters."

Madeline nodded, not asking further, "Do you have plans tonight?"

"Nothing, what's wrong?"

"Since there's nothing going on, accompany me to dinner with Mr. Carney tonight, to thank him for helping me last time."

"Alright, then I'll go up and rest for a while."

As soon as Briana went upstairs, Madeline called Brycen and asked him out for dinner.

On the other hand, the design competition is still in full swing.

There were over 1300 contestants in the preliminary round, but only 600 would be selected to proceed to the next round.

It wasn't until past six in the evening that the contestants advancing to the next round were finally determined.

The competition numbers of Kiley and Pamela were conspicuously among them.

Knowing the result, there was no surprise on Kiley's face. The first round was scored on a percentage scale, and the gap between the contestants was very small. She scored 92.6, the same as a dozen other people.

Just as I got up and left the competition stage, I received a call from Mallory as soon as I returned to the dressing room.

“Kiley, you were fantastic today! Your dad and I saw the match results, your dad booked a private room at The Baking Whale, let’s have a good celebration as a family!”

“Good.”

After hanging up the phone, Kiley went to look for Maxim, only to be told by the staff that he had already left.

Kiley was filled with disappointment. In the past, no matter how late she stayed at the studio to paint, Maxim would always wait for her. His -attitude now was worlds apart from then.

Thinking of this, she felt even more upset.

After hesitating for a while, she still made a call to Maxim.

“Maxim, I advanced to the semi-finals. To celebrate with me, my parents have booked a private room at The Baking Whale. Would you like to come and have dinner together?”

“Congratulations, I had something going on tonight, so I didn’t go over.”

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After saying these words in a cold tone, Maxim hung up the phone.

Kiley took a deep breath to suppress the disappointment in her heart and drove to The Baking Whale.

Mallory and Zane were both very happy tonight. Desmond and Lacey also knew about Kiley advancing to the semi-finals. They called specifically to instruct Zane to have Kiley continue to work hard, striving to bring back a first place.

“Kiley, you really made me proud! I was playing mahjong when I received the news of your advancement to the semi-finals. Those rich ladies were so jealous, they all envied me for having such an outstanding daughter!”

Kiley shyly smiled and modestly said, “Mom, I’m not that great. It’s just a preliminary round now, there are still several competitions ahead.”

With a face full of pride, Mallory said, “My daughter is so amazing, she will definitely win first place!”

“Then I tried hard!”

Zane was also laughing as he spoke to her, “Kiley, if you can get first place, I’ll give you a surprise.”

“What surprise?!”

“If it was revealed, would it still be a surprise?”

“Even if it’s just for the surprise for dad, I have to come in first place!”

Several people laughed in unison, and Mallory handed the menu to Kiley, "Kiley, see what you want to eat."

"Good."

Just as Kiley had finished ordering, Zane's phone started ringing.

He glanced down and stood up, saying, "It's a call from a client, I'll go out to answer it."

After leaving the private room, Zane found a quiet corner to answer the phone.

"Didn't I tell you not to call me recently..."

Before the words were even finished, a panicked voice came through.

"Zane! Victor had a fever, you need to come back immediately!"

Upon hearing this, Zane's face immediately changed, "I'll be right there, you start cooling him down with a wet towel!"

After hanging up the phone, Zane quickly walked towards the booth.

"Mallory, Kiley, something unexpected has come up at the company, I have to go deal with it right now. You guys start eating, if you're not finished by the time I'm done, I'll come back."

After Zane left, Kiley and Mallory were chatting when suddenly they started talking about Briana.

"Right... Mom, there's something I'm not sure if I should tell you, it's about my sister..."

Mallory furrowed her brows, a flash of disgust in her eyes.

"Did she cause trouble again?!"

Kiley pursed her lips, seemingly finding it hard to speak.

"It wasn't really causing trouble... It's just that I saw my sister at the venue when I went to participate in the competition today."

"What was she doing at the competition site?!"

Seemingly struck by a thought, Mallory's face suddenly turned extremely ugly, "She didn't know you were going to the competition and deliberately sabotage it, did she?!"

Kiley shook her head, "No... actually, my sister was working as a temp at the venue. When I arrived, she was moving water for the

competitors..."

"Bang!"

Mallory slammed her chopsticks on the table, angrily saying, "Does she think she hasn't disgraced the Schneider family enough?!"

If word got out that Briana was working as a temp, it would certainly make the Schneider family the laughingstock of Bridenville's high

society.

“You called her immediately!”

Kiley looked troubled, “Mom, if my sister finds out that I was the one who told you about this, she will definitely misunderstand me again. The reason I told you about this is because I want you to give her some money, so she won’t have to work as a temp anymore.....”

Mallory sneered, “I won’t give her a single penny! She doesn’t deserve it! Since you refuse to fight, then I’ll do it myself!”

She picked up her phone and dialed Briana’s number directly, but several calls in a row were hung up on.

During this period, Kiley had been trying to stop her, but was not successful

Finally, the call got through.

“Was there something?”

Briana’s indifferent tone infuriated Mallory even more. She spoke angrily. “Briana. I heard you went to the design competition site to work as a temp today?”

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Briana frowned, “Kiley told you?”

Mallory sneered, “Don’t worry about who told me. Since you could do such a shameful thing, are you afraid of people talking about it?!”

“Mrs. Schneider, I think I need to remind you that we have already severed our relationship. Even if there is any disgrace, it’s not yours.”

“You!”

Mallory’s face was livid with anger. Even though she had publicly severed ties with Briana, whenever Briana did something disgraceful, it was still the Schneider family that people whispered about behind their backs.

“I warned you, quit that job immediately. If I ever find out you’re working as a temp again, I will definitely not let you off the hook!”

Briana spoke in a mocking tone, “Whatever you want.”

After speaking, Briana hung up the phone, leaving Mallory fuming.

Her face was filled with anger, she was so furious that she almost threw her phone on the ground.

Kiley, who was standing by the side, quickly comforted her, “Mom, don’t be angry. My sister will definitely understand your painstaking efforts in the future.”

Mallory’s expression was icy, “I don’t need her understanding! I will personally go to your competition venue tomorrow. If she still refuses to obey, I will definitely make her regret it!”

Vouchers

"Mom, isn't this not so good? After all, there are so many people on the scene, let's save some face for sister."

Mallory took a deep breath and slowly said, "Kiley, you don't need to worry about this anymore. Just focus on preparing for the competition. Let's eat."

On the other side, Briana put down her phone, changed her clothes, and went downstairs to go out with Madeline.

The restaurant Madeline had chosen was also The Baking Whale. By the time the two arrived at the private room, Brycen had already arrived.

After greeting, Madeline was about to order when Brycen laughed and said, "Ms. Garcia, wait a moment, I have a friend coming, you won't mind, will you?"

Madeline rolled her eyes inwardly. What was the point of asking her if she was willing now, when he had already made arrangements with others?

Madeline smiled and said, "Of course I don't mind."

Soon, the friend Brycen had mentioned arrived.

As soon as Maxim entered the box, Madeline's face changed.

Brycen must have done it on purpose!

Knowing he would bring Briana along, he actually called Maxim over!

Thinking of this, Madeline's face turned cold.

"Mr. Carney, what did you mean by this?"

Brycen still had a smile on his face, "Ms. Garcia, do you have a problem with my friend?"

Madeline sneered, "You knew full well that Briana was uncomfortable with Mr. Yoder, yet you deliberately called him over. What were you thinking?!"

Just as Brycen was about to speak, Maxim's cold voice rang out.

"It seemed that Ms. Garcia wasn't too pleased with my arrival. In that case, I won't bother you all any longer."

Madeline remained silent with a cold expression, her eyes filled with anger.

Brycen, who was sitting nearby, also stood up and said, "I'll be leaving too, Ms. Garcia. Consider this meal as your treat."

"Wait!"

Briana tugged at Madeline's sleeve, whispering, "Madeline, it's okay, you don't need to be so sensitive."

Madeline turned to look at Briana, frowning as she spoke, "Briana, you don't have to compromise yourself for me."

Briana couldn't help but laugh, "What's there to feel wronged about? I don't mind whoever comes."

Seeing no sign of lying in her eyes, Madeline finally breathed a sigh of relief, "Alright then."

Briana took the initiative to step back, and Brycen also smiled and said, "Still, Ms. Schneider is generous."

Madeline gave him a glance, handed him the menu, "Mr. Carney, please order."

### [Chapter 229](#)

During the meal, essentially only Madeline and Brycen were talking. Maxim and Briana were both silent, not even glancing at each other, treating each other as if they were invisible.

Brycen glanced at Maxim out of the corner of his eye, stifling a laugh in his heart.

He clearly heard that Briana would also be coming just a moment ago, and immediately agreed to come. Now that she's right in front of him, he's pretending not to care. He's really stubborn as a mule.

After finishing their meal, Madeline went to pay the bill, with Brycen accompanying her, while Briana and Maxim trailed behind.

They had been silent all the way to the door, when Maxim finally spoke.

"The words I said this afternoon, don't take them to heart. I won't measure you by my standards anymore."

He had carefully considered that even if Briana never worked in her life, he could still support her. Even if she didn't graduate from high school, no one would dare to say anything in front of them.

Surprise flashed in Briana's eyes, but she quickly spoke with a nonchalant expression, "Mr. Yoder, I didn't take it to heart."

No sooner had the words fallen than an angry voice sounded from the side.

"Briana, how are you here?!"

Briana turned her head, only to see Mallory and Kiley standing not far away, both with surprise in their eyes. However, there was also anger in Mallory's eyes.

The Baking Whale had a lot of green plants. As Briana and Maxim were talking and turning the corner, Briana was a few steps behind Maxim. Therefore, Maxim's figure was completely blocked by the green plants, and Mallory and Kiley did not notice him.

Briana looked at the two indifferently, "I don't think I need to explain to Mrs. Schneider."



Mallory's face turned red with anger, and Kiley quickly supported her, turning to Briana and saying, "Stop upsetting mom with your words. I saw you working as a temp at the design competition this morning, there's no way you could afford to spend money here. Are you working as a waitress here?"

Upon hearing this, Mallory immediately became even angrier,

warning, "I'm warning you, quit these messy jobs immediately, or not only me, but the Schneider family will not let you go!"

Briana gave Kiley a cold glance, she really spared no effort to belittle herself.

She was about to speak when Maxim suddenly approached her, his voice icy as he spoke, "I'd like to see how the Schneider family intends to not let my wife go!"

Neither Mallory nor Kiley had expected Maxim to be there, their faces instantly turned pale.

Kiley had a look of grievance on her face as she said to Maxim,

"Maxim, I just invited you to have dinner with me, didn't you say you were busy?"

Unexpectedly, he was actually with that bitch Briana!

"Do I need to report my every move to you?"

Maxim's cold and indifferent attitude made Kiley's face turn even paler.

Surprise flashed in Briana's eyes. Had Maxim and Kiley had a disagreement?

"Mr. Yoder, I hope you can correct one thing, I am no longer your wife, please do not interfere with my affairs in the future."

No sooner had the words been spoken than Kiley and Mallory sharply turned to look at Briana.

She's already divorced from Maxim?!

But since they were divorced, why did Maxim still have to support her?!

Maxim's face instantly turned as cold as thousand-year-old ice, "Briana, shut up!"

Briana looked indifferent, speaking slowly and deliberately, "Mr.

Yoder, I agreed to keep this from Grandma with you, but in front of the Schneider family and the woman you love, there's no need to hide this anymore, right?"

Moreover, during this period, Maxim had been taking Kiley to various public places, and everyone had already assumed they were a couple. Meanwhile, she was privately labeled as a homewrecker.

If this matter wasn't clarified soon, everyone would think that she was the one clinging to Maxim and refusing to divorce.

Maxim kept a cold face and didn't speak, an icy aura enveloping him.

"I won't bother you guys anymore."

After speaking, she turned to leave, but was abruptly grabbed by the wrist by Maxim.

Maxim had directly dragged her into the empty booth next door, slamming the door shut and pinning her against it all at once.

“Briana, were you so eager to cut ties with me?!”

### [Chapter 230](#)

Briana chuckled, “Mr. Yoder, you’re the one in a hurry to disassociate, aren’t you? The news of our divorce hasn’t even been released yet, and you’re already parading around town with Kiley. I’m just trying to give you a hand!”

However, what puzzled her was that Maxim had not told Kiley about their divorce.

She had thought that the moment he got the divorce certificate, he would be eager to tell her.

Maxim’s expression was icy, his eyes filled with anger.

“I’ll explain this matter to you later, I’m not what you think with Kiley!”

Briana pushed him away, smiling calmly, “No need to explain, whatever it is, it has nothing to do with me, I don’t care.”

After speaking, Briana pushed the door open and left directly.

Just as I reached the door, I was stopped by Kiley and Mallory.

Mallory looked at her coldly, “Briana, what did you mean by divorce just now?!”

Briana’s expression was indifferent, “If Mrs. Schneider doesn’t understand, she can look it up in the dictionary.”

“You!”

Mallory was fuming, but Briana didn’t even give her another glance and left directly.

Maxim quickly emerged with a cold expression on his face, exuding an aura that repelled people from miles away, sending chills down their – spines.

Gathering her courage, Kiley looked at him, “Maxim, did you really divorce your sister?”

Maxim gave her a cold glance, “If this gets out, our agreement is null and void!”

Seeing Maxim about to leave, Kiley hurriedly stopped him, her eyes full of grievance.

“Since you’ve already divorced your wife, shouldn’t you give me a chance to let us start over?”

A glint of coldness flashed in Maxim’s eyes as he looked at Kiley and said word by word, “Whether Briana and I will be together or not, we are impossible now.”

Kiley’s face turned pale and she froze on the spot.

Mallory, who was standing by, couldn’t bear it any longer and frowned, “Mr. Yoder, what do you mean by this? Kiley has been waiting for you for so many years, are you planning to abandon her now?!”

“We broke up before she went abroad, and we never got back together afterwards. Where is this abandonment coming from?”

After dropping these cold words, Maxim left directly

Mallory frowned at the dazed Kiley standing aside and hurriedly said, “Kiley, what’s going on between you and Maxim?! Hasn’t he been taking you to various events all this time?”

Judging from Maxim’s attitude just now, it seemed as if he had no feelings for Kiley whatsoever.

Kiley was filled with grief and anger, and had no mood to answer Mallory’s questions at the moment.

“Mom, let me calm down, I’ll explain my situation with Maxim to you another day.”

After speaking, Kiley left directly.

Mallory’s face turned cold, thinking that all of this was because of Briana, her dislike for her deepened instantly.

On the other side, after leaving The Baking Whale, Briana left with Madeline.

Seeing Briana unusually silent, Madeline carefully asked, “Briana, you’re really not angry about what happened tonight, are you?”

Briana snapped back to reality, smiled and said, “No, we’re in the same city anyway, we’re bound to run into each other. There’s no need to deliberately avoid each other.”

Hearing this, Madeline finally breathed a sigh of relief, “That’s good.”

Soon, the semi-finals of the national design competition began.

After the incident at the restaurant last time, Kiley made no attempt to hide the disgust in her eyes when she saw Briana again.

“Briana, since you’ve already divorced Maxim, stop showing up in front of us. You’re not from our world!”

Briana was indifferent, “Kiley, instead of wasting your time talking nonsense in front of me, you might as well draw a few more design sketches to improve your skills.”

“You!”

Kiley’s face twisted for a moment, then she sneered, “Didn’t you see the water there?! Move it to the lounge immediately, or if it delays our

game, you won’t be able to handle the consequences!”