

Fall for You 451

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“What was the situation then?”

Rayan looked upset, “That female client insisted that Mr. Yoder sexually harassed her. Now, this matter has spread online, everyone is criticizing Mr. Yoder, and he is also facing the possibility of being detained.”

“Where was the lawyer?”

Speaking of this, Rayan immediately looked furious, “Isaac deliberately sent the Yoder Group’s legal team to Haseton for a conference yesterday. They won’t be able to return until tonight at the latest.”

Briana frowned, “Are there no other lawyers?”

“Mr. Yoder didn’t believe the other lawyers.”

“I made a phone call first.”

Briana stepped aside and dialed Melody’s number, “Get the best lawyer from MY Corporation’s legal department to the police station immediately!”

After instructing Melody, she turned her head to look at Rayan.

“Tell me the cause and effect of the matter.”

This morning, Isaac suddenly called Mr. Yoder, stating that Mr. Yoder was also a shareholder of the Yoder Group, and he had a contract for Mr. Yoder to negotiate.

When Mr. Yoder walked into the booth with the documents, the female client was already lying on the sofa with her clothes disheveled. Mr. Yoder was about to leave when suddenly a group of people barged in. The female client also accused Mr. Yoder of intentionally sexually harassing her!

After listening, there was nothing Briana didn’t understand. Isaac had set a trap, aiming to ruin Maxim’s reputation and defeat him.

“I understood, let’s wait until the lawyer comes to discuss further. Where is that female client now?”

“He had already gone back after finishing the written record.”

Briana nodded, her expression indifferent as she said, “Send me her personal information.”

“Alright.”

Briana opened Twitter, and Maxim’s sexual harassment of a female customer had already become the top trending topic, followed by a purple–red explosion icon. As soon as she clicked on it, she saw that there were already hundreds of thousands of comments, and the number of comments was still growing geometrically.

The Yoder Group was a well-known company domestically, so basically, there was no one who used the internet who didn't know about it. Now, the comment section was full of criticisms towards it.

"Ugh, and to think I considered him the most handsome CEO among all. I didn't expect him to be no different from those greasy, sleazy men. Truly disgusting!"

"I really don't know how those women who used to call him 'husband' based on his looks feel now, haha. He doesn't even spare female clients, it's simply eye-opening!"

"Men are creatures who think with their lower halves. What's the use of being handsome? They might play around even more behind the scenes!"

Seeing those comments, Briana's eyes turned cold, and she dialed a phone call with an icy expression.

"Immediately delete all Twitter entries about Maxim's sexual harassment."

On the other side, Isaac was enthusiastically reading the comments online, a sneer playing on his lips.

"Maxim, I didn't expect you to have a day like this!"

The secretary nearby quickly asked, "Mr. Yoder, do we need to continue hiring the internet trolls?"

Upon hearing this, the smile on Isaac's lips deepened. He said, "Keep buying, keep buying the trending searches. I want him to be despised by the whole nation!"

The secretary looked somewhat troubled, "Mr. Yoder, the internet trolls have already spent over a million. If we continue to buy trending topics, we'll need at least another two to three million."

The smile on Isaac's face cooled, he said in a deep voice, "Just do as I say, I'll have finance transfer the money to you later!"

"Alright."

After the secretary left, Isaac continued reading the comments, and soon a call came in on his cell phone.

"Isaac, did you buy the trending topics online?!"

The woman's voice on the phone was tinged with frustration. Before Isaac could speak, she rattled off like a machine gun, "I agreed to help you frame Maxim, but I didn't expect things to get this out of hand. Remove the trending topic as soon as possible, or I won't let you off!"

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Isaac chuckled lightly, slowly saying, "Ms. Hudson, don't forget, if it weren't for Maxim, your father wouldn't dare to return to Bridenville, I'm just helping you."

Jennifer Hudson's voice was icy, "Making a big fuss about this won't do any of us any good. I hope you'll act wisely!"

After speaking, Jennifer immediately hung up the phone.

Isaac casually tossed his phone on the table, his smile turning icy cold.

After reading the information Rayan had sent, Briana couldn't help but raise an eyebrow. She hadn't expected Jennifer to be Theodore's daughter. Suddenly, she understood why Jennifer was willing to conspire with Isaac to frame Maxim.

After the incident where Riley and Theodore teamed up with the CharmDress to slander MY Corporation for plagiarism, Theodore and Riley were driven out of Bridenville by Maxim and dared not return.

Jennifer had agreed to frame Maxim, probably in an attempt to get revenge for Theodore.

As Briana put away her phone, the lawyer also arrived.

After initially understanding the situation, the lawyer led the two people in

The lawyer went in alone to see Maxim, and when he came out, his expression was noticeably solemn.

"This matter might be somewhat tricky. Mr. Yoder went to conduct business without an assistant, and the other party insisted that Mr. Yoder had engaged in a series of actions in the private room, constituting sexual harassment. Moreover, there were restaurant staff as eyewitnesses."

No sooner had the words fallen than Briana said coldly, "The people at the restaurant must have perjured themselves."

Seeing Briana's faith in Maxim, surprise flashed in the lawyer's eyes.

"The most important thing now was the testimony of the other party involved and the restaurant staff. If we could find any loopholes in it, we might still be able to win this lawsuit."

Briana nodded, "I understand, I'll try my best to figure something out."

Jennifer would surely cling to the point that Maxim was harassing her, otherwise, not only could she not take revenge, but she might also jeopardize her career.

However...

Briana's eyes turned icy cold, from the moment she schemed against Maxim, her career was destined to be ruined.

"I went to handle the bail procedures first."

After completing the bail process, Maxim was released quickly

Unlike Rayan's nervousness, Maxim's face was very calm, and it was only when he saw Briana that his gaze showed a slight fluctuation.

He walked up to Briana, his expression somewhat guilty.

"Sorry, I made you worry."

Briana looked up at him and slowly said, "Let's go back first."

Back at the villa, as soon as the door was closed, Maxim held Briana tightly, burying his head in her neck and said in a deep voice, "I didn't touch her, I would never touch another woman."

Hearing his almost assured tone, Briana couldn't help but laugh.

"I trusted you, but perhaps you should be more careful next time. You knew Isaac had bad intentions, yet you still let him manipulate you."

Maxim fell silent for a moment, then released her and said with downcast eyes, "I didn't expect him to resort to such despicable means."

Briana gave him a glance, saying irritably, "Well, do you know now? Moreover, this matter has been spread online, didn't you see how harshly those netizens were criticizing?"

Those words made her angry just by looking at them, but she wouldn't bother to explain. After all, the most important thing now was to find evidence to prove Maxim's innocence, otherwise all the talk would be

in vain.

"I would definitely be more careful next time."

"Alright, go take a shower and rest. We'll just order takeout for dinner tonight."

Maxim nodded, just about to leave, when the doorbell rang.

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The people who came were Reese and Kendra. They first went to Emerald Villa, only to find that Maxim was not there. It was only after calling Rayan that they found out Maxim had moved to live with Briana.

Upon seeing Briana, Kendra's face was filled with disgust.

"Briana, if it weren't for you, Maxim wouldn't be in this mess right now! You better stay away from him!"

Thinking back to what Kiley had told her, that the Feng Shui master had said Briana would bring disaster to the Schneider family, Kendra felt a sense of discomfort in her heart, as if merely looking at Briana would taint her with something bad.

Briana's expression was icy cold. Before she could speak, Maxim frowned and said, "Mom, if you continue to talk about such nonsense, don't show up in front of Briana again."

Kendra took a step back, her eyes red as she looked at him, "Maxim, I'm only looking out for you. This woman will only bring you disaster. You're not allowed to be with her anymore!"

There was no warmth in Maxim's eyes as he said, word by word, "Impossible, I won't break up with her!"

"You!"

Kendra pointed at him, feeling both angry and anxious. She suddenly hated Briana even more. It was all Briana's fault that Maxim had become like this.

Reese, standing by the side, spoke coldly, "Enough, stop the nonsense. We're here today for the matter of Maxim sexually harassing the Yang family's daughter. You better keep quiet!"

Kendra pursed her lips, not speaking anymore, but in her mind, she was cursing Briana to high heaven.

In her mind, all of Maxim's misfortunes were brought by Briana. As long as he stayed away from Briana, such things would not happen again in the future.

Briana was indifferent to Reese and Kendra, but they were Maxim's parents after all. She didn't want to put Maxim in a difficult position, so she simply turned to him and said, "I'm going upstairs first, you guys take your time to talk."

"Mm-hmm."

"

After Briana left, Kendra sneered, "Look at her, there's not a shred of respect for her in-laws. Marrying a woman like that would only bring unrest to the household."

Maxim looked at her with a cold gaze, impatience filling his eyes.

"Mom, if you wanted Briana to respect you, you had to treat her well first. You despising her while expecting her respect was nothing short of a fool's dream."

Kendra: "."

Reese had long been fed up, holding back his temper as he looked at Maxim and said, "I heard this was done by your cousin?"

Mentioning Isaac, Maxim's gaze turned a few degrees colder again.

"Um, he seems to hate me even more now than he did a few years ago, probably still thinks that you guys were the ones who caused the death

of my uncle and aunt."

Kendra's face turned pale, and after a long while, she gritted her teeth and said, "If he really thinks so, why doesn't he present any evidence! Doing these little tricks behind one's back is simply disgraceful!"

Reese glanced at her, saying coldly, "I remember you had a fight with my sister-in-law before she and my brother had a car accident."

Shock and anger flashed in Kendra's eyes as she glared at Reese, "Even you think I did it?! Even if I was dissatisfied with my elder brother and sister-in-law, I wouldn't resort to murder!"

Ever since Jayden and Grace died, there had been rumors in Bridenville that she and Reese were dissatisfied with Jayden's control over the Yoder Group, so they conspired to kill them.

At that time, both of them had just passed away not long ago, and Kendra was busy handling their affairs, so she didn't have time to deal with these things.

Unexpectedly, Isaac actually believed these words and from then on, he hated her.

She still remembered that the night before Isaac suddenly left the Yoder family, he had found her and said that one day she would surely pay in blood for what she and Reese had done.

At that time, Kendra tried to explain to him, but he refused to listen and disappeared the next day.

This time he came back, he was even more unwilling to listen to her explanations, convinced that she was the murderer who killed his parents.

Thinking of this, Kendra's heart was filled with grievance.

Reese snorted, "It better not be."

The suspicion in his eyes triggered the emotions Kendra had been suppressing for a long time. She abruptly stood up and raised her voice, "Reese, what do you mean?! Are you doubting me?! When those rumors were spreading, if it wasn't for your weakness and inability to even defend yourself, Isaac wouldn't still believe that I was the one who killed his parents!"

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Reese defended himself, "What I was thinking at the time was that my elder brother and sister-in-law had just passed away. It was normal for Isaac to be emotionally unstable. I planned to wait for him to calm down before going to talk to him. Who knew he would suddenly leave."

Kendra sneered, gritting her teeth and said, "Isn't it because you've always secretly liked Grace, so you can't bear to speak harshly to her son?!"

Before the words had even fallen, Reese abruptly stood up, his eyes filled with anger.

"Kendra, if you keep talking nonsense, we're getting a divorce!"

"Talking nonsense?! Don't think I didn't know you hid her picture in your desk drawer, taking it out to look at it from time to time!"

His feelings for Grace were ruthlessly exposed by Kendra in front of Maxim, which immediately infuriated Reese, raising his hand to hit her.

However, that slap ultimately did not land, it was intercepted by Maxim in mid-air.

Kendra said coldly, "Maxim, let him go! If he dares to hit me,

tomorrow I will expose his affair with his beloved late sister-in-law to the public. Let's see if he still wants to save face!"

"You!"

Reese's face turned ashen with anger, but he couldn't break free from

Maxim's grip. He glared at Kendra and said furiously, "I want a divorce!"

"Leave then! You really think I care about you that much!"

Maxim frowned, his voice icy cold.

"Argue back at the old house if you want to, don't make a fool of yourself here."

Kendra and Reese didn't get along, he had known that since he could remember.

Reese often didn't come home, and even when he did, he spent all his time in the study except for meal times, and he didn't allow anyone to approach the study.

Maxim remembered a time when Roxanne had won an award at school and went to the study to seek a reward from Reese. Unexpectedly, Reese scolded her and forbade her from approaching the study in the future.

Kendra came back from playing cards and heard about this, had a big fight with Reese, after which Reese didn't come home for two months.

However, Kendra, disregarding both her husband and her children, continued to spend her days playing cards and only returned late at night. Maxim and Roxanne were taken care of by the servants until they were seven or eight years old. Norma, unable to bear it any longer, took them to the Harmony Villa to raise them.

So, Maxim didn't have much affection for these parents.

Kendra took a deep breath, forcing herself to calm down.

"Deal with Maxim's matter first, talk about the rest later!"

Maxim's expression was indifferent, and his voice lacked any warmth.

"You guys didn't need to worry about this matter, I would figure it out myself."

Kendra frowned, "Isaac's return this time is not only to snatch the Yoder Group from your hands, but also to retaliate against Reese and me. Even if we ignore it, he will come to us sooner or later."

This time it was Maxim being designed, next time it might be them.

Maxim glanced at her and said indifferently, "So, what do you plan to do?"

"We planned to go talk to Isaac first."

"Whatever, but don't get your hopes up too high."

Isaac had hated them for so many years, now telling him he hated the wrong people, how could he possibly believe it.

Once he admitted that he had hated the wrong person, the belief he had held for so many years would collapse. Therefore, no matter what Reese and Kendra said, he would not believe them.

After the two left, Maxim went upstairs to find Briana.

As she stepped out of the bedroom, she rubbed her temples tiredly, "Have your parents left?"

"Um, the takeout has arrived too, let's go down to eat."

Seeing the red veins in her eyes, a hint of heartache flashed in Maxim's eyes.

"Jennifer, I could handle this matter. You should take a few days off to rest well."

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Briana shook her head, "A lot has been happening at the company recently, Melody is still on vacation, and the secretary just called me to say that the lawsuit with the CharmDress is going to court, I simply have no time to rest."

"After we get through this busy period, I'll take you out to relax."

"Good."

After dinner, Briana took a short rest and then went straight to the study to continue working.

On the other side, Isaac returned to the villa.

Seeing Kiley having dinner, he went straight to her side and sat down, asking the servant to add an extra set of bowls and chopsticks.

Kiley turned to glance at him, seeing his face full of smiles, she asked with a puzzled expression, "What's the good news today?"

The smile at the corner of Isaac's mouth deepened, "Didn't you watch the news today?"

"What news?"

She was tormented by her unborn child all day today, throwing up several times, and only now is she feeling a bit better.

"You would know if you looked for yourself."

Kiley unlocked her phone and browsed through Twitter. It was just some celebrity gossip and nothing trending related to Isaac.

Seeing Kiley's cold expression, devoid of any emotion, Isaac took the phone from her hand.

Seeing that not a single word in Twitter's trending topics was related to Maxim, he couldn't help but frown, quickly opened the browser, but still didn't see any news related to Maxim.

Isaac's face instantly turned incredibly gloomy, and he immediately made a phone call to his secretary.

"What's going on with the trending topics on Twitter? Didn't I say that Maxim's issue should at least be number one on the trending list for three days and three nights?!"

After a while, the secretary's trembling voice came through, "Mr. Yoder, I've already given the money to those advertisers, I'll go ask them right away what's going on!"

Isaac angrily hung up the phone, losing his appetite in an instant.

Kiley frowned at him, "What is this thing about Maxim that you're talking about?"

Isaac turned his head to glance at her, sneering, "What? Didn't you say you didn't like him anymore? Why do you care about him so much now?"

"Wasn't it you who told me to check the trending topics? And now I'm just doing it out of curiosity. If you can overthink this, then don't ever intentionally mention the name 'Maxim' in front of me again!"

No sooner had the words left his mouth than his neck was seized.

A suffocating sensation came over her, Kiley panicked and hastily slapped Isaac's arm with both hands.

"Let... let go..."

Watching her face slowly turn red, there was no warmth in Isaac's eyes, "Kiley, just because I plan to keep the child in your belly, doesn't mean you can talk to me like this. If there's a next time, I won't let you off!"

After speaking, he abruptly let go of Kiley and turned to leave quickly.

Kiley coughed violently, tears welling up in her eyes. She stared hard at Isaac's retreating figure, filled with intense hatred.

She would definitely not allow herself to live a life being controlled by others, definitely not!

Returning to her bedroom, Kiley took a bath in the bathroom. She saw her bruised neck in the mirror, her eyes filled with coldness.

After taking a shower and drying her hair outside, she closed the bedroom door. Then, she put on her headphones and opened the surveillance app on her phone.

Soon, Isaac's cold voice echoed in my ears.

"Have Twitter's staff check what the reason is, we must get Maxim's trending topic back to the top of the list!"

"I didn't care what method you used, I just wanted the result!"

"We must completely ruin Maxim's reputation!"

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Kiley saved the recording and immediately handed it over to Rayan, then went to search for Maxim, but as expected, she couldn't find anything.

She asked a socialite with whom she had a good relationship in the past, only to find out that Jennifer had called the police, claiming that Maxim had sexually harassed her while discussing business. Now, the whole upper-class circle in Bridenville was talking about this incident.

Kiley pursed her lips, saying she didn't believe that Maxim had sexually harassed Jennifer. She had met Jennifer, who was indeed somewhat attractive, but Maxim had seen all kinds of beautiful women. How could he possibly be interested in Jennifer?

It seemed that this matter was a scheme by Jennifer and Isaac against Maxim.

However, others didn't care about the truth of the matter at all. Maxim had offended many people in the past, and now that they had the chance to mock and belittle him, they wouldn't miss it.

The staff at Twitter didn't know why they couldn't post anything about Maxim, not even words that sounded similar. They sought help from the technical department overnight, but even after searching all night, the technical team couldn't figure out what the problem was

When dawn broke, the head of the technical department simply put down his keyboard and quit.

“Must this money be earned?! Anyway, we couldn’t figure it out, whoever can figure it out, let them do it!”

After dropping this remark, he went home to rest with his subordinates.

Isaac had just arrived at the company when the secretary carefully walked into the office.

“Mr. Yoder, the money you gave to Twitter yesterday was refunded by Twitter...”

Isaac’s face instantly turned incredibly ugly, he coldly asked, “What’s going on?”

The people in Twitter’s technical department spent all of last night trying to find out if there was any bug in Twitter, but they couldn’t find any problem, so Twitter refunded the money.

No sooner had the secretary finished speaking than Isaac swept the documents on his hand onto the floor, gritting his teeth and saying, “A bunch of useless people! Can’t even handle a trending topic!”

“Mr. Yoder, this matter has also affected the stock price of the Yoder Group to a certain extent. The fact that it’s not so heated right now is actually a good thing.”

Isaac gave him a cold glance, “You don’t know shit! Get lost!”

The next presidential election was next month. Although he currently held 30% of the shares, if those shareholders who had previously supported him suddenly turned against him, Maxim might replace him again.

This time, they sought Jennifer to design Maxim, with the intention of ruining Maxim’s reputation, leaving him with no chance of winning in the next presidential election.

Now this matter has been suppressed, it might become tricky later on.

Thinking of this, Isaac gave Jennifer a call.

“Ms. Hudson, let’s meet tonight,” he had said.

On the other side, as soon as Briana arrived at the office in the morning, William walked into the office with an invitation.

“This was an invitation sent by the Ponce family, senior Mr. Ponce celebrated his eightieth birthday tonight.”

Due to previous disagreements with Adeline, Briana didn’t have a good impression of the Schneider family.

Just as she was about to refuse, something suddenly occurred to her. She looked up at William and said, “Could you check if the Ponce family has invited the Yang family?”

Although Theodore and Riley had already left Bridenville due to previous events, she remembered that senior Mr. Ponce and Theodore's father had been old friends for decades, so the Ponce family might invite the Yang family.

After reviewing Jennifer's information yesterday, Briana was planning to find an opportunity to meet with her. Tonight's timing was just right.

Soon, William had returned.

"The Ponce family did indeed invite the Yang family."

Briana nodded, "Alright, I'll clear my schedule for tonight and prepare a gift."

"Alright, Ms. Schneider."

In the evening, just as Briana was about to leave work for a banquet,

Maxim's call came through.

"Did you plan to attend the Ponce family's banquet tonight?"

Briana was somewhat surprised at how he knew, "Well, what's up?"

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"I went too."

Hearing this, Briana couldn't help but frown. Maxim was currently embroiled in a sexual harassment scandal. If he attended the party now, he would definitely be ridiculed.

Maxim should have been the center of attention, the object of everyone's envy, not someone who was despised for unfounded accusations.

"I thought it would be better if you didn't attend the banquet tonight."

There was silence on the other end of the phone for a few seconds before Maxim's deep voice came through.

"If you were worried that my entering with you would affect you, I could go in an hour after you."

Upon hearing this, a pang of heartache rose in Briana's heart, but more than that, anger, "Is this the kind of person I am in your eyes?!"

"I knew you weren't, but I didn't want you to be criticized because of me."

A hint of confusion flashed in Briana's eyes as she slowly asked, "I want to know, why did you have to attend this banquet?"

Maxim whispered, "What about you?"

Briana suddenly understood, he had guessed the purpose of her attending the party, and she couldn't help but sigh.

"I knew I couldn't hide it from you, but I didn't want you to go."

Maxim's voice was low, "You attended the banquet for my sake, do you think I could let you face those rumors alone?"

Their relationship was not public, but they never deliberately hid it from others. Briana was attending a party tonight, and Maxim could imagine how those people would maliciously use the incident with Jennifer to upset her.

After a stalemate for a while, it was ultimately Briana who was defeated.

"Alright, we'll go together, but you don't have to deliberately avoid me, we'll go in together."

After a long silence, the deep voice of Maxim finally came from the other side.

"Good."

At seven in the evening, Briana, hand in hand with Maxim, walked into the most luxurious banquet hall on the fifth floor of Cloud Hotel, immediately attracting everyone's attention.

Maxim, dressed in a black suit, stood tall and straight, exuding an icy aura that was intimidating to behold.

Briana, who was holding his hand, was dressed in a light pink strapless, waist-cinching long dress. Her makeup was exquisite, her long hair slightly curled, and her demeanor was cool yet sweet. She was so beautiful that people couldn't help but focus their attention on her

If it were in the past, everyone would definitely say that the two were a match made in heaven, a golden boy and a jade girl. However, now that Maxim was no longer the president of the Yoder Group, coupled

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"I didn't expect Maxim to have the audacity to attend the banquet. Truly, shamelessness knows no bounds. If I were him, I would have crawled into a hole a long time ago. There's no way I could be as composed as him, acting as if nothing had happened."

"It was obvious that he had done this kind of thing quite often in private, so he didn't care at all. I don't know what the Ponce family was thinking, they even sent him an invitation!"

"You didn't know this, but senior Mr. Ponce and old man Yang had a great relationship. I suspect senior Mr. Ponce wanted to take this opportunity to help the Yang family get their revenge. Just wait and watch the drama unfold!"

Amidst the surrounding murmurs, Briana and Maxim acted as if they heard nothing, slowly making their way towards senior Mr. Ponce seated in the center of the banquet hall.

Approaching senior Mr. Ponce, Briana handed the gift to the person in charge of receiving gifts, smiling and saying, "Wishing senior Mr. Ponce a wealth as vast as the eastern sea and a life as long as the southern mountains."

Senior Mr. Ponce glanced at her indifferently, then turned to look at Maxim, his face immediately turning somewhat unpleasant.

"Mr. Yoder... no, perhaps I should call you Maxim now. I heard that you behaved inappropriately towards my great–granddaughter while conducting business a few days ago. Is this true?"

Upon hearing this, the people around immediately pricked up their ears, even the chatter significantly decreased. The entire banquet hall

quieted down, all eyes were focused on Maxim, curious to see how he would respond.

However, Maxim remained indifferent, his facial expression didn't change at all.

"Did Senior Mr. Ponce have any misunderstanding about me?"

Senior Mr. Ponce was taken aback, "What do you mean?"

"I was not blind, nor was I interested in ugly women."

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As soon as the words fell, it immediately caused an uproar.

Although Jennifer was not considered a great beauty, she was still a pretty girl and was certainly not ugly.

Unexpectedly, Maxim had no regard for face-saving, he called Jennifer ugly in front of everyone.

After a moment of silence, an angry female voice erupted from the crowd.

“Maxim, you were harassing me and calling me ugly at the same time. you really are a hypocrite!”

Suddenly, all eyes were focused on the person speaking. Jennifer, with anger on her face, was speaking and quickly walking towards Maxim, looking as if she was about to demand justice.

However, when she met Maxim’s cold gaze, her steps involuntarily faltered, and a wave of guilt surged in her heart.

Although Maxim was no longer the president of the Yoder Group, his icy demeanor still unconsciously frightened people.

Thinking of the words Isaac had said to her over the phone during the day, Jennifer took a deep breath and quickly walked up to the two people.

“Today, you must apologize to me in public, or else I will formally sue you in court!”

Seeing her face filled with anger, her hands clenched into fists at her

sides, and her body slightly trembling, everyone unconsciously sided with her, beginning to quietly condemn Maxim.

Hearing those voices cursing Maxim, Jennifer finally gained some confidence. After all, Maxim had no evidence to prove that he hadn’t done anything to her. Whether he apologized or not, he would be despised and rejected by people!

Briana frowned, not waiting for Maxim to speak, she directly stepped forward and coldly stared at Jennifer.

“Ms. Hudson, I’ve never met someone as lacking in self-awareness as you,”

Jennifer looked at her coldly, her eyes full of hatred. She hadn’t forgotten that her father was driven out of Bridenville, and Briana was one of the instigators!

“Briana, what did you mean?”

Briana raised an eyebrow, laughing as she said, “What I mean is... you don’t even realize how ugly you are. It’s truly pitiful.”

“You!”

Jennifer gritted her teeth and stepped forward, ready to slap Briana.

Maxim’s gaze turned cold, and just as he was about to step forward, he saw Briana grab Jennifer’s wrist.

“Ah! It hurts, let me go!”

Jennifer struggled hard, trying to break free from Briana’s grip.

Briana chuckled lightly, releasing her at the height of her struggle. Jennifer's body instantly lost balance and fell straight to the ground, her face immediately contorting in pain.

"Briana! You wretch, I won't let you off!"

Jennifer struggled to get up, staring intently at Briana, as if she would pounce at any moment.

People around didn't expect Briana to be so dominant, they couldn't help but whisper among themselves, but mostly they were sarcastically commenting on Briana.

"Tsk tsk, if Maxim really didn't do anything to Jennifer, how dare Jennifer talk about suing? I guess Jennifer must have some evidence in her hands."

"Before, I used to think that Maxim was wasting his time with Briana, but now I realize that them being together is actually a blessing for others. A scumbag who sexually harasses women and a country girl who has lived in the countryside for over a decade, they are truly a perfect match! They should be locked together for life!"

"Jennifer really had bad luck, not only was she harassed, but the other party also refused to admit it! The key point is that there was a woman standing up for him, he just hid behind the woman, really spineless!"

Hearing the surrounding discussions, Jennifer's initial anger gradually subsided. Her gaze at Briana was full of mockery and contempt.

"Briana, were you sure you wanted to defend a man who sexually harassed other women?"

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Briana raised an eyebrow and chuckled, saying word by word, "You claim Maxim harassed you, do you have any evidence? If you have evidence, sue him. If not, stop spouting nonsense here!"

Jennifer's face turned ashen with anger at these words, gritting her teeth, she said, "I've already contacted a lawyer today, you just wait for the court summons!"

"Alright, I was waiting."

No sooner had the words fallen than the displeased voice of senior Mr. Ponce rang out.

"Jennifer, come back! What kind of image are you presenting by making such a fuss? Don't lower your own value!"

Jennifer took a deep breath, forced a smile and said, "Grandpa, you're right. I was just confused with anger just now."

Senior Mr. Ponce looked up at Briana and Maxim, his tone somewhat cold, "Since Maxim won't admit to harassing my goddaughter, please leave. My birthday party does not welcome the likes of Maxim!"

Maxim looked indifferent and said, "If I wasn't welcome, you shouldn't have sent me an invitation in the first place."

Senior Mr. Ponce's face stiffened for a moment, then he said coldly, "It must be the servant who forgot that Maxim is no longer the president of the Yoder Group, so it was sent by mistake. This kind of error will not happen again in the future."

This statement was laced with humiliation, clearly implying that

Maxim was no longer the president of the Yoder Group and had no right to attend the birthday banquet hosted by his Ponce family.

No sooner had the words fallen than Briana gave a cold laugh.

"I finally understood what the saying 'A tiger falling into disgrace is bullied by a dog' means!"

Senior Mr. Ponce was greatly angered by these words, his eyes coldly fixed on Briana, "Ms. Schneider, since you've chosen to degrade yourself by colluding with Maxim, I ask that you leave as well. You're not welcome here!"

Briana didn't say anything else, she just took Maxim and left directly.

Watching the two figures, senior Mr. Ponce snorted coldly. One was a former president of the Yoder Group who had been driven out, and the other was the owner of a small, shabby clothing company. They were not worth pleasing for the Ponce family!

However, the next second, Brycen suddenly stepped forward, smiling and said, "I'm good friends with Maxim. It seems that in the eyes of senior Mr. Ponce, I'm also in cahoots with him. I suppose I'm not welcome either. In that case. I'll leave too."

Senior Mr. Ponce's face changed color, and before he could speak, Oliver and Tyrone also left with Brycen.

He paused for a moment, his face instantly turning extremely unsightly.

Did he just offend the Carney family, the Moyer family, and the -Newman family as well?

Thinking of this, his face turned pale and then white. Just as he was about to ask the servant to invite them back, a deep voice sounded.

"Senior Mr. Ponce, Maxim was my cousin, and I was deeply saddened by what he did. If possible, I hoped that Senior Mr. Ponce could persuade Ms. Hudson, to see if she could let Maxim off the hook."

Upon hearing this, senior Mr. Ponce looked at Isaac, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes.

However, Isaac's words did manage to save face for the Ponce family, and in just a few sentences, he made the people who had just left suddenly become the unreasonable party. The complexion of senior Mr. Ponce finally improved a bit.

"Since Mr. Yoder said so, I would look for an opportunity to talk to Jennifer. However, it also depends on Maxim's attitude. If Maxim continues with this attitude, this matter couldn't possibly be left as it is!"

Isaac chuckled and said, "That's as it should be."

The banquet hall once again returned to its previous hustle and bustle, with many people approaching Isaac for potential collaborations during the event.

Now he was the president of the Yoder Group, naturally, people kept trying to curry favor with him.

Isaac had a smile at the corner of his mouth, spoke with measured grace, giving people a feeling of being bathed in the spring breeze.

The banquet ended, and many people were full of praise for Isaac, complimenting that he was much more approachable than Maxim

Isaac was full of pride, believing that it wouldn't be long before everyone gradually forgot that Maxim was once the president of the Yoder Group. He was convinced that he would be the future business king of Bridenville!

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On the other side, after leaving the banquet hall, Briana and Maxim did not go straight back to the villa, but went to a restaurant instead.

During the meal, Briana complained, "Thank goodness we came out early, otherwise we would only be able to eat those desserts, which wouldn't be filling at all."

Seeing a bit of sauce on the corner of her mouth, Maxim reached out to wipe it off for her, smiling as he said, "Slow down, it's all yours."

Briana pursed her lips, her face suddenly turned red, and her eating slowed down considerably.

The two of them sat facing each other, one eating, the other looking at her with a fond expression, the atmosphere was harmonious and warm.

After finishing their meal, the two were about to leave when Maxim's phone suddenly rang.

Seeing it was Brycen, a flash of surprise crossed his eyes.

As soon as it connected, Brycen's voice came through.

"Maxim, we were waiting for you at the old place."

Maxim glanced at Briana and said softly, "Alright, I take Briana home first."

After hanging up the phone, Maxim looked up into Briana's puzzled eyes and slowly said, "I'll take you home later, then I'm going out to meet with Brycen and the others."

Briana nodded, "Okay."

After dropping Briana off at home, Maxim drove straight to the bar.

As soon as the door was pushed open, Brycen's teasing voice rang out.

"Maxim, I didn't expect you to have a day when even senior Mr. Ponce looked down on you, hahaha. You were quite patient today. By rights, if senior Mr. Ponce had offended you, the Ponce Group should have gone bankrupt by now."

Maxim gave him a cold glance, walked straight to the middle seat and sat down, saying icily, "Recently, Isaac discovered my underground influence. If we touch the Ponce Group, he will notice immediately."

"Alright, what are you planning to do about Jennifer? Although we all know you're not interested in that kind of woman, quite a few people believe it now, which isn't great for your reputation."

"Did you think I cared about things like reputation?"

Brycen: "."

Alright, I really didn't care much.

Tyrone, standing nearby, frowned slightly, his tone somewhat displeased, "Even if you don't care, you should consider Briana. Now, when people insult you, they will demean her as well."

Upon hearing this, Maxim's eyes grew a few degrees colder, "I will handle this matter myself, there's no need for you to worry."

Seeing the atmosphere between the two gradually becoming icy, Brycen hurriedly said, "Alright, the main reason we came today was to drink, let's not talk about this anymore."

Maxim drained the wine in front of him in one gulp, stood up and said,

"I've had my drink, I'll go first. You guys continue, put it on my tab."

After speaking, Maxim left directly.

After the box door closed again, Brycen looked at Tyrone and sighed, "Tyrone, you'd better not mention Briana when Maxim is around in the future. After all, you like Briana, and he will definitely feel a bit uncomfortable."

Tyrone took a sip of his drink, his expression nonchalant as he said, "I told you, if he ever mistreats Briana, I'll take her away from him at any time."

"There were so many women in Bridenville, couldn't you have liked another one?"

He really didn't want to see his two brothers fall out over a woman.

Tyrone looked at him, saying word by word. "Could you give up Madeline, and love another woman?"

No sooner had the words fallen than Brycen's face changed instantly.

Tyrone didn't speak again, he stood up and left directly.

Oliver patted Brycen on the shoulder and said, "You can persuade about anything, but not about matters of the heart. You better not get involved, lest you end up offending both sides."

Brycen didn't speak, he just drank in silence.

Oliver was also in a bad mood, so he poured some alcohol and drank with him.

A couple of days ago, Melody invited him to dinner to thank him for saving her. When he received her message, he was as excited as a young boy, even spending hours choosing his outfit at home. He even

styled his hair before leaving the house.

When he arrived at the restaurant and saw Ezra sitting next to Melody, he felt as if someone had dumped a bucket of cold water over his head, chilling him from head to toe.

He didn't even know how he finished that meal, he only remembered the affection and interaction between Melody and Ezra.

It was evident that Melody was truly happy now. The way she looked at Ezra was filled with tenderness and laughter, her eyes seemed to be glowing.