

When It All Fell Apart Chapter 07

Honestly, I had no idea about any of that. Thinking back, it made sense that Will, being so young, must come from a well-off family to live alone in a big house and have an apartment while in college. Still, I never connected the dots that he was the son of the company's chairman,

Just as I was lost in thought, Will called me into his office. That snapped me back to reality, reminding me I had something important to report.

Will's family business specialized in trading high-end antiques and treasures, but he had also branched out into modern art. While the transactions in that new area were not as lucrative as those in the high-end market, he managed to carve out a niche and had done quite well.

Coincidentally, several of Ruby's paintings were up for auction in that new category, with prices hovering around the hundred-thousand mark. However, I discovered a serious issue: her work had plagiarized and combined the pieces from several lesser-known artists.

That had previously gone unnoticed, but I was able to identify the problem using data analysis.

"Mr. Young," I said, "if these works are recognized as plagiarized by other professionals, it could severely damage our company's reputation and result in significant losses. We need to take them down immediately."

Will took my concerns seriously and immediately called the tech team for a thorough re-evaluation.

"If what you're saying is true, simply taking them down isn't enough. We'll demand that the artist pay damages for breach of contract. This act of concealment is a violation!"

I nodded, realizing that the next steps were beyond my responsibility.

Once we wrapped up the serious talk, Will's smile returned. "I told you to call me by my first name. I don't know why, but hearing you call me 'Mr. Young' feels so awkward."

I laughed, saying it was a workplace and that I could not be too informal.

I teased, "What should I call you then? Young master?"

Will paused for a moment. When he realized I had figured out his background, he scratched his nose, looking a bit embarrassed.

He said, "I didn't mean to hide that. I was just worried you might avoid this company if you knew."

important

I could not help but chuckle. "I don't have that kind of ridiculous pride. What could be more in than making money?"

Once I got my salary and commission for the month, I would be able to pay him rent.

However, just a few days later, Ruby burst into the office unexpectedly, causing a scene. She must have used her connection as one of the company's collaborating artists to get in because she stormed right over to my desk, fuming.

Before she even said a word, tears started streaming down her face. "Clara, why are you targeting me? You deliberately sabotaged me by getting my artwork removed! This is an abuse of power!"

I immediately went cold. "Save your sob story. I'm not falling for it."

I knew perfectly well that she was not putting on a show for me; she just wanted to win the sympathy of those around us.

Sure enough, even though my coworkers did not know what was going on, they could not help but crowd around her, speaking softly and trying to comfort her. However, I was not in the mood to play nice.

"The plagiarism assessment was done by another department. I don't have that kind of influence to pull strings around here."

Ruby was not backing down. She argued that there were only a few classic elements in art, and even if there were similarities, they were just borrowed from earlier painters' works.

"That's called homage! You wouldn't understand since you're not an art major. Don't think I didn't know you were the one who complained first! The company just wants to keep the peace, so they're letting you bully me!"

As she spoke, tears flowed down her cheeks, and her hand rested on her slightly rounded belly.

"Is it fair for a big company to bully a background-less artist? This is the age of the internet. If you don't apologize, compensate me, and put my artwork back up, I'll expose you online for how you're treating a single pregnant woman!"

Those words shifted the atmosphere; the people around us looked shocked. Ruby's eyes glinted with a sense of triumph as she glanced at me, but the next second, someone yanked her arm hard.

Ashton must have come in somehow and was furious as he confronted her. "What are you doing in Clara's company? Are you here to cause trouble for her?"