

## Chapter 10 The CEO Merissa

After Richard sent Maddie home, she was in a sour mood and decided to go out on a shopping spree with her friend Janice Borris.

They stumbled upon a ash sale by the V brand and decided to check it out.

"Sorry, ma'am, today we're only open to VIPs and VICs. Could you show your membership card, please?"

Maddie condently handed over her VIP card.

The sales assistant smiled, "Welcome, Ms. Ford."

Maddie felt a bit smug, her smile beaming. But as she turned around, her smile faded in an instant!

Merissa?!

Merissa was standing right at the store entrance?!

What was she doing here? Who was she to show her face in such a fancy place?!

Maddie stepped outside to confront Merissa, putting on a concerned act. "Merissa, what are you doing here? Listen, you should leave. Today's event is for VIPs and VICs only. You'll just get kicked out."

Merissa saw through her fake concern and didn't bother responding. She simply turned her head away, completely ignoring Maddie.

Maddie, irritated by Merissa's indifference, decided to stick around and enjoy Merissa's embarrassing moment.

She was certain Merissa wouldn't be allowed in.

"Welcome, Ms. Narth!"

The sales assistant called out suddenly, making Maddie's face stiffen in shock.

"Wait!"

Janice stopped Merissa, who was about to enter, and the sales assistant, who was exceptionally respectful, asked, "Are you sure she's allowed in?!"

"Yes, Ms. Narth is on the list for today. Also, Ms. Ford and Ms. Borris, could you please step aside?"

Before they could react, the sales assistant subtly nudged them aside and escorted Merissa in, leaving them standing awkwardly in the cold breeze.

"Isn't she the one who stole Richard from you?!" Janice asked.

Thanks to Maddie's long-time complaint, Janice had already labeled Merissa as a b\*\*\*h who would stop at nothing to steal someone else's boyfriend!

"Forget it..." Maddie said, feigning timidity in front of Janice. "Let's not mess with her..."

"Don't worry. I've got your back!"

Without delay, they entered as well.

"Well! Who do we have here?" Janice, in her high heels, strutted up to Merissa. "The man-stealing b\*\*\*h!"

Merissa just came out of the fitting room, stunning in a red velvet dress that accentuated her curves perfectly. Sparkling diamonds adorned her neckline, adding a touch of luxury to her elegant look. Her skin gleamed like pearls against the fabric, making her look like a piece of exquisite jewelry.

Seeing Maddie and Janice, Merissa frowned, feeling like she had swallowed something disgusting.

Raising an eyebrow in disdain, she refuted, "Is that so? Do you have any proof, Miss? Because without it, that would be a slander. As for me stealing men? Hardly. He is my lawful husband, oh wait, he was. If anyone's stealing, it's your friend. She hooked up with my ex-husband while we were still married. But honestly, I couldn't care less. He's just trash to me now. Just do whatever you want with him."

Maddie's eyes welled up with tears. "Merissa, how could you say that? If you hadn't snatched Richard from me, I would have been his wife now!"

"So, you just admitted that you were messing with a married man?" Merissa retorted with a sly grin.

"That's not what I meant. There's nothing going on between me and Richard!" Maddie's voice quivered.

Janice stepped in front of Maddie for protection. Instead of buying a word Merissa had just said, she shifted the topic to Merissa's identity. "Excuse me! Isn't this store VIPs only? Did you actually check her membership? Also, wrap up that dress she's wearing for me! She can't possibly afford it!"

Janice's words seemed to soothe Maddie; she was so glad that things were nally going her way.

The sales assistant forced a smile, bewildered by the drama. "Ma'am, we've checked every customer's membership. And Ms. Narth is a VIC. That's even rarer than your VIP cards."

That left Janice and Maddie stunned.

VIP status required spending a hundred thousand dollars. And for VIC? A million dollars!

"No way! How could she afford that?" Janice blurted out in disbelief.

Maddie shot a meaningful glance at Merissa.

Merissa, tired of the drama, ignored them and walked back into the fitting room. "Sorry, but I'm not buying this dress. Feels gross to wear the same as theirs."

The sales assistant, keen not to lose a valuable customer, advised instantly, "Ms. Narth, we also have exclusive designer collections only for VICs. Would you like to peruse them? They're truly unique."

"Show me then," Merissa said coolly. After all, she came here to shop.

Maddie, still bitter and feigning concern, grabbed Merissa's sleeve. "Merissa, those are pricey. How can you afford them now that Richard has dumped you?"

With a raised eyebrow, Merissa subtly icked Maddie's hand away and turned back to the sales assistant. "Show me all your designer pieces."

Hearing her request, a few sales assistants rushed to bring out all the exclusive designer pieces, lining them up in a row.

Merissa glanced over casually and said, "I'll take them all."

This time, Janice and Maddie were nally left speechless. A designer dress usually cost more than half a million dollars each, something they could hardly dream of affording.

"Acting rich now, huh? But what if you can't foot the bill later? That'd be embarrassing!" Janice said sarcastically.

To their surprise, Merissa whipped out a black card and swiped it, the receipt popping out as proof of p\*\*\*\*\*t.

A black card! Merissa had a black card!

Maddie and Janice were dumbstruck, still nding it hard to believe that Merissa could actually splurge millions of dollars on clothes just like that?!

Merissa looked Maddie up and down. "What about you, Maddie? Didn't you like that dress just now? Why not buy it? Or maybe a designer piece?"

Just as Merissa nished speaking, a sales assistant had the card machine ready in front of Maddie.

But when Maddie saw the six-gure price tag, she hesitated. "I don't like it that much."

Merissa scoffed, "Can't afford it, huh? Richard won't even buy you a dress? I thought you were close."

With her pride wounded, Maddie bluffed. "Richard gave me his card for free use."

Maddie took out a card, but it was hers, actually.

Gritting her teeth, she swiped it for a hundred thousand dollars before storming out with Janice.

All that lled her mind was great rage against Merissa!

As they stepped out, they bumped into a famous actress, Dorothy Smith!

Maddie's heart leaped! It was a rare chance to network. She strolled over and said, "Ms. Smith."

"I'm sorry, you are?"

"I'm Maddie Ford, a friend of Cartland's," Maddie said, knowing Cartland was close to Dorothy.

But Dorothy gave her a once-over. "Oh... but Cartland never mentioned you."

Blushing, Maddie smiled awkwardly.

Dorothy then chuckled, "Cartland probably isn't into home wreckers like you."

Before Maddie could react, she saw Merissa walking over and cozying up to Dorothy. "Dorothy, what brings you here?"

Dorothy shot Maddie a glance before smiling at Merissa. "Let's go."

Maddie was left fuming as she realized the two were friends! Her chest heaved with anger.

But how did Merissa even know Dorothy?! And why were they so close?!

Ignoring Maddie completely, Merissa and Dorothy hopped into a pink Ferrari and drove off, leaving Maddie feeling slapped in the face!

Livid with rage, Maddie clenched her sts so tight that her nails dug into her palms.

Not only had she bought a ridiculously expensive dress on installment, but she had also been utterly humiliated by Merissa!

She glared at the disappearing car, swearing she wouldn't let Merissa get away with this!

But who exactly was Merissa, and how did she have such powerful connections?