

Jacqueline pressed her pale lips together and coughed twice. "I just wanted to apologize. I know you and Shane just got married, and I didn't mean to ruin your wedding night."

"So you're calling to say sorry?" Natalie asked with a raised eyebrow.

Joyce rolled her eyes and mouthed, "As if!"

Apologize? Hah! What a joke! She's clearly calling to brag!

Natalie could practically read Joyce's mind and nearly giggled out loud before placing her attention back on Jacqueline.

On the other side of the phone, Jacqueline's mouth quirked up into a sinister smirk that didn't match the apologetic tone she spoke in. "Yes. I really want to say sorry, Ms. Smith. I didn't know Shane would suddenly show up. Maybe if I'd known earlier about Jackie calling him..."

"What would you do, then?" Natalie cut her off bluntly.

Jacqueline's eyes darkened and she was about to speak when Natalie suddenly cut her off again. "If you'd known, you wouldn't have drunk yourself sick?"

"What do you mean, Ms. Smith? Are you insinuating that I did it on purpose?" Jacqueline clutched her phone tightly.

"As if there's any other reason!" Joyce could not help but yell at the phone.

Jacqueline's fine brows furrowed at the sudden voice. "Who is this?"

"Your memory is pretty bad, huh? To think you were so friendly to me when you visited Stanley." Joyce rolled her eyes again.

Jacqueline widened her eyes. "Ah. You're Ms. Rivers."

"You're d*mn right I am!" Joyce lifted her chin and admitted it.

Jacqueline's expression became icy. "If I remember correctly, you and I don't really have any interaction, right? So what makes you say that I did it on purpose?"

Joyce scoffed mockingly. "Sure, we didn't have any interaction. But don't forget that I'm Nat's best friend. You messing with Nat is the same as messing with me. Besides, am I wrong? Did you do it for any other purpose?"

"Of course-"

"Of course you didn't!" Joyce cut Jacqueline off without waiting for her to finish. "You did it on purpose knowing that Nat and Mr. Shane just got married. You decided to drink yourself sick so you could snatch Mr. Shane away from Nat and ruin their wedding night."

"No, I didn't!" Jacqueline insisted as she bit her bottom lip.

Joyce scoffed again. "Enough. I know how b*tches like you can act. You can't get past me."

"I-" Jacqueline couldn't defend herself and actually started sobbing.

Natalie patted Joyce on the shoulder. "That's enough, Joyce, let's not make her too angry. If she faints, that's a lot of trouble on you."

At that, Joyce finally zipped her mouth shut.

She was genuinely afraid of causing Jacqueline to faint. That was something Joyce really didn't want to deal with.

"Don't cry, Ms. Graham. I apologize for my friend's actions. She's always been the straightforward type," Natalie said as she turned off the speakerphone.

Jacqueline wiped her eyes dry. "It's okay, I know. It's normal for you to think that way. After all, it really seems like I did it on purpose, but I promise you that's not the case. I was just too overwhelmed. I know I said I've let go of Shane already, but I still can't forget him completely."

She got choked up after mentioning Shane's name and continued. "You know what I mean, don't you? Anyone would feel sad when they see the man they love get married to another woman. That's why I drank so much."

"Yeah, I get it," Natalie replied mildly.

Joyce was leaning against Natalie, so she heard everything. She couldn't help but cut in,

“Ms. Graham, the way you’re saying it makes it seem like Nat snatched Mr. Shane away from you.”

“That’s not what I meant,” Jacqueline said hurriedly. “Ms. Smith, please believe me. I really didn’t mean it that way.”

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Natalie massaged the space between her brows. “Sure, Ms. Graham. I believe you.”

“Liar,” Joyce mouthed at Natalie.

Natalie winked at her.

She had to admit that she was indeed lying. As if I would believe Jacqueline!

After all, Joyce managed to catch Jacqueline’s true meaning behind her words. As such, there was no way Natalie would miss it.

However, Jacqueline thought Natalie really fell for it and smiled happily. “I’m glad you believe me.”

“Don’t betray her trust, got that?” Joyce cut in once again.

Jacqueline stiffened before frowning. Her tone was bright despite her actual mood. “What do you mean by that?”

“What I mean is for you to not hurt yourself again just to snatch Mr. Shane away from Nat. Understood?”

Joyce narrowed her eyes as she continued, “Mr. Shane and Nat are married now, so please know your place. Don’t do what you did last night again. If you do, I’ll just have to assume that you’re trying to snatch Mr. Shane away from Nat.”

Jacqueline was rendered speechless and unable to refute her words.

After all, any answer she give would sound too defensive.

Natalie gave Joyce a big thumbs up.

The latter tilted her chin at Natalie proudly.

She shook her head in response before saying, “Don’t worry, Ms. Graham. Joyce always says things like that, so don’t take it to heart, okay?”

“I know. I won’t.” Jacqueline tried to squeeze out a smile.

Natalie massaged her sore shoulders. “Ms. Graham, will that be all? If so, I’ll be hanging up now. I have work to do.”

“That’s all,” Jacqueline answered as she looked down with an unreadable glint in her eyes.

Natalie hummed in response and instantly hung up without saying goodbye.

Joyce stood up and stretched. “Okay, I’ve got to get busy too. I got my visa from the Embassy, and I need to go pick it up.”

“When are you planning on visiting Stanley?” Natalie asked.

Joyce’s expression darkened slightly. “Probably tomorrow afternoon.”

“Okay, then I won’t be sending you to the airport.” Natalie stood up as well and patted her friend on the shoulder.

Joyce nodded. “I know. You have the trial for your mother and that deadbeat dad of yours tomorrow, so don’t worry about me.”

She pointed at the door, indicating that she was about to leave.

Natalie nodded and retracted her hand.

With that, Joyce turned to leave.

The office door closed once again. Natalie took a gulp of water before sitting down and going back to work.

She worked until about four o’clock in the afternoon and turned off her computer, planning to go pick up her kids. Suddenly, she heard a loud clamor outside the office.

What’s going on?

She stood up and walked toward the door curiously. Just as she was about to open the door, someone knocked on it loudly.

Natalie jumped slightly in fright before calming herself down and opening the door.

The moment she opened the door, she was taken aback. Staring blankly at the man outside

her door, she asked, "What are you doing here?"

The man standing right outside her door was none other than Shane.

This was the first time he had come to her company.

"I'm here to pick you up," Shane said gently as he looked at Natalie.

"Pick me up?" Natalie raised her eyebrow as she chuckled inwardly.

As if he doesn't know what would happen if he came here!

Natalie looked at the other workers and designers behind him with shock on their faces and instantly felt a headache coming on.

She had kept it a secret this whole time and never answered when people asked who she was married to because she wanted to keep things low-key. She hadn't imagined that Shane would personally come and cause a scene.

"What's wrong?" He frowned at the sight of Natalie's bitter smile and reached out worriedly to feel her forehead.

The people behind him all covered their mouths in glee at the sudden scene of affection.

"I'm fine," Natalie said with a light chuckle as she took Shane's hand off her forehead.