

Go After 401

Chapter 401

"I haven't worked for so long. I forgot how tiring it can get. As soon as Belle got in the car, she got onto the soft seat in the back."

Really? It's fine if you quit working. I can provide for you. Calvin's eyes lit up when he heard that she was tired. He quickly turned around and assured her.

"No, I want to go to work. Belle immediately answered and turned down his idea. Calvin really didn't want her to go to work. She wondered what this guy was thinking. Why didn't he want her to go to work? No, it was exhausting for him to manage such a big company alone."

It's fine if you want to go to work. It's up to you. Calvin could only let her be.

Where do you want to eat? Calvin asked while driving.

"That's up to you, Belle said without thinking, lying on her stomach."

It's up to me? Good. He thought.

Calvin gave a sinister laugh and drove off in his car.

"In just a moment, the car entered a parking lot. Belle sensed that something was wrong. Why did he drive to an underground parking lot? Weren't they only having a meal?"

"She raised her head and looked at her surroundings. Calvin parked the car, opened the back door, and stretched out his long arms to pick her up."

"Hey, let me go. What are you doing in broad daylight? She struggled and patted his arm. His arm was strong, and he could hold her easily."

"Didn't you say it was up to me? We'll rest at Grand Hyatt Apartments at noon from now on. It's close to the company. So, we can walk there too. Calvin said, smiling."

Grand Hyatt Apartments?

"Belle raised her head and looked around. Surely enough, this was the underground parking lot of Grand Hyatt Apartments. It was no wonder there was a familiar feeling!"

"Then again, what was this guy trying to do by bringing her here?"

"Thinking back, in Grand Hyatt Apartments, both of them would..."

"At the thought of this, her face turned slightly red."

"Hey, we can rest in the company. Why do we have to come here? She made a strong protest."

"Today is your first day at work, and you have worked so hard. I can't repay you. All that I can do is to reward you. Calvin hugged her and smiled warmly."

Belle was alerted. "This guy!"

“He was not allowed to touch her the night before because she had to go to work that day. However, now, it’s obvious that he was holding a grudge and looking for opportunities to make up for it.”

“Her face flushed. She stretched out her hand to hit him but Calvin dodged, and Belle swayed in his arms. Calvin laughed out loud. The two bantered in the underground garage and walked into the elevator.”

“Fortunately, there was no one around at noon.”

“As soon as they entered the apartment, Belle smelled the aroma of food and asked in surprise, ““Why is there food?”””

“Calvin chuckled and said, ““Just eat. There’s no need to ask so much.”””

“After a while, Larry came out of the kitchen and saw Calvin and Belle holding each other in arms. She had been used to it for a long time.”

“They were an exceptionally loving couple. As long as they stayed together, they were inseparable. It was the same in Harvey Manor, what more in Grand Hyatt Apartments. Larry just smiled and said, ““Young Master, Young Madam, lunch is ready.”””

“It turned out that he had asked Larry to cook in advance. Calvin had it all planned, even when he had deliberately asked her where she liked to eat. Only he could think of such a trick.”

“Well, you can go back to Harvey Manor when you’re done. From today onwards, you can come here and make lunch from Monday to Thursday. Calvin sat down at the dining table with Belle in his arms and informed Larry.”

“Alright, Young Master, Young Madam. I’ll take my leave, Larry replied with a smile.”

Thank you. Belle smiled and nodded.

Larry turned around and walked out of Grand Hyatt Apartments.

“As soon as she went out, Calvin picked up a piece of roast chicken and put it on Belle’s plate. He said affectionately, ““Come, have a taste.”””

“Thank you, Belle said and opened her mouth. When Calvin saw this, he immediately fed her the chicken. ““Mmm, not bad.”” She nodded as she ate.”

“Calvin also had a bite. He shook his head and said, ““It’s still not as good as what my wife cooks.”””

His flattery worked.

“Belle was satisfied with such flattery. Seeing that he put the fork he had fed her with into his mouth, she could not help exclaiming, ““Hey, how can you use the fork I have used? It’s not hygienic.”””

“Calvin smiled shamelessly and said, ““I have even tasted you. The fork is nothing. You’re an exception.”””

Okay. Belle smiled and began to eat.

Calvin was patiently helping her with food and didn’t eat much.

Calvin was serving her well. He must be planning something!

He wanted to sleep with her.

Belle knew him all too well.

“Since he’s willing to do this, I should let him be! She thought.”

“Belle enjoyed being taken good care of by him, and the two of them had a nice lunch.”

“Calvin, I still have to go back to work in the afternoon. This is bad. As soon as they finished their meal, Calvin rushed into the bedroom with her in his arms. Belle’s face turned red as she persuaded him softly.”

“It’s only the first day of work. Yet, why are you so passionate? Besides, the work in Harvey Group is endless. You don’t need to work so hard. Listen to me and don’t go back later. There’s a banquet tomorrow night. You have to look your best and accompany me. Calvin did not intend to let her go at all. It was stupid to waste such a good opportunity.”

“But... Belle wanted to say that she had to build her reputation on her first day, and she had a proposal to finish. However, Calvin had already put her on the bed, and his lips were on hers. His hand went under her skirt in a hurry.”

Belle mewled.

“Under Calvin’s teasing, she let loose due to the intoxicating bliss. Just as she was ready to accept him, it turns out Calvin was not in a hurry. After a while, he whispered in her ear, ““You are so wet, and you still acted seriously. I will need to lecture you well today.”””

“He pressed down against her so as not to let her move, but kept stimulating her.”

“Belle felt that she had fallen towards the bottom of a cliff, and then she soared towards the clouds. She screamed.”

Calvin was filled with joy. He smirked when he saw that her face was full of pleasure and satisfied her when she could no longer bear it...

“This time, Belle was almost out of breath because of Calvin’s passion. As a result, both of them were too tired to go to work in the afternoon. They lay in bed, drained.”

It would be bad to go on like this.

“After that, Belle felt sore all over. She made a strict rule that they were not allowed to do it at noon.”

“Calvin nodded his head in agreement with a lazy attitude, not intending to follow it.”

Belle looked at his casual look and knew he was only saying it to please her. There was no way he would take it seriously. She could not help but to sigh.

“Zoella was in a spacious office, looking at a computer screen with a frown. Octavia came in.”

“Miss Yates, Liya is here.”

“Zoella raised her head, and said with a smile, ““Let her in.”””

“Okay, Octavia said and walked outside. After a while, a slim woman walked in gracefully.”

“It’s nice to meet you, Miss Yates. Liya’s short hair added to her soft and lovely look. It shocked Zoella when she saw her at first sight.”

“Liya was a stunner. Even a woman would fall in love at a glance, let alone a man. Coupled with her special image, Zoella figured Calvin would fall head over heels for her.”

Perfect. It was exactly what Zoella wished for.

“Lexie was powerful and influential, but she was impatient and strong. She wasn’t Calvin’s cup of tea, but Liya was weak and lovable. Furthermore, she looked somewhat similar to Belle.”

“This should be the type that Calvin liked. More precisely, the kind that all men in the world liked. If Liya could seduce Calvin or cause Belle and Calvin to have a misunderstanding, then her goal would be achieved.”

Zoella believed that she had the potential to do so.

Zoella’s eyes were gleaming like an eagle’s.

Liya.

“Her name was as beautiful and elegant as her appearance. Liya’s rare quality was that she was scheming. On the surface, she looked weak, but she was calculative. This was the conclusion Zoella had come to after observing her over the years.”

“Women like Liya were usually skillful and resilient when dealing with men. As long as a man crossed paths with her, he would not be able to escape.”

“Liya, please take a seat. Zoella gave a friendly smile. She pointed at the sofa across from her and spoke in a friendly manner.”

“Thank you, Miss Yates. Liya looked at the sofa opposite her and sat down. ““What can I do for you, Miss Yates?”””

She dropped her eyes and asked in a low voice. Her weak appearance made men want to hold her in their arms.

“Zoella smiled and said, ““I heard that your father needs to undergo an operation, and he needs the money. I just want to help. Are you willing to accept the offer?”””

She went straight to the point. Her voice sounded amiable.

“I... Liya raised her head. Her eyes were filled with fear and joy. She asked in disbelief, ““Miss Yates, you already know. Are you willing to help me?”””

“After that, she said with an uneasy voice, ““It’s just that I can’t take it simply.”””

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“Zoella chuckled when she saw Liya’s expressions. She took out an empty cheque from the drawer, wrote a few words, and handed it to Liya.”

“Liya looked at the cheque with her mouth agape. Five million dollars? It was a huge sum for a modest woman like her. Her face lit up when she thought of her father in the ward, but she became worried again. She put the cheque on the table and muttered, ““I can’t take that much money, Miss Yates. Besides, I don’t have the ability to pay it back.”””

She gripped her shirt tightly as she kept glancing at the cheque from time to time. Her gleaming eyes showed a hint of unease.

“Zoella noticed it. She pushed the cheque towards her and sat down next to her. She held her hand and said, ““It’s my fault for only finding you yesterday. I didn’t realize your family had come to such a state. What a pity.”””

“She spoke with a trace of sadness in her eyes. Liya was moved and her eyes welled up with tears. ““Miss Yates, I’m grateful that you even thought of my family, unlike other people who only wish upon our death.”””

She said with a trembling voice as hatred appeared in her eyes.

“Zoella sighed and said, ““Ten years ago, my family collapsed and I didn’t ask about you. However, I had done my best to send some money your way. Did you receive it?”””

“Money? Liya’s eyes widened when she heard this. ““Miss Yates, you sent them? You had no idea! That money supported me through college but I didn’t know who sent it. I always thought it was the Harvey family.”””

She said excitedly as she looked at Zoella with eyes full of surprise and joy.

She had always assumed that the Harvey Family had sent the money. She didn’t expect it to be Zoella. This was unbelievable.

Why was Zoella so good to her family?

“Sigh. Perhaps it’s because we share the same fate. We were all miserable and had been oppressed by others back then. I have remembered you ever since. Not to mention that we played together when we children, Zoella said with a sad tone.”

“That’s right. Life was horrible then, Liya said as she took a trip down memory lane.”

“She was only nine when her mother took her to Harvey Manor and had stayed there for three years. It was during that time she found out what kind of life the children of rich families were living compared to hers. After Old Master Harvey had passed away, she and her mother were chased out of the manor.”

“She held onto her mother and cried in the heavy rain the day they were chased out. Then, her mother had fallen ill and never woke up. When she found her father, he had been living a life filled with anxiety and hunger.”

“Tears welled up in her eyes, and her face was frighteningly pale. She gripped her clothes tightly and gritted her teeth.”

“It’s all in the past, Liya. I’ll be like your older sister from now on. We’re family now. Don’t worry, I won’t treat you shabbily. Zoella moved Liya’s heart like a spring breeze. She lifted her eyes and said gratefully, ““Zoella, you treat me so well. I don’t know how to repay your kindness.”””

“She was extremely grateful but still felt uneasy. Growing up, she knew there’s no such thing as free lunch. However, she had neither power nor influence. Even the bachelor’s degree she received in computer science was from an average university. She did not know how to help or repay Zoella. Therefore, she still had her doubts.”

“Zoella patted the back of Liya’s hand and said with a smile, ““Liya, you’re young, beautiful, and full of potential. You have to marry a good man. Otherwise, it would be a shame for such a beauty like you.”””

Liya smiled bashfully and lowered her head.

Her shy look would drive men crazy. The smile in Zoella’s eyes deepened.

“Liya, now that we are like sisters, I want to give you a piece of advice. Not only will it help me, you’ll also be able to live a rich and glamorous life. How does that sound to you? Zoella looked as if she had just thought about it.”

“Liya raised her head and looked at Zoella with her big, almond-shaped eyes. Confusion filled her face.”

“Zoella patiently asked, ““Liya, do you still remember Calvin from Harvey Manor?”””

“Calvin? Liya’s eyes lit up as she asked excitedly, ““Zoella, are you referring to the current master of Harvey Manor, the President of Harvey Group, Mr. Calvin?”””

Yes. Zoella nodded. Her smile was unfathomable.

“Yes, I remember, but what does this have to do with us? The light in Liya’s eyes quickly dimmed. She shook her head and asked, ““I don’t understand, Zoella.”””

“It’s simple. If you become Calvin’s lady, you can live the life you want. The world’s your oyster. It’s hard to find such a rich and powerful family in the world, let alone in A City. Besides, you two knew each other when you were children. You can use this to your advantage. Ask to work in his company and the rest will work itself out, Zoella explained.”

“No. Liya’s face dimmed and said in a low voice, ““That won’t do. Calvin is so high and mighty. I’m sure he had already forgotten about me. Besides, he’s happily married to a gorgeous woman. I wouldn’t even stand a chance, let alone with my lowly position. I don’t think I have it in me to separate them.”””

“Liya shook her head. Ever since she began living in the mansion, Calvin had always been a noble Young Master. He was loved by thousands of people and led a carefree and high-flying life. Though she lived there, she was despised by the servants, so much so that she did not even have the right to ask for anything.”

“To become Calvin’s lady, this was nothing more than a fantasy.”

“Zoella, on the other hand, smiled confidently. ““Liya, do you still remember when Martin and Miss Hattie Patel bullied you. Calvin openly defended you and even scolded his cousin. I’m sure you remember that.”””

“That was true. Liya’s eyes sparkled again. Nevertheless, they were just eleven or twelve years old. Things weren’t as complicated back then. What’s more, it was not a big deal at all.”

“Even if they remembered, Calvin would have probably long forgotten about it.”

“She looked confused, nodded, but eventually, she shook her head.”

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“That means that he didn’t care about your status. I’m sure he’ll still accept you. Believe me, nothing is impossible. I’m sure you were well aware that Harvey Group had oppressed the Yates Group, and it led to my father’s death. So, if you want to thank me, try your best to get close to Calvin and become his lady. Let Belle misunderstand it. You need to know that Belle isn’t as noble as you think she is. She may have used to be one, but her current situation is similar to yours. If she was able to marry Calvin, then so can you. What’s more, I’m sure you fancy him. You should be confident in yourself. It’s normal for a rich man to find a mistress. As long as you can win over Calvin’s heart, you can live a rich life without worry. If you really want to repay me, then do as I say, Zoella said eagerly, looking at Liya with hopeful eyes.”

“Liya understood immediately. Zoella was trying to bring down Harvey Group and Calvin. She was merely her pawn. Zoella wanted to use her to get close to Calvin and achieve her goal. As for the benefits, it was likely untrue.”

“However, in the current situation, there was really nothing she could do except to repay her kindness in this way.”

“Now, her father needed the money. If she didn’t accept Zoella’s support, there was nothing else she could do. However, on the other hand, she wouldn’t be able to pay back the money if she was asked to.”

Her body was the easiest way for her to make money.

“It would be better to sell herself to a man as handsome and rich as Calvin. Even if she was his underground lover, it would be better than marrying a useless man. Liya’s expression changed as she thought about it.”

“Zoella looked at her calmly, as if she already knew Liya would agree to the plan. There was an unfathomable smile on her face.”

“I already have people in the Harvey Group. You don’t have to worry about that. Someone will come to your aid. In order to dispel her concerns completely, Zoella reassured her once again. ““What’s more, Harvey Group pays well. You don’t have to worry too much if you work there.”””

“Everyone wanted a chance to work in Harvey Group. Not only was it a stable job, but it also came with great benefits.”

I’ll think about it after I get in. Liya thought as she nodded. A smile appeared on Zoella’s face.

“In the backyard of the Xanthe family residence, towering leafy trees could be seen everywhere.”

Sergio and Yadiel were walking along a tree-lined path.

Sergio was wearing a casual sports outfit. The black and white color scheme made him look strong and muscular.

“The father and son duo, who had just finished playing tennis, were walking and chatting.”

“I proposed marriage to General Perry yesterday. You have to be prepared, Yadriel said indifferently.”

“Sergio smiled bitterly and said, “Dad, are you sure General Perry will agree?””

“Yadriel laughed and said with confidence, “Don’t worry, son. Even if he doesn’t agree, it’s not easy to find someone as well-matched, handsome, and politically promising as you. General Perry is not a fool. He knows what’s at stake. As soon as I entered the door and explained the purpose of my visit. He was pleased, even though he said that his daughter is abroad and would like to ask for her opinions. I could see that he was simply pretending and had already made up his mind. Besides, you’re much better than Martin. Not only was he driven out of the Harvey family, but his criminal record would also be impossible for General Perry to approve of him. The Perry family would be fortunate to have you as a part of their family.””

“Yadriel sounded positive. However, Sergio did not think it could’ve been that easy. He lowered his head and pondered, but did not refute his father.”

“The election would be held in August. However, Luqman had already planned his campaign long ago. He would try his best to win as much support as he could, including General Perry. In a family like Sergio’s, marriage was only an exchange of interests. Even if he was rejected by the other family, there was nothing he could lose. He needn’t rush.”

“Moreover, he did not think that Rosa would agree.”

“Dad, have you heard anything from Brooklyn? He asked in a relaxed tone. One had to know that Brooklyn’s support was imperative. Many politicians in the Capital City would follow him.”

“Relax, Brooklyn will be on my side. After all, I am his disciple and Luqman isn’t related to him at all. However, I’ve heard that he is trying to approach Brooklyn. Although he might not succeed, Brooklyn is unpredictable. That time when I sent him the pistol, he was excited but didn’t say anything. Instead, he gave me life lessons and a rare gem. Yadriel was deep in thought. Up till now, he still couldn’t figure out Brooklyn’s character. For example, he always couldn’t understand why Brooklyn didn’t approve of him much. Just the thought of it made him feel uneasy.”

“Does that mean that he has given us the jewelry as an exchange gift? Sergio frowned, and there was a hint of dissatisfaction in his voice. Every year Yadriel would bring him over to see Brooklyn. However, no matter what he did, Brooklyn seemed to be indifferent. He had always held a grudge and often did not want to accompany his father, but Yadriel insisted every time.”

“For his father’s election and political prospects, Sergio had endured enough.”

“Sergio, don’t think like that. Yadriel’s voice lowered and spoke in a disconsolate voice. “No matter what, I am still his disciple. I used to be his subordinate. Even if he doesn’t want me to prosper and succeed in politics, he will be looked down on if I did badly. You can be rest assured. Furthermore, I am competing with Luqman, not the subordinates he favors. I have the advantage. We should never pin our

hopes on others. We have to work hard and create our own paths. Hence, when it comes to General Perry, whatever thoughts you have, wait until after this election is over.””””

“His father’s words touched Sergio and made him feel heavy. He nodded his head. As a son, he had to help his father succeed.”

“Sergio, can you do well as the head of state security? Yadriel thought of Sergio’s current situation. He was reaching the retirement age in the army and the best path for him would be to join politics.”

“Of course. It’ll be a breeze. Sergio was confident. He had reached the highest rank in the army among his peers. If he continued down the path, he could only stay in the army. However, he had political aspirations. He wanted to seek a bigger future like his father. Of course, if Yadriel was elected as mayor, he would become the highest-ranking official in Capital City and pave the way for Sergio’s political career. It was a critical time. Sergio had to do his best.”

“Good, like father, like son. Yadriel approved. He was quite satisfied with the fact that his son could be the head of state security at such a young age. However, the position would have access to classified information. If Sergio did well, then it could lead to a meteoric rise. If not, then it could also ruin his political future. Therefore, he quickly added with great earnestness, “”Sergio, you should always have a sensitive political consciousness and think twice before you do anything. Remember, if you come across anything you can’t handle, don’t make the decision on your own. Come to me first. You’re my only son and you are not allowed to make any mistakes, understand?””””

“Dad, don’t worry, I understand. Sergio nodded seriously. “”Dad, I’m leaving for A city today. Since I still have some time before I’m promoted, I’ll walk around. There’s still a big banquet waiting for me tonight.””””

“While talking, the father and son had already reached the living room. Sergio looked up at the clock and said with a smile, “”I’ll fly to A City after a quick rest. The banquet is held by Mr. Hawk, and it will be full of celebrities and elites. I’ll be able to win some support and meet Mr. Hawk at the same time.””””

“Alright. Go ahead. Yadriel nodded with a smile. After he left, he turned around and said, “”Oh, Mr. Hawk and Madam Lilian are close. Is she invited?””””

“I’m not sure about that. I heard that Madam Lilian has been very busy recently. Even if she is invited, she may not be able to come. Sergio shook his head.”

The father and son then returned to their respective rooms.

Chapter 404

“Rest, Belle. I’ll take you to the beauty salon later. There will be an important banquet tonight. The guests are all from upper-class circles. We’d better be well prepared, Calvin said after lunch at Grand Hyatt Apartments with Belle.”

Banquet?

“Belle froze. She recalled him mentioning it the previous day. It seemed that she could not escape it. Truth be told, she never liked attending these banquets. It was hard for her to force a smile.”

“Belle had been busy at work for the past two days. Hence, she was really not in the mood to attend the banquet. However, as a member of a rich and powerful family, she had to. She had to be cautious all the time, appear reserved and noble, or her husband’s reputation would be at stake. This was the most tiring thing for Belle. It was one of the reasons she was not willing to come back with Calvin when they were in Wullen Town. This kind of life was too exhausting. All she wanted was a simple life.”

She pouted and followed Calvin to the bedroom.

“I know you don’t like this, but will you do it for my sake? Please smile. Calvin comforted her when he saw her pouting.”

“Oh, this is so annoying. Belle threw herself on the bed and didn’t want to talk to him.”

Come on. I’ll give you a massage. Calvin lay on the bed. He reached out to hold her in his arms and started massaging. Belle enjoyed it very much.

“Sigh, I like it just as much as you do. All those fake smiles and conversations. What’s worse, I have to face the people I don’t want to see. But we are not ordinary people. Our words and actions are being watched. Calvin said, ““I’ll have to hire an etiquette teacher to train you. After all, there’ll be many banquets in the future. Although you’ve done very well, we need to do better. Moreover, there’s still a lot more for you to learn. After all, the wives of rich and powerful families will attend these training classes every week. Not to mention that we’re the richest family. You should prepare yourself for more banquets in the future.”””

Calvin said in a soft voice. Belle had gone to sleep with his gentle massages. She hadn’t heard a word he said.

“The sky became dark as the evening approached. The neon lights lit up and blended with the grey sky, as if the city was covered with a layer of colorful glass paper, giving off a mystical atmosphere.”

“Calvin had already dragged Belle to a high-end beauty salon earlier that evening. It took a long time until she heard the makeup artist say with amazement, ““Mrs. Harvey, you are gorgeous. So proper and graceful.”””

“Really? Belle was doubtful. In fact, she was now very uncomfortable because of these makeup artists. She guessed that her expression looked haggard. Even if she didn’t look like a mess, she was far from graceful. She didn’t know whether the makeup artist’s judgement was skewed or he was trying to flatter her.”

“Mrs. Harvey, this way please. The makeup artist pointed to one side politely, showing her out.”

“Okay, thank you. Belle nodded with a smile and stood up.”

“Oh! As soon as she took a step, she was about to fall as she was not used to wearing stilettos.”

“That was it. All the effort of dressing up had gone to waste. Belle looked at the shiny floor as her heart pounded. If she had fallen down, then her face would be bruised, and her body would be injured.”

“Be careful, Mrs. Harvey. The makeup artist held her in time.”

“That was close! She was lucky that she didn’t fall down. Otherwise, it would’ve been embarrassing. She had a better impression of the makeup artist now. However, it wouldn’t do any good to go on like this. After all, she had never worn such thin high heels. Even the heels of her wedding shoes were thicker than this. Walking had already posed a challenge, let alone socializing with others.”

Her anxiety grew.

“Calvin was reading the newspaper leisurely by the reception. He raised his head as soon as the makeup artist helped Belle out. Alas, this woman was really beautiful with her makeup done. Even more beautiful than she looked on their wedding day.”

“The black dress fit her waist and plump hips perfectly. What’s more, the dress complimented her porcelain-white skin. The V-shaped collar showed off her smooth neck, and the diamonds accentuated her face. She was absolutely gorgeous.”

He curled his lips slightly and walked towards her.

“Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Harvey’ makeup is done. The makeup artist tried to fawn over Calvin. ““Your wife is so beautiful, Mr. Harvey.”””

“Calvin smiled and took out a stack of money from his wallet. The makeup artist happily accepted the payment, smiled enchantingly, and said, ““Thank you, Mr. Harvey.”””

Belle smiled as she carefully took one step after another...

She felt very uncomfortable. The heels were too high for her.

Look at you struggling in those heels. Calvin hurried forward and carried her into the car.

“Calvin, can I please change into a different pair of shoes? She pleaded in the car. She couldn’t guarantee what would happen if she continued wearing this pair of shoes. She had to find some thicker heels.”

Calvin looked at her from the rearview mirror. She pouted as her delicate face was filled with distress.

“Calvin, please. I really can’t get used to wearing this type of heels. I just want a pair that are slightly shorter and thicker. She continued to plead.”

“They still had half an hour to spare. So, Calvin took her to a branded shoe store.”

“Finally, she changed into a pair of comfortable high heels. Belle loved them like any other woman, but she obviously wasn’t passionate about stilettos. She preferred comfort over fashion.”

“The banquet had already been filled with all kinds of luxurious cars at the entrance when they arrived, which were mostly manufactured by Harvey Group.”

“Belle, here. Everyone’s attention was on Calvin and Belle as soon as they went in. Just like their wedding, the couple astounded the whole audience.”

The banquet was set on the green lawn by the lake.

It was filled with decorations. Square tables were orderly set with orchids on each of the tables. Bartenders and waiters could be seen everywhere. All kinds of food and drinks were placed on the main table in the center.

“The host of the banquet was Yezon Hawk, a well-known politician. He was originally from A city and had once served as a mayor abroad. After retirement, he returned to A city. This was the first time he had held a banquet in A city after returning to Tamberland. Not only were the upper-class families of A city invited, but elites from abroad attended too.”

Yezon had come up to welcome Calvin.

“Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, it’s a pleasure to meet you. He extended his hands and greeted them warmly.”

“Pleasure to meet you, Mr. Hawk. Calvin and Belle extended their hands and said politely.”

“Mr. Harvey, you’re so lucky to have such a beautiful wife. Yezon held Calvin’s hand and repeatedly praised.”

“Thank you, Calvin said humbly with a proud smile on his face.”

“After meeting the host, Calvin brought Belle to meet famous businessmen and politicians.”

Calvin was considerate to Belle. They had agreed that she would be fine as long as she stayed by his side. All she had to do was to smile while Calvin carried the conversations. She wasn’t particularly tired after a while. Not to mention that she had a good nap at noon.

“Belle, there you are. Lottie Cohen approached the couple just as they finished greeting everyone else.”

“Hello, Miss Cohen. Calvin greeted her out of habit and raised his wine glass.”

“Lottie looked at him and raised her eyebrows. She smiled and said, “Hello, Mr. Harvey. Bottoms up.” Then, she finished the red wine in her hand.”

Okay. Calvin downed his wine too.

“Based on Calvin’s actions, especially how he treated Belle, Lottie’s attitude towards him was much better. Seeing the two of them holding hands and showing affection, she jealously said, “Mrs. Harvey, can you come with me now?””

Where are we going? Belle startled for a moment and asked.

“Hey, you really value your man over friendship. Aren’t you afraid of getting tired of each other? Now that you have met the guests, it’s free time now. Men have their things to talk about, and we have ours too. Are you going to cling to your husband throughout the event? He is a public figure, and there will be activities later. He will be criticized this way. Lottie glanced at her and said in a sarcastic tone.”

So that’s how it is. Belle finally understood!

Chapter 405

“Belle, you should have a chat with Lottie. I’ll come looking for you if I need to. There is something else I have to attend to. Calvin was worried that Belle would be bored. However, since Lottie was there, it

would be easier for her. Before leaving, he said to Lottie with a faint smile, ""Miss Cohen, my wife is in your hands now. You can say goodbye to your cafeteria if anything happens to her.""

"Calvin's arrogant tone made Lottie exasperated. Just because Belle was her best friend, he kept threatening her with her cafeteria. Yet, now he was acting so high and mighty in front of her."

"Calvin, hold up. Just as Calvin was about to leave, Belle pulled him to the side and whispered, ""Don't drink too much. You've already had one too many. Also, we should leave as soon as we can. I don't want to stay too late.""

"Calvin listened attentively, then he smiled faintly as he put his hand around her shoulder and said, ""Don't worry. I'm used to this. Go ahead and have some fun.""

"He held her hand, assuring her, and left."

"Aww, look at you two being all lovey-dovey. It'll only be for a while. Stop putting on a show. Lottie waited impatiently. She was moved by their love for each other and how Calvin cared for Belle, especially since she witnessed the grand wedding."

"It seemed that Calvin wasn't such a scumbag after all. At least he was devoted to Belle. Alas, this silly girl finally found her happily ever after."

"Belle's face turned red from Lottie's teasing. She patted her gently and said, ""Lottie, if you keep being straightforward and sharp-tongued, it'll be hard for you to find a husband.""

"Lottie smiled casually, took a good look at Belle, and chuckled, ""Hmm, you look really good. Beautiful, noble, and elegant. This is the first time that I've seen you like this. I'm assuming Calvin is behind all this?""

You could tell? Belle exclaimed.

"Of course, I know you inside and out. Lottie pursed her lips and smiled confidently. ""Calvin's got quite the taste.""

"Belle was happy to receive Hanna's approval. She smiled and teased her. ""Then, you shouldn't look down on me and say I have bad taste anymore.""

"Alright, I gave you an inch and you took a mile. C'mon, let's go there. Lottie took her hand and walked over to where the women were all crowding at."

"Lottie, how is Rhys doing? Belle suddenly asked."

"It was Lottie's turn to be surprised. Had Belle heard something? She asked casually, ""Did something happen? I don't know what you're talking about.""

"The forceful look on Lottie almost made Belle laugh out loud. She said, ""Come on, I can't believe you're hiding this from me. Aren't we friends?""

Belle said it calmly. She wasn't as surprised as Lottie had expected.

Lottie calmed down.

“Belle, I really wanted to tell you this. In fact, I’ve been wanting to tell you for a while now, but I couldn’t reach you or find the right time. Besides... Lottie uttered. Rhys used to be Belle’s boyfriend, and now that Lottie was seeing him, she found it difficult to explain it to her. Besides, Rhys once promised Belle he would marry her, but now that they were together, she felt a little awkward.”

“She didn’t expect Belle to bring it up, which meant that she had already known everything. Lottie was much more at ease when she saw the calm look on Belle.”

“C’mon, tell me the truth. Belle made her confess. They sat down at a white, round table under a shady tree. Belle held a wineglass in her hand and looked at Lottie’s rosy cheeks and dreamy eyes. She knew she was absolutely in love.”

Rhys and I have been seeing each other. Lottie confessed softly.

For how long? Belle asked.

“Half a year since you left, maybe a little longer. He came to my cafeteria, we exchanged numbers, and then... Lottie’s voice got softer and softer, and her face was as red as a tomato.”

“Oh, Belle replied indifferently. Her face dimmed a little and continued to ask, ““Where are you two at?”””

What are you talking about? Lottie puffed out her cheeks as she looked up and asked in confusion.

“Have you guys started talking about marriage? Seeing her confused, Belle continued asking.”

“No, that’s too soon. Lottie shook her head in denial.”

Be honest with me. Belle tapped her fingers on the table and said with a serious tone.

“We’re really not. I swear, Lottie said upsettingly.”

“Then, Belle put her elbows on the table, approached Lottie, and asked mysteriously, ““Have you two slept together yet?”””

“She stared at Lottie with her black, beady eyes, afraid that she would miss any details.”

Oh dear. Since when did you become so mean? Lottie’s face suddenly turned red as she hit Belle’s hand and scolded her.

“Belle looked straight at her embarrassed face, which was as red as a tomato. Thinking back to her fierce, magnetic personality, and declarations about staying single in the past, compared to this woman in front of her who was madly in love. Belle couldn’t help but burst into laughter. ”

“She hadn’t felt this happy for so long. Who would’ve thought, the fTristaness Lottie Cohen, the same one who had never taken men seriously was now feeling embarrassed in front of her. This was a rare occasion. Not only that, if it had nothing to do with Rhys, Lottie wouldn’t have sat down with her for this long. Otherwise, she would have been surrounded by a group of men already.”

Belle thought they were a perfect match and was delighted that they could be together. They were two of her closest friends after all.

“What’s more, Lottie was starting to act more womanly, unlike the scary woman who kept preaching about staying single. Belle was pleased to see that.”

“You won’t blame me, will you? Lottie suddenly asked.”

Why would I? Belle asked in surprise.

Belle thought it was strange for Lottie to think like that.

“I swear that I didn’t mean to steal your boyfriend. Ever since you left, Rhys stayed single and I took it as my cue to make a move. Lottie sincerely.”

Belle’s jaws dropped.

“Besides, I’m doing you a favor, aren’t I? For you to leave such an excellent and handsome man like Rhys, I was worried he might give up on himself and will never love again, or even worse, hurt himself badly. Wouldn’t it be a waste to let go of such a man? So, I took it upon myself to help you deal with the matter. Lottie explained matter-of-factly.”

“Belle swallowed her saliva hard, blinked her eyes, and asked, ““How can you be so sure that you were the one who made the first move? Or have you already slept with him?”””

“Oh, look at you. Women become vulgar after they get married. That’s all they think about. Lottie was getting flustered. She dared to say that it was the first time Belle had teased her like that.”

“Belle was laughing so hard, she was almost out of breath.”

“Hey, watch your image. You are now Calvin’s wife, and a rich and noble madam. People are watching and if the paparazzi manage to capture your less than elegant image, you will tarnish the reputation of the Harvey family. Lottie had to resort to this as she had had enough of Belle’s teasing.”

“As expected, Belle immediately stopped laughing and sat up straight. She put on a serious face but found it hard not to laugh.”

“Lottie, you used to say that women become fools when they fall in love and having witnessed it today, just look at you, Lottie. What a shame. Belle couldn’t help but to chuckle.”

“How can you say that? I’m not as foolish as you. Not only did you hide the fact that you were pregnant with his child, but you also went through fire and brimstone for him like a saint. Even if I was in love, I wouldn’t be as silly as you. Lottie lectured.”

“You wouldn’t say so if you had been madly in love, Belle said, from her experience.”

“She was confident that she had an advantage over Lottie, who had never been in love.”

“Lottie pouted her lips and kept quiet, but in her heart, she swore she wouldn’t be as foolish as Belle, no matter what. She was a shrewd person who would never do anything at a loss.”

“So, you don’t hate me, right? Are we still friends? Even if I’m with Rhys, I still value our friendship. I didn’t want you to misunderstand. That’s why I haven’t said anything until today. Lottie held Belle’s hands and asked nervously.”

“Lottie. Belle sighed and cleared her throat. Then, she held Lottie’s hand and said solemnly, ““I really don’t understand why you thought I would misunderstand you and end our friendship. Rhys and I are nothing more than friends. In fact, you wouldn’t even stand a chance if there was something between us. You need to know that you mean something to Rhys too. I know him well. If he didn’t fancy you, you wouldn’t even be able to get close to him. So, please don’t put yourself down, and don’t make any blind guesses. I knew for a long time that you and Rhys are a perfect match. Besides, nothing would make me happier than seeing two of my closest friends together. What’s more, I’m sure you know who my heart belongs to. If I truly loved Rhys, things wouldn’t end up this way. Believe me, I am much more daring than you when it comes to love.”””

Chapter 406

Lottie looked at her seriously. Her eyes were filled with joy as she finally let her guard down and all her worries were washed away. Their friendship meant the world to Lottie.

“Lottie had to admit it, Belle was much braver and dedicated when it came to love.”

“When she fell in love with Calvin, she loved without any restraint. However, when she decided to give up, she ran away from him as far as she could. No matter how hard he pursued her again, she was indifferent towards him. She stuck to her decisions, no matter what.”

“Compared to Belle, Lottie who saw herself as a master of love had to admit, she suffered a lot because of her concerns and hesitations.”

“Thinking about this, Lottie let out a deep sigh.”

“However, you should still thank me. If it weren’t for me, how could you get to know such an excellent man like Rhys? Belle smiled.”

“Lottie blushed. She held Belle’s hand and said with a serious tone, ““I’m really glad you think that way. In fact, I’ve been feeling uneasy these days. We’ve been best friends growing up and I don’t wish for us to grow distant just because of some misunderstanding. You have no idea how happy I was for you when I saw you walking down the aisle with Calvin. Now that we’ve cleared things up between us, we’re still going to be best friends.”””

“Of course, Belle quickly replied with excitement. There are seven billion people in the world, but Lottie was the only friend who meant the world to her. They had always been truthful to each other. Such an understanding was rare to have. Belle’s eyes welled up with tears as she took Lottie’s hand and said affectionately, ““Lottie, we’re going to be best friends for life. If everything works out, I would like our children to marry each other.”””

Nothing would make me happier. Lottie squealed with delight as her eyes welled up with tears.

They held each other’s hands tightly.

“Come on, let’s have a toast. To our never-ending friendship. Their glasses clinked and made a crisp sound.”

They smiled at each other.

“Then, they heard the sound of a pair of high heels approaching them. It was faint and delicate, but quick and impatient as if the owner of the heels held a grudge against the floor.”

“It was ruthless, precise, and fast.”

“The sound smashed into Belle’s eardrums as if the heels were stepping on her heart, which made her feel uncomfortable and disturbed.”

She furrowed her brows as she turned towards the direction of the sound.

It was a woman with wavy hair and delicate features. Her evening gown made her look beautiful and charming.

She was walking towards them with a smile on her face.

Belle and Lottie looked at each other.

“It was a modest smile, but Belle could feel an inexplicable unease from her expression. The atmosphere was cloaked with a sense of restlessness and danger.”

“Lottie, Mrs. Harvey, glad that I could meet you here. I’ve come to propose a toast. Zoella spoke courteously with a smile hanging on her face as she walked towards them.”

Who was this woman?

“Belle didn’t know who she was. So, she looked at Lottie. She thought maybe Lottie would have the answer since she was the head of the cafeteria and had met many people.”

“Lottie let out a laugh, stood up holding her glass, and said in a carefree manner, ““Miss Yates, you’re here. I’ve heard all about the extraordinary woman president of the Sky Sword Group.”””

Belle understood as soon as Lottie introduced Zoella’s title purposefully. “So this is the head of the Sky Sword Group.” She thought.

“She was a little surprised. It seemed that A City was really a place full of hidden talents. Even the women were more capable, one after another.”

“Even though Sky Sword Group and Jones Group had merged, their power was still far less than the Harvey family at the moment. However, they cannot be underestimated.”

“With a clink, Lottie and Zoella had already finished the wine in their glasses.”

“Here, Mrs. Harvey. Zoella picked up a wine glass from the table and poured Lottie and herself another glass. Then, she handed a glass to Belle and said with admiration, ““Mrs. Harvey, you are indeed as beautiful and as virtuous as people say. You’re so much more beautiful in person than you are on the television. I’ve heard a lot about you. I also hope that the great and powerful Harvey Group would show some mercy towards small companies like us. Cheers.”””

She clinked her glass against Belle’s and gulped all the wine down.

“This woman could really drink! Belle thought. She drank both glasses of wine without even blinking. However, on such an occasion, she should have already drank far more than just these two glasses, yet she looked calm and confident still.”

“I’ve long heard that Miss Yates is straightforward and capable. Now that I’ve seen it for myself, I’m impressed. Belle smiled politely and downed hers too.”

“She was never good at drinking. So, she felt a little dizzy after downing a whole glass of wine. What’s more, she had just finished one with Lottie.”

“Mrs. Harvey, I heard that you went back to work at Harvey Group. What good news! It looks like Harvey Group is heading towards an even brighter future. Do look after us, will you, Ms. Morris? Zoella filled up their glasses once more.”

“Belle’s head was a little dizzy, but it would be rude of her to refuse such a sincere toast.”

“However, if she drank it, she was afraid that she would not be able to hold on and things would go bad if Calvin came looking for her.”

She looked at her glass and frowned slightly. This won’t be easy.

“Just then, Lottie took her glass, smiled, and said, “”Miss Yates, Ms. Morris is feeling a little uncomfortable today. Please, allow me.”””

“Lottie downed the wine, showed Zoella the empty glass, and taunted her. “”Are you satisfied, Miss Yates?”””

“She was obviously trying to get Zoella to leave, indicating that she was not welcomed. It would be indiscreet for her to continue.”

“Zoella, of course, understood what Lottie meant. She immediately smiled and said, “”You can really drink, Miss Cohen. We should meet up for a drink some other day.”””

Of course. You’re welcome to come to my cafeteria anytime. Lottie answered politely. She would never say no to whoever was willing to spend their money in her cafeteria.

Zoella let out a faint smile.

I’m sorry for disturbing you guys. I’ll take my leave.

She left gracefully.

“She’s not someone you’d want to mess with, Lottie muttered as she watched Zoella strode off calmly and confidently.”

How could you tell? Belle asked anxiously as she recovered from the situation.

Intuition. Lottie narrowed her eyes. “I’ve seen countless people. I know I’m right. There’s something devilish about her.”

“When Belle heard this, she couldn’t help but to burst into laughter. “”Didn’t you say that about men? I didn’t know you had a thing for women too.”””

“Trust me. I’m a good judge of character. I have to hand it to her. She was fTristaness facing you. With such a small company, she still had the confidence to propose a toast to you, Lottie said worriedly.”

“Was it a threat? Belle’s heart skipped a beat. Alas, she thought Zoella was showing respect to both of them!”

“You know what, let’s just forget it. Such a wonderful banquet, yet we got disturbed by this woman. How disappointing. Come on, we’re not done chatting. Lottie threw Zoella at the back of her head. She suddenly thought of something and asked in a low and mysterious voice, ““Do you know if Madam Lilian will be coming tonight?”””

“Madam Lilian? Belle thought for a while and said, ““The famous Madam Lilian Bennett?”””

“Yes, that’s her. Lottie clapped her hands and said softly, ““She had other matters to attend to today, but due to her relationship with Mr. Hawk, she decided to come anyway. It won’t be for long though, maybe for two or three hours.”””

“I see. Belle said faintly, then asked curiously, ““What about it? Are you interested even in old ladies now?”””

“Belle stared at Lottie. In the past, she was only interested in men, but how she started showing concern towards older women. The power of love, as strange as it seems, can change a person in an instant.”

“You don’t know about this, do you? Let me tell you, it’s rare for Mr. Hawk to be able to invite Madam Lilian over. Such a character could only be seen over the television and now you get a chance to meet her in person, Lottie said excitedly.”

I didn’t expect you to still pursue a celebrity at this age. Belle gave her a side-eye with a slight disdain in her tone.

“I never pursued celebrities, but for a woman to be able to achieve such powerful political status, it’s a feat. I admire her. What’s wrong with that? Lottie exclaimed.”

“You’re being childish. Belle let out a sigh and put her arms on the white round table and looked Lottie in the eyes. ““So, what does this have to do with us? What’s there for us to be excited about? Have you been living under a rock?”””

“Lottie didn’t know how to refute and her excitement washed away. Not only was she not able to fight back, but she also became more sharp-tongued ever since she remarried. That’s a new side of Belle she hadn’t seen.”

Chapter 407

“Since it has nothing to do with us, we’d better find something else to do. I have a feeling this banquet will not end until midnight and it’s only eight o’clock now. Besides, there are some people I really don’t want to meet, Belle said with a smile as she sat lazily.”

“Well, let’s go. Lottie also stood up, but her eyes were darting around.”

“Hey, since we’re together, you can’t go looking for a man. Belle reminded her.”

I don't know what you're talking about. Lottie was still looking elsewhere. "Let's take a look at the boat over there."

"Several small boats were docked by the lake, and some people had already taken them for a spin. The two of them walked towards that direction."

Would you like to get on? Lottie asked as she took a look at the boats.

"Forget it. With you being so distracted, I'm afraid we might drown. Belle expressed her worries and thought of something else. ""Is Rhys going to be here today?"""

"Lottie's face turned red instantly upon hearing Rhys's name. ""I really can't hide anything from you, can I? He will be here later. His flight has been delayed."""

"Surely enough, the reason she was distracted was because of Rhys."

"Well, since Rhys is coming, I won't be third-wheeling. Go to him as soon as he arrives, Belle said."

"Lottie didn't refuse. At the moment, they stood by the lake and looked up at the sky."

They looked over as soon as they heard laughter coming from behind them.

"In an instant, Lottie said, ""I'll go first. Wait for me here."" Then, she ran away like a gust of wind."

"There must be another wave of guests, including Rhys."

Belle gave a smile and shook her head as she watched Lottie leave.

"The neon lights made the surface of the lake in the distance glitter, but in front of her, the lake was like a black hole, giving off a mysterious aura."

"A cold evening breeze blew, lifting her heavy gown. In an instant, Belle was blown a few steps closer to the lake by the cold breeze."

Panic and terror engulfed Belle.

That was close! She thought.

She muffled a scream. She took a few steps back as her heart pounded fast. She couldn't move a muscle and the hair on the back of her neck stood stiff.

Faint footsteps came from behind.

"Belle's ears perked up, and her heart thumped."

Who's there?

"She looked back, but it was only the sound of the wind blowing on the grass. There was no one in sight."

Looks like it'll be a while before Lottie comes back. I better leave. She thought.

This was horrifying.

Belle anxiously lifted the dress and was about to turn around.

“All of a sudden, she felt a pair of cold strong hands pushing her.”

“Ah! She screamed as she fell forward. In desperation, she supported herself and landed on the grass.”

“When she looked up again, the dark lake was only an inch away from her face.”

Who is it? She bellowed as she tried to recover from the shock.

“The ghostly footsteps quickly disappeared, as if no one else had been there. She looked around with great strain.”

“However, there was only grass as far as she could see.”

“Belle looked as if she had lost her soul, and her face was as pale as a ghost.”

Was someone trying to kill her? That was horrifying! She thought as goosebumps appeared on her skin.

Belle. A deep and warm male voice called out to her.

“The man was dressed in a dark green, military uniform, and looked handsome and heroic in the darkness. His shoulder badge shone like the light of dawn lighting up the darkness.”

“Ser- Sergio, Belle said softly as she came to her senses.”

It was indeed an unusual banquet. Even Sergio came all the way from Capital City. “Did he see anything?” She thought.

“Sergio helped her up and explained, ““I saw a figure lying here in the distance. It looked like you, so I came over.”” He looked surprised but concerned.”

“Even when Sergio tried to help her up, she was still firmly stuck to the grass. Belle lowered her head and realized that her high heels saved her.”

“Fortunately, she had changed into them. If she was wearing the original pair, she would be found dead at the bottom of the lake.”

“She was worried that she would fall, but little did she expect that it would save her life!”

“What’s wrong? Are you not feeling well? How did you end up here? Sergio asked nervously, with a face full of concern.”

“Belle stood up, but the paleness on her face did not diminish.”

“You saw the whole thing, didn’t you, Sergio? Who was here just now? She looked him in the eyes and asked. She had a hunch that the pair of cold hands were a woman’s as they were small. If it was a man, she might not have been able to survive the push.”

“What? Sergio looked at her in confusion. ““What’s wrong, Belle? Saw what? You don’t look so good. Did something bad happen to you?””

Sergio looked at her worriedly.

“I’m fine. Belle shook her head and sighed. She was upset yet was unwilling to give up. She asked, ““Did you not see anyone leave just now?”” ”

“Just now? Sergio thought for a moment and shook his head. ““When I came over, I saw someone on the ground and it looked like you. So, I came and had a look. I didn’t see anyone else.”””

No one has been here? Impossible! She screamed in her heart and shook her head.

“The person really pushed her hard. How could there be no one? However, it was dark here. It was also possible that Sergio could not see her in the distance.”

She finally calmed down after a long while.

“Forget it. If he didn’t see it, then she would not be able to get anything from him. She smiled bitterly, shook her head, and tidied her gown.”

Chapter 408

“Belle, are you alright? Sergio asked with concern.”

“I’m fine. Belle shook her head. Since that person moved so swiftly, it must have been premeditated. She would not be able to find anything even if she wanted to investigate further. Besides, this is a blindspot and there were no cameras in sight. She could only blame herself for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

Belle shook her head in denial and didn’t want to think further.

“Thank you, Sergio. I still have some matters to attend to. She didn’t want to stay there any longer.”

“Belle, let’s have a chat, Sergio said with a smile and tried to persuade her to stay.”

His charming smile and gentle voice made Belle feel at ease.

“Belle relaxed. She didn’t have any special feelings for Sergio, but he didn’t make her feel particularly disgusted. She smiled and said, ““I’ve been here far too long. The only reason I came here was to get away from the crowd.”””

“Yes, there are indeed a lot of people today. Sergio smiled and nodded his head in agreement. ““It seems that Belle also didn’t like this kind of banquet social event.”” He thought.”

Belle gave a faint smile and made no comments.

“Belle, you’re still the same after all these years. You’re noble, upright, and unwilling to socialize with mediocre people. It must be hard for you to maintain your temperament in this world. Sergio praised sincerely.”

“No, I’m also human. Please don’t praise me like this. Belle looked around and did not have the mood to carry on the conversation. What’s more, this place was remote, and there were only two of them. Obviously, it was not inappropriate. She was Mrs. Harvey now.”

“She then smiled politely and said with a hint of impatience, ““Sergio, I didn’t see you when Calvin and I were toasting. I didn’t think I’d see you here. I’ve stayed here for far too long, Calvin must be looking for me. I have to go. Let’s talk another day.”””

She lifted her gown and left.

Belle. Sergio stopped her in time. "I just got off the plane. I arrived late due to something urgent."

"Oh, I see. Belle stopped in her tracks and plastered a smile. However, she did not turn around."

"Belle, you're so beautiful tonight. Among all the women here, you're the most beautiful and pristine. You reminded me a lot of Jen. Sergio praised her from the bottom of his heart."

"Thank you. Belle shook her head and smiled, ""Sergio, I really have to go.""

She lifted her gown again and wanted to leave.

Belle. Sergio really didn't want to let her go.

"Belle had to stop again after taking two steps. It seemed impolite to leave him alone like this. Besides, he had helped her up just now. What's more, she couldn't afford to offend the Xanthe family, who was militarily and politically influential. Not only that, Sergio had a good relationship with her mother back in Wullen Town."

"Congratulations on your wedding with Calvin. I saw it, Sergio said clearly to her back. The smile on his face froze and loneliness crossed his eyes."

"These words made Belle feel completely at ease. When it came to Calvin, a sense of happiness arose in her heart. She turned around and smiled brightly, ""Thank you.""

"At this moment, the panic on her face faded away. She sported a charming and lively smile. It came from the bottom of her heart, filled with self-confidence and happiness."

"She must be very happy now. He couldn't help but to ask, ""Is he good to you?"" He wanted to hear her answer himself."

"Yes. Belle did not hesitate and answered loudly. She raised her head and said, ""Calvin and I are very much in love. He cares about me deeply and we're very happy. I hope that you can find a beloved woman and live happily too.""

Thank you. The smile on Sergio's face was a little stiff.

"Belle smiled again. ""I wish you all the best, and I hope your father's election goes well,"" She said and nodded to him."

"Upon hearing her blessing, Sergio knew she was also concerned about this matter. He thought for a moment, looked up, and smiled, ""Belle, can I talk to you about it?""

"Belle finally understood why he came to see her. It turned out that he wanted her support. She immediately smiled and said, ""I'm sorry, Sergio, the rules of the Harvey family are clear. We can't get involved in politics. As a daughter-in-law, I can only abide by them. There's nothing I can do to change it.""

"She was right. The Harvey family had never been involved in politics. This was Old Master Richard's philosophy. Hence, he led his entire family of over a hundred people back to his ancestral home, A City, and began his business career. This had also been inscribed into the Harvey family's teachings."

“Politics had always been complicated. Old Master Harvey never wished for his descendants to offend any politicians, nor did he wish for their business environment to be overly complicated. Back then, Sophia had only agreed for Lexie to stay in Harvey Manor to protect the family’s traditional business. Secondly, she also didn’t want to offend Tristan. This was something Belle gradually realized when she became the mistress of the family. Therefore, she would not agree to any of Sergio’s requests.”

“Sergio’s heart trembled slightly at her gentle refusal. Her words were polite, but they also emphasized her indifference. There were hundreds of thousands of people in Harvey Group. If they chose to stand by his side, then it would be an obvious advantage, and he wouldn’t have to resort to teaming up with Zoella.”

“Although he saw it coming, it still made him a little uncomfortable as he hadn’t said much about the topic.”

Belle also saw the embarrassment and disappointment on his face.

“Don’t worry, Sergio. Since the Harvey family has no involvement in politics, we won’t support Luqman either. That, I can promise. At present, Mr. Xanthe has a big chance of winning. Cheer up. She smiled and comforted him in a soft voice.”

“Well, thank you. Sergio smiled and was about to say something, only to hear footsteps approaching. “”Belle, there you are. I’ve been looking all over for you.”””

“Calvin’s voice warmed Belle immediately. The fear she had earlier had completely disappeared. “”Calvin, I just came here with Lottie to get away from the crowd,”” Belle explained as she wrapped her arms around his. However, at the same time, she was a little frightened. Perhaps she had been there for far too long, which made him anxious. He did mention that he would be looking for her when he needed her by his side.”

“Silly girl, I came across Rhys and Lottie when I was looking for you and she told me where you were. Calvin sounded worried and upset, but gentle nonetheless, as if he couldn’t bear to blame her.”

“I’m sorry to keep you waiting, Calvin. Belle regretted coming here. She took his arm and said, “”Are we meeting someone? Let’s go.”””

“Calvin nodded. Just as he was about to speak, he saw Sergio. In fact, it was hard not to notice at all.”

“Sergio, you’re here? He frowned and asked politely, with a look of surprise on his face.”

“Belle’s face darkened. Now that he had seen her and Sergio standing in the dark, would he misunderstand? “”D*mn Lottie, for ditching me here. Not only did I almost lose my life, but Calvin would also most likely misunderstand. What an awful friend.”””

“Calvin, I happened to come here for a walk and saw Belle standing here alone. So, I went forward and greeted her, Sergio explained. Belle’s gloomy look did not escape Sergio’s eyes even in such a dark environment.”

“Oh, I see. I’m sorry but Belle has to come with me now, Calvin said, smiling faintly.”

“Okay, then. I’ll walk around. Sergio did not try to keep her any longer.”

“Calvin nodded and gently held Belle’s hand. ““Let’s go, Belle. I’ll take you to meet Madam Lilian.”””

Madam Lilian? Has she really arrived?

Belle was taken aback and she nodded obediently. Calvin led her back to the banquet.

“With Calvin by her side, the fear in her heart had long faded. However, there was still some lingering fear. Should she tell him what had happened?”

“However, if she told him, Calvin would definitely investigate further. It was obvious that this matter had long been premeditated. Even Sergio said that he did not see anyone. So, it would be impossible for him to find anything if he insisted on investigating.”

“The guests were all prominent and famous people. If she made a fuss with no evidence, she would only make a fool of herself and even bring shame to Calvin. It seemed that she could only wait and tell him another day!”

“With these thoughts in mind, she decided to push this matter aside. Belle happily followed Calvin to meet Madam Lilian.”

Chapter 409

Sergio stood in the darkness and watched the couple leave. A hint of coldness flashed in his eyes.

Not involved with politics? Do you think this will prevent the century-old foundation of the Harvey family from being harmed?

“Huh, I’m afraid you’re dreaming.”

“Even if the Harvey family wishes to find a path free of any influence, it would be improbable. Sergio thought.”

The smile on the corner of his mouth was getting colder and colder.

“Calvin, are you angry? I really came here with Lottie. I only met Sergio much later, Belle muttered. He had misunderstood her relationship with Sergio back in Wullen Town. Now, she was afraid of raising his suspicion. Calvin was easily jealous.”

“Silly girl, you are my wife now. Why should I be angry? I believe everything you say. Calvin reassured her with a smile.”

“A broad smile appeared on his face, devoid of any misgivings. His joyful appearance was completely different from the suspicious appearance she had seen previously.”

“Belle could see that he had no prejudice. She felt so sweet that she could melt. True love was about trust and believing in each other. Even in the face of the people whom they had some reservations about previously, they would still be open and easy-going.”

“When you see Madam Lilian later, you must behave your best and show off your graceful demeanour. Is that alright? Calvin changed the topic and said with a smile.”

Belle became nervous and even slowed down her pace as soon as she heard his words.

“As far as social interactions went, she had already attended quite a few of them and could handle them easily. However, it was the first time she would be meeting a high-ranking woman like Madam Lilian. Initially, she wasn’t concerned but she became nervous as soon as Calvin reminded her.”

“Of course, her nervousness did not escape Calvin’s eyes.”

“Calvin laughed and slowed down his steps. He wrapped his arms around her waist, lowered his head, and giggled. ““Silly girl, I’m only joking. Don’t worry. Madam Lilian is lovely and doesn’t put on airs. You just follow my lead. Besides, there will be many people. Everything’s going to be okay.”””

“Only then did Belle let out a sigh of relief, and her whole body relaxed. She chided him. ““You’re really mean, Calvin. You always like to play tricks on me, hmph!”””

“Calvin laughed, held her small hand tightly, and continued walking.”

“Next to the outdoor center stage was a wide square table. Several luxurious white tables and chairs were arranged on each side, and a delicate ring light hung in the air, lighting up the area to resemble daytime.”

“Many guests stood on either side, and the scene was orderly and harmonious. Laughter could be heard from afar.”

“Even though Calvin tried to comfort her, she still felt tense. By some miracle, Belle felt a sense of relief the moment they approached Madam Lilian. In fact, she felt very much at ease. The air was laced with an amiable and lovely scent.”

“As they got closer and closer, Belle caught a glimpse of Madam Lilian.”

“It turned out that Madam Lilian was so elegant and beautiful! She was much more beautiful than the person she saw on television. She was in her seventies, yet her skin was fair and glowing, with only a few wrinkles. No matter how she looked, Madam Lilian looked like she was only in her fifties.”

“Belle was astounded. In her imagination, a female politician would generally be smart and wise. As for looks, it was alright as long as they looked decent.”

“However, Madam Lilian was clearly different. Not only did she have a dignifying appearance, but she also possessed an elegant aura. The confidence and calm aura she exuded was something that an ordinary woman could not give off. Furthermore, she looked like a woman from a wealthy family rather than a globally successful woman.”

“What surprised Belle, even more, was that there was a sense of familiarity from Madam Lilian.”

“Therefore, her heart had calmed down. Belle was more than happy to get close and speak to her. Their conversation flowed naturally and Madam Lilian was pleasant.”

“Madam Lilian, it’s a pleasure to meet you. Calvin walked up with Belle and greeted Madam Lilian.”

Madam Lilian looked at him with a smile. “Are you Mr. Calvin?”

“Yes. Calvin smiled and replied respectfully, ““This is my wife, Belle Morris. It’s a pleasure to meet you.”””

“Oh, the pleasure is all mine. Madam Lilian’s eyes first fell on Calvin’s face. She nodded slightly as if she approved of his looks. She had heard of the young and talented Calvin when she was aboard. However, she had never had the opportunity to meet him personally. When she saw him with her own eyes, she felt that he was indeed imposing, with an extraordinary temperament. She turned her eyes to Belle as soon as Calvin introduced her.”

“As soon as she looked over, she was surprised.”

“Belle was wearing a black and elegant gown. Not only did her beauty stand out from the rest, her elegance and refined temperament easily caught Madam Lilian’s attention.”

“She had high standards when it came to women, especially towards their temperament. There were a lot of pretty women, but there were very few with a pristine disposition. She had seen numerous women by now, but very few were like Belle, who could attract her at first glance.”

“What made her even more surprised was that Belle felt familiar to her, especially her eyes. Madam Lilian was excited. She wanted to get to know Belle better.”

“Perhaps, it was fate.”

“Thinking of this, Madam Lilian looked at Belle with a smile on her face.”

“Nice to meet you, Madam Lilian. Belle smiled and slightly bowed. Her bright eyes were twinkling.”

“Nice to meet you, Mrs. Harvey. Madam Lilian was delighted. ““You are a wonderful woman, Mrs. Harvey. I can already tell, you are well mannered and virtuous. Mr. Calvin is a lucky man.”””

She spoke amiably and sincerely.

The people surrounding them could feel Madam Lilian’s love for Belle. The affection was genuine.

Sergio was standing at the side. He quietly watched all of this while feeling startled.

“Was this due to kinship? Even though they did not know each other, they still naturally showed their affection towards each other. Sergio knew their relationship all too well.”

“As he thought about this, his face contorted. His dark eyes dimmed.”

“Yes, Madam Lilian. My wife is extraordinary. I’m a lucky man to have her. Calvin didn’t hold back his praise.”

“Belle smiled, but her face was bright red.”

Can he stop embarrassing me? How could he praise me so shamelessly? She thought to herself.

“Very well. Madam Lilian said upon hearing Calvin’s praise. She smiled and said to Belle, ““It seems that you guys are in love with each other very much.”””

“Belle smiled shyly and replied, ““Yes, Madam Lilian. We may have been through a lot of ups and downs, but we truly love each other. Our love today won’t come together without any painstaking effort, and we believe that there is indeed true love in the world.”””

She spoke with deep affection and confidence. She looked at Calvin and the two of them smiled at each other as they shared a deep affection for each other.

“Oh, really? That piqued Madam Lilian’s interest. She smiled and said, ““It’s a great thing for a couple to be happily in love. It’s no wonder Harvey Group is prospering. It’s all due to the mutual effort between husband and wife. I hope that we get to sit down and have a meal together someday. I’d love to listen to your stories.”””

“Belle, I like you a lot, she said frankly.”

“Thank you, Madam. I also admire you and feel a sense of familiarity. Belle was ecstatic to hear this and had a better impression of Madam Lilian. ““It’d be an honor to have dinner with you, Madam Lilian. I’d like to invite you to Harvey Manor,”” Belle said sincerely.”

“That would be lovely, Madam Lilian replied. She looked around and felt a little sad. This place had once been filled with her dreams and her poor daughter who had been forced to separate from her, at only one month old. She was dejected at the thought of not being able to find her daughter.”

Chapter 410

“Madam Lilian, it’s rare for you to visit this place. I have prepared a feast based on A City’s culture. Have a taste of our hometown dishes. It will still be noon when you return to Europe. Yezon walked over and invited her.”

“He had personally asked Madam Lilian to come over. She would only be here for three hours. After that, Madam Lilian would have to leave the country to attend an important meeting in the afternoon.”

Madam Lilian had attended the banquet out of respect for Yezon.

“Therefore, he prepared a meal consisting of the local specialties of A city for her, hoping that she would like it.”

“Alright, thank you. Madam Lilian thought for a moment and nodded in agreement. ““Tell you what, you all can have dinner with me.”””

“Don’t worry, Madam Lilian. I have prepared sufficient dishes. Yezon added, ““This way, please.”””

“As he spoke, he held her hand as they walk towards the long dining table.”

“Waiting at the sides of the table stood waiters, bartenders, and chefs, ready to serve. The white napkins on the table were spotless and immaculate.”

Belle looked around. The dining table could accommodate around 30 people. The names of the attendees who were hand-picked to dine with Madam Lilian were placed on each seat.

“She and Calvin were the most successful entrepreneurs in A City. It was only natural that they had the privilege and honor to be there. However, they were still two seats away from Madam Lilian.”

Madam Lilian sat in the seat of honor.

She and Calvin sat on the second and third seats away from Madam Lilian on her left side. On her right were the mayor and secretary. One seat away from Madam Lilian on her left side sat Yezon.

“Sergio had a high position, but that was all to be attributed to his father, Yadriel, who was a high-ranking official. Sergio’s position as the newly appointed head of state security of Capital City was not to be underestimated as well. Hence, he was assigned to the third seat on the right.”

“Elegant music started playing, indicating the commencement of the dinner.”

The waiters served the sumptuous dishes.

“Everyone ate their meals in a refined manner. Even though it was a grand feast, the scene was still quiet and orderly.”

“Belle was even more cautious. She was afraid that if she did something indecent, she would embarrass Calvin.”

“As for Calvin, he was used to this kind of event. He was calm and at ease. When he sensed Belle’s nervousness, he smiled and scooped a meatball for Belle, saying softly, ““Come, try and taste this.”””

“Thank you, Belle whispered. She was embarrassed by Calvin showing a public display of affection. For heaven’s sake, they were in public!”

“Madam Lilian noticed them. She picked a meatball up as well with a smile and took a bite of it. The familiar taste warmed her heart. She blurted out, ““Present and past, fleeting and fast.”””

She recited a poem. The light in her eyes dimmed.

“Infinite and untamed, only time will remain. Belle ate the meatball and recalled something, being slightly absent-minded. When Madam Lilian finished reciting the line, she continued without a second thought.”

“As soon as she concluded her poem, Madam Lilian immediately turned to look at her.”

How do you know this poem? Her eyes shone and she asked in surprise.

“When Belle heard Madam Lilian’s question, she realized that she had spoken out loud. Ashamed, she smiled and said, ““I’m sorry, Madam Lilian. I’ve made a fool of myself.”””

“No, child, tell me, how did you know this poem? Madam Lilian asked kindly, shaking her head. There was an urgent and desperate expression on her face.”

“This... Belle thought for a bit and said sheepishly, ““When I was young, my mother often recited this poem. I didn’t know who the poet was, but I remembered it. Today, when I heard you reading it aloud, I subconsciously continued as well. I’m sorry.”””

“I see. Madam Lilian became more excited. She asked with great interest, ““Who is your mother?”””

“When Belle heard this, she was even more embarrassed. Since Madam Lilian had asked, she decided to answer her question simply, in a decent manner.”

“Madam Lilian, my mother is just an ordinary woman. But in my eyes, she is the noblest of women.”

“When Belle thought of Kate’s disabled legs, her heart ached. In the middle of such a high-class occasion, mentioning her mother more or less made her feel sorrowful. After finishing that sentence, she tried to cover up the past and did not want to continue.”

“However, Madam Lilian wanted to hear more. She probed even further. ““Tell me, how did your mother know this poem?””

“Belle lifted her bright eyes and blinked, shaking her head as she said, ““Madam, I’m sorry. I don’t know. Mother has never talked about it. She may have just heard it from someone else and memorized it unintentionally.””

“She really didn’t know. When she was a child, Kate often recited the poem and she had memorized it.”

Oh. Madam Lilian nodded and pondered. She turned her head and once again began to size Belle up.

“Next to her, Yezon’s thoughts were clear. Seeing that Madam Lilian was interested in Belle, he took the initiative to stand up and made an offer. ““Madam, allow Mrs. Harvey to sit by your side. I’ll exchange seats with her.””

“Alright, thank you. Madam Lilian didn’t hesitate to express her gratitude with a smile.”

“Yezon glanced at the waiter, and a waiter immediately stepped forward to switch Belle’s tableware with Yezon’s.”

“Then, Belle sat next to Madam Lilian subsequently. Belle felt as if she was dreaming. However, she was eager to close in with Madam Lilian and was very willing to approach her.”

“Child, you and I are kindred spirits. Come, try this. Madam Lilian picked up a sweet meatball and placed it on Belle’s plate.”

Thank you. Belle was flattered. She quickly thanked her.

“To be honest, it was Belle’s favourite. She immediately picked it up and put it into her mouth.”

Do you like it? Madam Lilian asked amiably. Her gaze was kind as if she was looking at her own beloved granddaughter.

“Watching from the side, Sergio was scared out of his wits, and his palms were sweaty.”

“It’s delicious. Thank you, Madam. After Belle swallowed the sweet meatball, she smiled and thanked her.”

“Does your mother often cook this for you? She asked, smiling.”

“Belle blinked and nodded happily. ““Yes, she often cooked this for me back then. It’s tasty.””

“When it came to her mother and childhood memories, Belle couldn’t help but to smile brightly. She was wholeheartedly immersed in happiness.”

“When she was a child, she was the apple of her parents’ eyes. She was content to have a blissful family. Her face was full of hope for a bright and joyous future, but later on...”

“That vivid expression moved Madam Lilian, but the bright smile on Belle’s face gradually faded away, covered by a mist of sorrow and sadness.”

“Madam Lilian was surprised by Belle’s expression and it subconsciously made her feel sad for her as well. She couldn’t help but to put her hand on hers and asked softly, “”Is there a dark birthmark on the right side of your mother’s back?”””

“She looked at Belle with hopeful eyes, as if she was anticipating the answer she wanted. However, Belle blinked her eyes and thought for a while, then shook her head in confusion. The doubtfulness in her eyes was obvious.”

“The light in Madam Lilian’s eyes dimmed, and there was even a moment of desolation. It was concealed in no time.”

“Oh, you see, a good friend of mine asked me to find someone. When I saw you, I thought of her. Thus, I decided to ask you about that Madam Lilian saw the bewilderment in Belle’s eyes and explained to her. Somehow, this woman’s every move affected her, and she couldn’t help but to want to provide an explanation. Even if the explanation was only partially true, she also couldn’t help but say it out.”

“Oh, I see. Belle relaxed and smiled. She said in a solemn manner, “”Madam, my mother is just an ordinary woman. She won’t be the person your friend is looking for.”””

“She knew her limits. If it was a good friend of Madam Lilian, she would be either a high official or a wealthy woman. Her mother was an ordinary woman. How could they have any relation to Madam Lilian’s friend? It was impossible. Thus, she immediately shook her head and denied it.”

“No, child. I think your mother must be a great woman. If she can raise such an excellent daughter like you, she must be a great mother. I really hope that I can have the chance to visit your mother. Although she did not hear what she wanted, Madam Lilian still expressed that sincerely.”

“Thank you for your compliment, Madam. I think Mother would be so happy to hear your praise, Belle answered happily.”

“Belle didn’t think much of Madam Lilian’s sudden interest in her mother. After all, they were all women. Madam Lilian might have done it out of courtesy.”

“Well, child, your mother must be very happy when she sees that you are living such a happy life now. Madam Lilian asked enviously, looking at Belle.”

“Yes, she is. She is pleased to see the loving life between my husband and me. Belle did not deny it, and her eyes were shining like stars. She met Madam Lilian’s gaze, and the happiness on her face was so obvious.”

“Yes, I can see that Mr. Calvin loves you a lot. Congratulations. Couples must learn to love and respect each other. You’ll have an unexpected harvest. Madam Lilian smiled benevolently and reminded her patiently.”

“Alright, Madam. Thank you for your teachings. Belle smiled sweetly.”

Madam Lilian nodded along with her with a smile.

