Go After 411

Chapter 411

"During the meal, Belle's and Madam Lilian's conversation went on to be calmer and more relaxing. The atmosphere seemed like it was not a grand banquet, but more like a casual gathering. It was friendly and easy-going."

"This banquet was the most delightful and longest meal attended by Madam Lilian, just because Belle was sitting by her side."

"In fact, the others who were accompanying Madam Lilian were of more importance, yet she was having fun chatting with Belle throughout the dinner. She at times behaved like a child, talking about delicacies, and exciting experiences with Belle, completely ignoring the whole table full of people who were there to see her."

Her delighted laughter could be heard from time to time.

Time passed very quickly just as they were enjoying their conversation. She stood up in reluctance as they were about to separate and leave.

"Before leaving, she turned around to take Belle's hand and said in a friendly manner, ""My child, I have enjoyed myself a lot tonight. Thank you for keeping me company. If there is a chance, I hope to have dinner with you again.""

"Madam, I enjoyed myself as well. Thank you very much and I also hope to have dinner with you again. Belle was especially happy. The banquet that day was the happiest one among the few banquets she had attended. It was the most relaxing one and it also gave her a whole new perspective about the future banquets she was going to attend. From her previous assumptions, banquets were for those so-called nobles or the upper class people to show off to each other. They pretended to be high-profile and hypocritically dealt with the guests, and no one could see through each other's actual thoughts. However, Belle felt that everything was different that day. She really felt Madam Lilian's sincerity. She was just a kind and lovely old lady with a lonely heart. Her heart was full of yearning for love and a family."

"Come, my child. This is my business card. Do contact me if you happen to be coming to Europe. I will take some time out to meet up with you. Before Madam Lilian left, she handed a business card to Belle."

"Thank you, I will do so. Belle's eyes were slightly moist. It didn't matter whether Madam Lilian was inviting her over sincerely or not, she was still really moved that Madam Lilian was treating her so well."

"Who was Madam Lilian? She was a celebrity in international politics. Not to mention whether she would get to meet her even if she went there, it was still highly unlikely of her actually to meet her on her own. Nevertheless, she still treasured the business card."

"It was just because of this elderly woman's sincerity. At least, from her point of view, what she saw was a senior lady's kind heart, not the world-renowned Madam Lilian."

Several men in black uniforms with guns surrounded and guarded Madam Lilian. A secretary who was wearing glasses wrapped a shawl around Madam Lilian's neck and escorted her to a limousine.

"Everyone stopped in their tracks, watching as the group of people walked away."

"Before finally getting in the car, Madam Lilian turned back and waved to everyone. Belle could still see the gentle smile on her face."

She gripped the business card that still had Madam Lilian's warmth in her hand. Her mind couldn't calm down for the moment.

Madam Lilian and her entourage soon disappeared from their sight.

"Belle, I didn't expect Madam Lilian to think so highly of you and like you so much. It looks like you really are a woman who attracts people's good graces. Lottie was the first to rush forward as she congratulated Belle enviously."

Being able to obtain Madam Lilian's personal business card was almost a rare occurrence. It was as if she had never ever heard of anyone being able to bear such an honor before.

"Many people who were present, including the mayor, Sadiva, and the secretary, Finley, were all surprised. They did not expect the daughter of Ethan Morris, the late official, to be so favored by Madam Lilian. They felt that if Belle hadn't married Calvin and gained the title of Mrs. Harvey, she would not have been important enough to attend the banquet. It was basically impossible for her even to meet Madam Lilian."

"However, the fact was that she was successfully married to one of the world's richest businessmen. That day, she attended the banquet."

"Perhaps, it was all fate. The graceful and mighty Calvin still loved and doted on her so much, and her parents-in-law were all very kind to her. This woman's life was really too wonderful."

"Sergio watched them from the beginning to the end, and he was finally relieved. Madam Lilian failed to identify with Belle at last. Maybe there wouldn't be a chance for them to meet again after that parting. Otherwise, it would be really difficult for them to deal with the aftermath, and he might not be able to explain it to Zoella."

The banquet finally ended.

"Lottie, how could you value your boyfriend more than your own friend by leaving me alone? Belle saw Lottie and thought of how she abandoned her. She almost died because of that and was almost misunderstood by Calvin. Belle couldn't help being angry as she blamed Lottie."

Lottie chuckled awkwardly.

"Jen. It was still an affectionate nickname, but Belle seemed to feel that something had changed. Although she had never loved Rhys before, he had played along with her. There was a kind of vague relationship between them. Although they did not fall in love with each other, she had a faint sense of dependence on him. After all, he used to be so selfless towards her. Now that he had Lottie by his side, his kindness to her would inevitably be transferred to someone else. This was normal for human beings, even if it was a person whom they didn't love, they would still feel a sense of loss when that person suddenly left their side."

"However, what made her happy was that Rhys ended up together with her best friend. This surprised her, as it proved that he had a good eye. The duo would be happy in the future. They would remain good friends, and their relationship would surely get closer. It was a good thing that she saved their friendship at the same time. The most important thing was that Lottie would finally accept a man, which saved her from the worry deep inside her heart."

"Rhys, how good it is for me to see you being with Lottie. Lottie is a straightforward person. You should treat her well in the future, dote on her, and not bully her. Belle smiled, looked at Rhys, and solemnly told him. She drank some wine with Madam Lilian, and she was in a good mood, feeling as if she was among the clouds. Still, she did not forget to remind..."

"Alright, don't worry. I will do as you say. Rhys gave Belle an elegant smile and turned his gentle gaze towards Lottie."

Lottie stood by his side and smiled shyly. The usually cool Lottie was acting like a little girl at that moment. Belle was secretly amazed. Love was really an amazing thing.

"It's already getting late. Let's go home first. After Calvin greeted some famous political figures, he strode over and spoke intimately with his arms around Belle's waist."

"Hello, Mr. Atkinson. He greeted Rhys at the same time. Since knowing that Belle had never loved Rhys, Calvin's prejudice against him was completely resolved. Thinking about how jealous he was of Rhys and the unreasonable trouble he caused him in the past, he would still feel somewhat embarrassed."

"Greetings, Mr. Harvey. Rhys nodded at Calvin politely and said in a solemn manner, ""Mr Harvey, you have finally attained the beauty in your arms as you wished. I hope you will cherish Belle in the future, and you both must live happily. Otherwise, Lottie and I will not spare you."""

"Of course I will. Calvin gave a hearty and unrestrained smile as he teased Rhys. ""Mr. Atkinson, it seems that you are so deep in love. After dating Lottie, even your way of speaking is becoming similar to hers."""

"After that, he said to Lottie with a smile, ""Miss Cohen, I should remind you not to control men too much. If Mr. Atkinson becomes like you, then there will be one less gentlemanly man in the world. You will be guilty of it. For the sake of all men, I advise you to find a way to change yourself and make yourself more ladylike."" As he said this, Calvin laughed out loud."

"His words made Lottie's cheeks puff out in anger. She placed her hands on her hips and was about to start cursing Calvin. However, when she thought of Rhys standing beside her, her anger subsided in an instant. She huffed and glared angrily at Calvin."

"Haha! Calvin burst out laughing once again. Now, that was a relief! Lottie had scolded him countless times for Belle's sake. It was finally his turn to tease her."

"Belle, take a look at your man. What is he? He holds grudges so easily. How narrow-minded he is. Once you go back, you'd better punish him well. Lottie did indeed remember her determination to return to being a lady. At that moment, she could only hold back the urge to curse and merely complained to Belle."

"Lottie, Calvin was just joking around with you. Don't mind him. He's just being mischievous. Don't worry. I'll help you vent your anger later on. Belle smiled and said to Calvin, ""That's enough. Let's go. The sun will eventually rise if we're not going to leave."""

Okay.

"I will listen to you, honey."

See you!

"Calvin put his arm around Belle's waist. He waved his hand at Rhys and Lottie. The both of them walked away, chatting and laughing."

"Lottie, don't forget to bring Rhys to Harvey Manor for a meal. After taking a few steps away, Belle turned back and bade Lottie these few words."

Sure. Lottie's crisp laughter came from behind.

"What are you doing? Are you trying to bring men over to our house? Calvin asked deliberately, hugging her."

"So, if Rhys happens to come over, are you going to fight with him? Belle knew that he was just saying it jokingly, So, she couldn't help but to ridicule him."

"Her words made Calvin recall the past and those grievances back then. He felt happy and embarrassed at the same time. Gnashing his teeth, he said, ""You d*mned woman, how can you still tease me? Now, you are in my hands. All the grievances I suffered before the marriage must be given back to you. Just wait for me to punish you."""

"After saying that, he picked her up with his bulky arms and tried to kiss her on the lips."

"Calvin, don't do that. Look after your image. She blocked his incoming lips and protested. They were still not far from the banquet hall and people were still moving around. This man was simply too daring."

Alright then. Calvin smiled and let her go. He picked her up and carried her towards the car.

Let's see how you will plead with me tonight. I won't let you go until I'm satisfied. His threatening voice rang vaguely in Belle's ear.

"The soft chuckles from the two of them spread across, far and wide."

Chapter 412

"Tsk, they're so in love. Sergio, did you see that? They are so happy, and the Harvey Group is prospering. Even Madam Lilian adores Belle. It seems that we can't compare to them. Zoella walked to Sergio's side and clicked her tongue in wonder."

"If she was right, Sergio intended to approach Madam Lilian that night but did not succeed. Madam Lilian was treating Belle so well and was even eager to be with her. There was no chance for Sergio to get closer to Madam Lilian."

What did this mean?

"It showed that Madam Lilian was hard to approach, and she treated everyone differently. She looked kind, but she was shrewd, and definitely not stupid at all. Madam Lilian definitely knew why Sergio wanted to approach her. If she didn't give him the chance, it meant that she didn't care about all those things at all."

What do you mean? Sergio turned back and glared at Zoella.

"I'm just stating the facts. That's all. Zoella shrugged her shoulders and put the leather bag beneath her underarm. She held Sergio. ""Come on, Sergio. Let's go to the hotel in front to have a drink."""

"It was only then that Sergio felt hungry. Although there was plenty of food that night, he felt restricted due to his identity. He hadn't eaten anything at all."

"After thinking about it, he decided to leave with her."

"They sat down in the private dining room. After Zoella ordered the dishes, she lifted her head and asked, ""How's that? Sergio, have you thought it over? Are you going to cooperate with me? I gave you a lot of time as well as the best offer. If you don't prepare for your father's election now, it'll be too late to help you by that time."""

Zoella's expression was solemn. She seemed to appear considerate and cared about his interests.

"Do you have the ability to oppose the Harvey Group? Sergio asked, sceptical. Was that woman really just trying to take revenge? No matter how she put it, her actions were strange."

"Logically speaking, I couldn't stand a chance. However, anything is possible, especially if you join us. You'll be able to get closer to Belle too. I'll find a way to send her to you. Whether you succeed or not, that will depend entirely on you, Zoella said in a carefree manner, her face full of confidence."

"Sergio looked at her and thought of the petrochemical factory in Wullen Town. Kyrie sent a message, saying that people with unknown identities often wandered around the factory these days. Although he could not confirm whether it was Calvin who sent them, he knew that Calvin did have insider information. At this moment, Sergio must make sure that nothing could harm Yadriel, especially the petrochemical factory. Calvin would not give up easily on the chemical plant."

"Was there any point in considering a large enterprise that was of no help to him, even repressed his economic profits, or that got hold of his shady deals?"

"Sergio's eyes dimmed. He clenched the red wine glass, lifted his head and chugged it down. He then put the glass heavily down on the table. His face was ruthlessly colored. ""Zoella, if you want to use me to do something against the prospects of my family's political career, I will not be lenient to you. Also, I hope that you will take action and do more than merely paying lip service to me. As for the contract, other than accepting 30% of your company's pure profit, I will not sign any other contract with you. There are some things that don't have to be written in black and white. I can tell you clearly that if you try to play any tricks, I will not let you go. I have mastered every move of yours. You are not the only one who is good at scheming."""

"After that, he stared at her with his cold eyes."

"Zoella was stunned and her eyes gleamed. She knew that he refused to sign a contract because he didn't want to leave any evidence behind. Politicians had lots of tricks. She had heard much about Yadriel's and Sergio's manipulation tactics. If she didn't intend to take down the Harvey Group to avenge her father, she wouldn't have to work with them. However, there was no other way. She needed his help now. Especially when she heard that he was about to be appointed the head of state security, she became more desperate."

"As long as she could destroy the Harvey Group and leave Calvin with nothing, she was willing to pay any price."

"Zoella smiled and said, ""Sergio, I understand what you meant. We have a mutually beneficial relationship. Don't worry, you are not my enemy. I will never do anything to hurt you. Please trust me."""

Deal. Sergio nodded and drank another glass of red wine.

"Alright, cheers to our win. Zoella picked up a red wine glass and gulped it down in one go."

Calvin carried Belle down from the electric car and strode towards the living room.

"Belle had kicked her high heels off and her two delicate, little feet were dangling in the air. Calvin held her in his arms and she looked at the trees as they walked by, giggling."

"Lower your voice. Calvin had drunk a lot of wine and felt hot all over. He was aroused by Belle's movements. Afraid that they would wake the others up, he warned her in a soft voice."

"Calvin. Belle stretched out her arms hugged his neck, saying softly, ""Madam Lilian is very kind. I feel like I have known her for a long time. I like her a lot. I enjoyed today's banquet."""

"Yes, she likes you because you're a nice woman. She's not that easy to get along with. Many government officials wanted to get close to her, but they failed to do so. Calvin thought of the enthusiasm and kindness Madam Lilian had shown towards Belle that night. It didn't look like she was pretending. He felt odd. If he hadn't seen it with his own eyes, it would be difficult for him to believe it. At the moment, the corner of his mouth curled up, and he was somewhat proud of her."

What did this mean? This meant that his woman was excellent enough to have Madam Lilian like her as well. It also showed that he had good taste.

"As soon as they reached the second floor, he kicked the door open and pressed her against the wall, leaned in and dove into a fervent kiss."

"Belle whined. Her mind was lacking oxygen. She felt as if she couldn't breathe at all. His tongue moved against hers, and she tasted him. The warm tones of the light made her cheeks flush and look flirtatious."

"Calvin lifted one of her legs impatiently and wrapped it around his waist. He slipped his hands into her gown. Soon, he removed her small underwear..."

"Belle felt as if she was going to die. She stretched out her hands and hugged his neck tightly, her body tensed. The intoxicating waves of pleasure came one after another, leaving her wanting more. It happened repeatedly. Only when she couldn't stand it anymore, did he fill her up in time?"

"As a result of a night of passion, Belle felt sore all over the next day when she woke up. Calvin was sleeping soundly."

"Calvin, wake up. It's time to go to work. Belle got up, and the warm smell left by their passionate indulgences still lingered. She drew the curtains, and the scenery of spring outside was lovely. Birds were chirping. It was cheerful and lively."

"There would be an important meeting that day and they would have to set up the global sales network studio. They needed to expand their business operation due to the increasing demands as well as for the convenience of work. As long as the network was launched, all the orders, sale, and stock over the globe could be seen clearly. It could reduce manpower and save costs. Moreover, it could be used for online business trading. The project needed more time to complete, as a result of the poor network in some countries, but Belle was determined to execute the task."

"As long as she had this system in place, management of the automobile business would be far easier."

"What's the rush? We can go to work in the afternoon. There will be people in the studio. Calvin didn't care. As a boss, he didn't need to stay in the office all day. He went to work as he liked, as long as he could control the overall situation. Belle didn't think so. Calvin could do that, but as a vice president, she couldn't be late all the time. She had to set a good example."

She had been late several times due to Calvin's unreasonable pestering in the last few days.

"As a newly appointed executive, if she were to be muddled by Calvin's unprincipled actions, her integrity would falter."

"She turned back to look at Calvin, who was still sleeping soundly. She could not be bothered with him anymore and was in a hurry. After having breakfast, she took the car keys and went out alone."

"Hello, Ms. Morris. When Belle arrived at The Harvey Group, employees stood up and greeted her as she walked past."

"Belle nodded in response, one by one. She wore a silver dress with her hair tied up, her sturdy high heels making a crisp, tapping sound on the floor. She looked clean and neat."

"After clocking in at the front desk, she checked the image of the public relations and sales department employees. Under her request, every department's staff had to report their work the day before to their manager. The head of each department would then have to summarize the feedback, create new guidelines, and enforce rewards and punishments."

"All employees had to be at their best form at work. If they were not up to par, they could go home and rest."

"Belle also paid for new work outfits. In less than a month, the whole company was in a brand new state and had a refreshing, new look."

"As for the company's management, she had implemented a lot from her work experience in the Atkinson Company to make up for her shortcomings. This was her unique calibre."

Chapter 413

"As soon as Belle reached the 88th floor, she saw a long line of people waiting in front of the door. All of them were managers who would be presenting documents to her."

"Good morning, Ms. Morris. Everyone was busy greeting her when they saw her walk over."

Good morning. Belle smiled and opened the door of her office.

They soon got down to business.

The whole process was efficient and fast.

"There were only two people left in the row. One was the director of the global manufacturing manager, Mr. Benson Parker, while the other was the global sales manager, Mr. Yaris White."

"After a moment of silence, Mr. Parker walked in first."

"Ms. Morris, please take a look at the recent manufacturing process of the cars. Mr. Parker walked in and nodded politely to Belle, handing over the document with both hands."

"Thank you. Belle took the document and looked briefly at the report, using a red pen to mark some of the places. Raising her chin, she waved to Mr. Parker and gently turned the document on the table. Soon, the file was facing Mr. Parker."

"She lowered her eyes, but her chin was held high. She lifted her arm and pointed at the places marked with the red pen, stating clearly, ""Mr. Parker, these sizes here are wrong. There's something wrong with the manufacturing procedure. Report again to me after you have found out the details.""

"Mr. Parker's heart skipped a beat. As a production manager, he did not manage to notice the problem but Belle pointed it out in a few seconds. It was worthy of her reputation."

"In fact, such mistakes would often occur. There were countless times when large amounts of raw materials had been wasted. It was not that they weren't meticulous enough, but the measurements of parts they bought were off the mark. In this way, they had to further modify the production materials in their factory. The raw cost would certainly increase in the process. Previously, when he showed it to Mr. Harvey, he didn't even point it out."

It seemed that this lady vice president really had a unique experience in automobiles.

"Mr. Parker, small mistakes tend to lead to large problems. You have to be more careful when it comes to the production of cars. Even if it is just a small control or a screw, it will cause disasters. Not to mention that the brakes from the last incident had tarnished the reputation of Harvey Group. Such a matter should never happen again, Belle said solemnly. Although she did not have much experience with the production of cars, she had dealt with several similar accidents when she was at Atkinson Corp. One of the main reasons Atkinson Corp went downhill was because they were not aware of it."

That was why she would not allow such a thing to happen to Harvey Group.

"Ms. Morris, I have to tell you something. There are some parts in the warehouse that were purchased from relatives of the Harvey family. They come from different sources. Hence, they deviate greatly. The parts and materials needed in the production process are faulty. Mr. Parker was a smart person and he knew that Belle might be able to handle something Calvin could not. There were some things that they

had no choice but to do. After mentioning it several times but it did not work, they had no choice. No matter what, they had to try to see if it would work. That was the matter of leadership. The Harvey Group was the lifeblood of the Harvey family. If they would like to, then he would not have anything to say. However, they could not let the headquarters take full responsibility for it. Hence, he had mentioned it very tactfully."

"At this point, Mr. Parker's words were already obvious enough. Belle was sharp, as she immediately understood the crux of the problem and her eyebrows knitted."

"She nodded calmly and said with a faint smile, ""Go back and correct these mistakes first. Tomorrow, bring Kirston Sotomayor, the purchasing manager here."""

"She didn't give much response. Benson didn't understand her intentions. So, he nodded and turned around, walking out."

"Belle looked at his retreating figure, pondered for a moment and turned on the computer."

"Nice to see you, Mr. Levin! Seeing Mr. Levin appear on the screen, she immediately greeted him with a smile."

"Hello, ma'am. Good to see you again. Jersey saw the smart and capable Belle in a professional suit in the video. His eyes lit up and he spoke with a smile."

"Yes, Mr. Levin. I haven't seen you for long. How are you? She asked with concern, smiling gracefully."

I'm good. It's all thanks to you. Jersey laughed heartily in the video.

"Well, Mr. Levin, I want to ask you a question... Belle's tone was as moderate as possible and her words were clear. In a short while, she knew what had caused the brakes to malfunction and obtained the answers to several questions. After the pleasantries, she ended the video call."

"So, it was true!"

"With Jersey, an expert in car production, how could there be such a low-level mistake? It turned out that there were parasites that had caused trouble."

"Thinking of that, she smiled coldly and came up with an idea."

"In the end, Belle summoned Mr. White in."

"Mr. White, how is it going? How is the progress of the global sales network? Can it be formally established today? As soon as Mr. White came in, Belle immediately asked him and went straight to the topic."

"Mr, White met her serious gaze and thought for a moment before saying, ""Ms. Morris, we have recruited two computer experts. The other aspects are in preparation. It can be formally established today, but it still needs some time to start operating.""

"Okay. Belle stood up and said, ""Let's check out your studio."""

"Alright. Mr. White nodded hurriedly. The two of them headed down the stairs, one after the other."

Belle cleared an office on the right side of the 86th floor to set up Mr. White's main computer room.

"It has already been cleaned up, and the room was full of all kinds of computers."

"When Belle walked in, only two staff members were busy in front of the computer."

Ms. Morris is here for an inspection. You guys can stop now. Mr. White told the two busy employees as soon as he walked in.

"Ms. Morris, it's nice to meet you. The two staff members hurriedly stood up and welcomed Belle."

"Belle's eyes lit up. The young woman in front of her was dressed in a long dress. She was short-haired and had a pair of bright eyes. Her voice was sweet. Even when she greeted Belle, she was well-mannered."

"She looked kind of weak and fragile, yet she was charming. Was she a computer expert?"

"Belle was somewhat surprised, and there was an indescribable feeling in her heart."

What's your name? Why aren't you in your uniform? Belle questioned with her face full of doubt as she sized her up.

"Ms. Morris, her name is Liya. She is a computer expert who has just been recruited today. It's her first day of work. So, she hasn't received the uniform yet, Mr. White explained."

"Belle frowned and was about to speak when she heard Liya speaking with ease, ""Hello, Ms. Morris. My name is Liya. I graduated from B University in Capital City and obtained a bachelor's degree in computer science. Today is my first day working at Harvey Group. Ms. Morris, please give me a chance to show my expertise."""

She was eloquent and quick to respond.

Alright. Her capable disposition was in line with Belle's expectations. There were a lot of women who studied computer sciences. She couldn't dismiss Liya just because she was a woman. She herself studied car design!

Why do you want to work here? Belle gave an approving smile and asked faintly.

"Harvey Group has excellent developmental prospects. The company provides vast opportunities for ambitious young people with good benefits. It's an honour to work in Harvey Group, and I've been looking forward to it for a long time. Liya held the hem of her clothes with her hands, lowered her head, and answered in a serious tone. Her long eyelashes fluttered, making her look smart and sincere."

"Belle nodded. Liya was a young woman who had great respect for the Harvey Group. It seemed that she could not reject her, as she was so enthusiastic about coming to work for Harvey Group."

"Alright, then do your best. Don't worry. As long as you have the skills, Harvey Group will never mistreat anyone with high aspirations. She nodded and smiled, turning around to look at Mr. White."

"Are you sure that only with a team of two experts, you will be able to complete this project?"

"Actually, an expert is enough. Their main task is to design the system. Hence, the others will not be able to put themselves to good use if there are too many of them. Mr. White's face was full of smiles as he continued. ""Furthermore, Liya worked as an engineer at a well-known company for years. She is talented. So, I am confident in her skills."""

"Alright. Belle nodded and once again shifted her gaze towards the woman named Liya. Liya immediately lifted her head and assured her. ""Don't worry, Ms. Morris. I'll try my best to complete the task as soon as possible."""

It seemed that this woman not only had a high IQ but also a high EQ. She knew how to convince her boss.

"Okay. Belle cast a meaningful glance at Liya and said decisively, ""I'll tell you what, Mr. White. Recruit more people if you need manpower. Or, you can transfer someone from the computer engineering department to complete this system. I want it to work as soon as possible."""

"Rest assured, Ms. Morris. We will do our best. Mr. White understood and nodded with a positive attitude."

Belle smiled slightly. She inspected the studio again and then walked out.

"As soon as she came out and arrived at the staff office space, she saw Calvin walking over. His gaze was stern and bright, and his aura overbearing, cold. His face was devoid of emotions as he was on a phone call. From time to time, he would not and mumble 'yes' in response."

"He listened to the call as he walked. With every step he took, he looked elegant."

"Aron followed him, holding a custom-made handbag."

The two looked serious.

Chapter 414

"Good morning, Mr. Harvey. Everyone in the hall stood up and called out respectfully in unison. Their voices were loud and clear."

"Calvin did not look at them. His eyes were fixed on the ground. He casually waved his hand in the air, indicating to them to sit down. Then, he led Aron forward with large strides."

"He's so handsome. Belle cheered for him in her heart. She tilted her head and appreciated the tall and graceful temperament Calvin showed. His commanding demeanour was not something that could be built within a short period. It came from years of confidence, training, and a rich environment."

"Calvin grew up privileged and had been trained to be a leader, which helped him achieve his current accomplishments."

"She stood there absent-mindedly. They were married. Although they loved each other, she sometimes still felt like it was a dream."

"As he walked over with calm and confidence, she didn't dare show her affection or even talk to him in public, as they were still working. She only ended up standing still and admiring him."

"Belle's grandfather was once Brooklyn's trusted subordinate, and he returned to A City, along with the Harvey family. However, as a result of him meeting an untimely death, and her father being too straightforward and upright, their family didn't do well in the political arena. Her eldest uncle, Albert Morris, was also a good-for-nothing."

"Although she could be regarded as the descendant of a prestigious family, the affairs of the world were unpredictable. Now, she was only considered a lady living in genteel poverty."

"While she was still lost in her thoughts, Calvin had already walked up to her side. He noticed Belle, who was standing aside in a daze."

"Greetings, Ms. Morris. Aron greeted her respectfully when he saw her."

Only then did Belle come back to her senses and looked at Calvin in a panic.

"Their eyes met. In just a split second, Belle withdrew her gaze and pursed her lips as she swiftly walked towards the elevator."

Calvin frowned.

"D*mn woman, why did she pretend not to see him? What did that mean?"

"With that thought in mind, he went to the sales department."

"Belle frantically returned to the office. She sat in front of the computer, sorted out some information, joined a video conference, and then the morning had passed."

"At noon, Calvin brought her to Grand Hyatt Apartments as usual."

"Calvin, I have something to tell you. After the meal, Belle sat on the sofa and began to speak seriously, after contemplating for some time."

What is it? Calvin sat down and picked up the newspaper beside the couch.

"Do you remember the incident where the brakes had been recalled? She asked with some strain, sitting up firmly."

"An icy light flashed across Calvin's eyes. The economic loss caused by the defective brakes were secondary but the reputation of the company was severely affected. Calvin wanted to further inquire about it for a long time, but with Belle coming to work in the company these days, he was in a good mood. Hence, he had forgotten all about it. Now that he heard her question, he immediately recalled it again."

"Yes, I've ordered Mr. Parker to investigate, he replied gently, lifting his head."

Have you found out the reason? Belle probed.

"This... Calvin was at a loss for words. He had forgotten to ask. ""Oh, he hasn't replied yet."""

He answered evasively.

"There was a hint of sarcasm in Belle's eyes, and the corners of her mouth curled up."

"What's wrong? Is there any problem? Calvin knew that there must be something wrong, since she asked. Perhaps it was more than just a few problems. After all, she was adept when it comes to automobiles."

I consulted Mr. Levin today. The reason for it was that one of the parts had been bought from an external vendor and the quality was poor. Belle gave a detailed account of what she knew.

Oh. Calvin nodded thoughtfully.

Was the person in charge of the purchasing department arranged by you? Belle asked with a heavy heart.

"Do you suspect that there is something wrong with the person from the purchasing department, or that he might have tampered with it? Calvin asked in return."

"I'm not merely suspecting him. I'm certain it's him. Belle refuted without mercy. ""After the conversation with Mr. Levin, I learned that Castle Peak Auto City used to purchase quality parts from a trustworthy manufacturer. Now, it has been replaced with an unknown brand. Not only is it not well-received, but its quality is also far worse. I wonder if you have agreed to the changing of brands?"""

"Calvin put the newspapers down and raised his head, pondering."

"He remembered that in one of the meetings, the purchasing department had once suggested that it would be much cheaper to change the brand of the parts. At that time, he did not think it would have led to this consequence and only agreed to it."

He was lost in thought.

"I did agree, but I didn't foresee this outcome, nor did I think of replacing the parts. This matter needs a thorough investigation. After a long time had passed, he spoke with a hint of anger in his voice."

How do you feel? Do you think you've been fooled? Belle looked at him and asked teasingly. The smugness in her cold voice was evident.

Are you making fun of me? Calvin sounded vaguely annoyed. He did feel like he had been fooled.

Of course I'm going to ridicule you. You're the one who practices nepotism. Belle chided unrelentingly.

"What do you mean? Calvin straightened his body, with anger emerging on his face."

"Let me ask you, is Kirston, the purchasing manager, Paige's relative? The smile on Belle's face faded as she said, ""You have to know that he is in charge of purchases all this while. As far as I know, he has received quite an amount of rebate from the brand's distributor. I think that you know this."""

The light in Calvin's eyes grew more chilling.

"He had to admit that he did not trust others when it came to purchasing. That was why the Harvey Group had always relied on their relatives, while Kirston was Paige's cousin. Kirston had worked in Harvey Group for almost all of his life. This lucrative job naturally fell into his lap."

"It seemed like he had to change his outlook on nepotism. He used to feel that it was also inappropriate but let it slide, as he could not find a proper reason to reduce the practice. However, now that he had a reason, he could punish Kirston openly."

"I'll leave this to you. You can do whatever you want. After thinking for a while, he said solemnly as if he had made up his mind."

"Really? Are you sure? Belle repeatedly asked. She knew that Kirston was related to Paige. If she punished him, he would definitely complain to Paige and their relationship might be affected. She first thought about this problem, whether Paige would have any opinions against her was secondary."

"Yes, I'm sure. It's only right to receive punishment for making mistakes. There's nothing wrong with that. Calvin shrugged indifferently. ""Just do it. I'll support you and Mother won't blame you. Believe me."""

He looked at her with his bright eyes and encouraged her with a smile. Belle felt more confident.

"Well, let's take a rest first. She stood up and walked towards the bedroom."

"Belle, wait a minute. Calvin stopped her and asked in a grave manner, ""Are you preparing to set up an online marketing studio?"""

"Yes. Belle turned back and smiled. ""You won't criticize me for not informing you, right? You have said that I can make my own decisions."""

"For fear that he might feel that she was acting rashly on her own, she took the initiative to bring this out and block his criticism beforehand."

"Of course not. Calvin shook his head, but his expression did not relax. ""This is a good idea, but the global network is complicated, and it is vulnerable to hackers.""

"Calvin's worry was reasonable. Harvey Group's performance was currently still underwhelming when it came to networking, and could not manage to keep up with the latest advancement. They were indeed facing the needs for a transformation, but it was not something that could happen overnight. In order to solve this problem, he went to colleges and recruited outstanding students, sending some of them to study abroad. They would return to work for Harvey Group soon. He did not expect Belle to act so quickly."

"Of course, there will be risks. There are risks in everything you do, but you can't just give up because of that. Belle didn't know that he had been training and honing the skills of computer-savvy talents. So, she voiced out her own ideas."

"We need to act, but it's best not to be hasty. Calvin nodded."

"But, Calvin, Sky Sword Group has done a successful job regarding this aspect in the market. If we continue to delay and postpone everything, I am afraid that it will be too late then, Belle explained, turning around to sit beside him."

"Calvin reached out to hold her in his arms and muttered, "" Since you've started, then let's continue. It's just that we will need to hire skilled IT personnel. The talents I've sent for training will return in two months. There won't be a delay. How's that?"""

"He rubbed her Tristanobe and made a suggestion. In fact, he did not agree with her brisk actions."

"However, in order not to dispel her eagerness, he decided to compromise. Since this enormous system would not be used in such a short time, he should let her have a try. If it didn't work, she would stop. If it worked, the transformation could start ahead of time."

"Alright, thank you for believing in me. Belle smiled happily. She understood Calvin's plan. According to his tone, he had thought about the flaws in this aspect and was also trying to improve it."

"Since that was the case, it could be understood that they shared the same plan."

"The next day, Mr. Parker escorted Kirston to Belle. She immediately held a meeting with the heads of the departments in charge of automobile production. With plenty of evidence, Kirston had no choice but to confess his misdeeds."

"According to Harvey Group's rules, Belle dismissed Kirston's position as the purchasing manager and demoted him to a lower position in the company."

"A new purchasing manager was appointed and it achieved a good effect. Gradually, most departments stopped showing favoritism to members of the Harvey family. The productivity of the internal management of the Harvey Group was improved. Calvin was also delighted and approved of these changes in the company's operations."

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"Days passed, and summer was on the horizon. The weather was gradually getting warmer."

"Since Belle had been appointed as the vice president of Harvey Group, she tried her best to perform all her tasks well. Indeed, Harvey Group had a new look in less than a month. The overall performance made progress."

"Sitting in the bright and spacious office, Sergio was calm."

He had been working for several days. He had experience in politics and a good reputation in the army. It was easy for him to take over the position as head of state security.

"Of course, the importance of this position was also beyond the imagination of ordinary people."

He thought of the activities later in the evening.

"He stood up and walked outside. As soon as he started the car, his phone rang."

"Mr. Xanthe, we found out that Zoella has planted people in the internal management of Harvey Group. I wonder how that woman will deal with Harvey Group. The man's voice was mysterious and low."

Sergio raised his eyebrows and a cold smile was carved his face.

"Keep an eye on her. Don't let this woman disrupt my plan or destroy my family's future, he ordered coldly."

Alright. The man agreed.

"Also, how's Calvin doing? Sergio asked in a deep voice."

"Calvin is still unaware. Everything still seems normal on the surface. According to my speculation, a woman as cruel and merciless as Zoella will not spare any effort to destroy the Harvey family. I don't think Calvin will be able to survive this time. The man's voice carried a hint of wicked pleasure."

Sergio placed his phone in his other hand and started the car.

"Continue to keep an eye on Zoella and Calvin. Inform me as soon as you have any news. Sergio's eagle-like eyes stared straight at the road ahead. When a smaller-sized car was about to overtake him, he turned the steering wheel and sped up. His car roared and scared the driver of the smaller car, causing the driver to slow down and escape this ordeal."

Go to hell!

Who do you think you are!

Stop pissing me off!

"Sergio cursed, and the viciousness on his face increased drastically."

"As soon as he put down the phone, it rang again."

"Speak. He picked up the call with his eyes looking ahead, and spoke briefly."

"Mr. Xanthe, Luqman had gone to look for Calvin, probably to seek support. This is not a good sign. If Calvin is willing to help Luqman, the hundreds of thousands of people in Harvey Group will follow suit. This is bad. On the other end of the phone, the man sounded anxious."

What? Would the Harvey Group support Luqman?

Sergio couldn't believe what he was hearing. Belle mentioned that night that Harvey Group would neither support him nor Luqman.

"Could it be that they had been bought over by Lugman, or did Belle fool him?"

"Whatever the case might be, they couldn't let the Harvey Group affect Yadriel's election process. The Xanthe family was determined to win the position of governor."

"Well, keep a close eye on them. Once there is any news about Calvin supporting Luqman, inform me immediately. I will be attending a security conference in A City in a few days. Sergio's eyes were gleaming with a harsh light."

"Yes, Mr. Xanthe. Sergio put the phone away as he stared at the red light in front of him, and his malevolent eyes gleamed."

"Calvin Harvey, just wait and see. If you insist on going against me again and again, I won't spare you. You have been proud for too long that you even want to intervene in this. Very well. You'll not be able to escape my wrath, as long as you stick your nose into my business. He thought to himself."

"The sky was dark, as if it was going to rain heavily."

Sergio's face sank.

"Madam Lilian had shown great interest in Belle during the banquet. If he was correct, Madam Lilian would certainly find an opportunity to catch up with Belle again. Perhaps this was kinship. As long as Madam Lilian met up with Belle or the two continued to chat, Belle's identity would be revealed sooner or later. At that time, it would be difficult to destabilize Harvey Group."

"As for Calvin, he would be ultimately safe. No one dared to offend him."

It was apparent that Zoella was unwilling to see Madam Lilian favoring the Harvey family and that was what prompted her to take action. Zoella should not have known anything about the relationship between Madam Lilian and Belle. She was just blinded by her strong desire to seek revenge.

"Pretty soon it would be summer. With the weather warming up, women began to dress in different styles. All kinds of stylish and revealing dresses had started to become more fashionable."

Belle was no exception.

"That day, Lottie had insisted on going shopping with Belle. Thinking of the business reception she would later have to deal with and Lottie's good eye for clothes, Belle relented. Perhaps Lottie could pick out a few dresses that suited her. She left home in the morning and took leave from Calvin."

"Of course, Calvin agreed. She had been working hard and sometimes even worked overtime. She deserved a break."

He gave her a gold credit card and went to work on his own.

As soon as he walked out of the parking lot.

"Calvin. A soft and pleasant voice could be heard next to him. Then, he smelled a faint, refreshing scent of jasmine flowers."

Calvin was shocked. He turned his head in surprise.

"The frail-looking woman was wearing a form-fitting blue dress, which was Harvey Group's work attire. She had a slim figure and delicate features. Her short hair framed her sweet face very well. A slight smile along with her dimples made her look incredibly beautiful. Her alluring eyes were filled with resentment and infatuation."

Calvin felt her charm only with a glance.

A female employee called him by his given name. How could this be possible? He must have misheard.

He turned his head around coldly and continued to walk forward.

Calvin. The woman once again called out in a timid manner.

Calvin could hear it clearly now.

That's right!

"This woman, an employee who was wearing the uniform of Harvey Group, was calling him by his first name."

It was absurd!

He stopped in his tracks and turned around with an icy expression.

Are you calling me? he asked coldly.

That's right. The woman saw his cold and impatient eyes and cowered down. Her fingers clenched the hem of her clothes. She lifted her timid face and looked straight at Calvin. Her watery eyes showed bitterness and affection.

"Calvin wanted to question her, but the moment he looked at her eyes, his heart softened. Although he was dissatisfied, he still asked nonchalantly, ""You, why were you looking for me?"""

"Calvin, don't you recognize me? The woman did not answer him but continued calling his name. She asked meekly with anticipation in her eyes."

Did he know her?

"Calvin was taken aback. He looked at her again and was sure that he had never seen her, much less recognized her. He frowned and asked grumpily, ""Are you an employee of Harvey Group? Which department are you in? Don't you know the employees' code of conduct?"""

"In Harvey Group, the difference between upper and lower level employees was apparent. Employees could not call their superior by name, and he was the president. When seen from a distance, they could only call him, ""Mr. Harvey."""

This woman was too bold! She did not follow the rules!

"Calvin was annoyed, and the displeasure on his face was evident."

"Calvin, do you really not recognize me? You don't remember me? Well then, I'm sorry to have bothered you. The woman's face went pale, and she looked at him bitterly as she bent down and bowed, turning around to leave."

"Although her back was slim, she was a stranger to him. There was something familiar about her eyes though. After listening to her words, he felt like a part of his memory had been erased, and he couldn't remember who she was."

"Narrowing his eyes, he watched her leave in disappointment. Calvin's curiosity was piqued. She called him by his given name and said that she knew him. It seemed that they even had a close relationship. However, he could not remember her at all. It was not a good feeling!"

"He had never liked to have a subordinate whom he couldn't figure out, and this included women. This way, he would not have a sense of security and it was not in accordance with his commanding personality. He ordered in a deep voice, ""Stop."""

"Liya, who had just stepped forward, stopped all of a sudden. She turned around in joy."

"Calvin, have you remembered me?"

Who exactly are you? How dare you call me by my first name? Calvin walked towards her and asked intently.

"The man in front of her had a stern look on his face and there was no tenderness in his eyes. He was not even impressed by her looks, like how ordinary men would react when they saw her. Liya blanched."

"Any man would be tempted by her lovely and adorable appearance. However, she couldn't see that kind of feeling in Calvin. She started to feel slightly guilty, lowering her head and shifting her gaze, she said softly, ""Calvin, I'm Liya!"""

"Liya? Calvin frowned. The name rang a bell. It was as if he had heard of this name long before, but he still couldn't recall where. He frowned and thought about it. Since a woman had called him by his first name several times, he couldn't be too rude."

" His facial expression softened and asked, ""Liya, do we know each other?"""

"Liya looked at him with her watery eyes. Her pitiful appearance was appealing as she said softly, ""Calvin, since you can't remember me, then forget it. Now you are high up and admired by everyone. I am just a nobody. I'm sorry to disturb you."""

"After saying this, she bowed to him and hurried away."

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Calvin felt somewhat baffled as he stood at the same spot.

"Calvin did not look down on the poor, but other than the fact that her name rang a bell, he couldn't remember anything about her. Was she one of the women whom he had met when he was out with Maxim? She didn't look like one, and she called him 'Calvin' openly. With this approach, it seemed that they had known each other for a long time."

"What was more, he didn't even possess a single memory of that woman. His mind was totally blank."

He shook his head and told himself not to think any further as he walked towards the elevator of the lobby.

"As for women, especially employees of his very own company, it was better for him not to interact with them. Moreover, he had a wife now. He had no interest in dealing with these so-called acquaintances whom he did not recognize at all."

"The house of the Yates family was average. In A city, it was just an inconspicuous, old villa. Fortunately, the location was superb, and the house came with a spacious backyard garden, which made this old villa highly valuable."

"Zoella sat on an old stool in the garden, holding a phone in her hand. She was lost in her thoughts and her face was devoid of emotions."

"Soon, the phone rang."

Miss Yates. A man's voice sounded at the other end of the phone.

"Tell me, did you tell Sergio that Calvin is going to support Luqman? She asked coldly."

"I've told him, the man answered simply."

Is he nervous? The corner of Zoella's mouth curved into a sinister smile.

"Yes, he is indeed nervous. He also mentioned that he will come to A city in a few days to attend a security meeting. The man continued to answer."

That's good. Zoella suddenly chortled.

"But, Miss Yates, Calvin isn't going to support Luqman. As long as Sergio comes to A City, he will find out. The man's tone was full of worry."

"Hmph, Zoella scoffed and replied nonchalantly, ""Sergio is overly suspicious. Even if Calvin doesn't intend to support Luqman, we can convince Sergio if we induce it a few more times. Only by making him believe that Calvin will be a hindrance to his political career will he truly make up his mind to help us confront Harvey Group. Otherwise, he'll only sit by and do nothing."""

"Zoella could see through Sergio's plan. There were many twists and turns in politics. Why would he listen to her? He wanted to reap the benefits without taking actual actions. She would never let that happen. This time, she would use Sergio to destroy Calvin and the Harvey family."

"Miss Yates, you're brilliant. The man flattered her."

"Keep a close eye on them and you will get the pay you deserve. As long as the Harvey family collapses, the entire market will belong to us. Don't worry, I won't mistreat you. The corner of Zoella's lips curled maliciously."

"Thank you, Miss Yates. I'll do my best, The man sniggered."

Zoella snorted and put away the phone.

She stood up and paced around before picking up the car keys and walking outside.

"In the A City prison, Lexie's hair and face were messy, her eyes lifeless. From time to time, she would stroke her flat stomach."

"She would rather risk her life than lose the baby, but the leader of the gangsters in prison had ordered his followers to assault her by kicking her abdomen. She bled and had a miscarriage right on the spot. The pain made her feel as if she had died."

"After the baby was gone, she became mad and could no longer muster the energy to carry out her daily routine. She became mentally ill and was bullied by the prisoners every day, living a life that was worse than death."

"Zoella stood in the prison's watch room, looking at the haggard and aged Lexie who walked out, with a mocking smile."

Idiot! Fool!

"She ended up like this despite being extremely privileged. A woman who was dumb, arrogant, and vicious. How could Calvin have liked her?"

"The consequences that she faced was within Zoella's expectations. However, she did not expect Lexie to suffer such a terrible defeat!"

"In those years, she had been standing in the dark, avoiding all the chaos. Watching from a distance, she had witnessed Lexie's fall."

"She figured that it was not time. Thus, she hid herself abroad and watched from afar. She was not as stupid as Lexie who only knew how to pester men. She was smart and knew how to succeed in getting what she wanted!"

"Well, this woman had been defeated, and she no longer needed to deal with her. If she had to handle such a woman, she might really feel that it was only muddying her hands."

"Lexie Lucason, how's life in prison? Zoella let out a sinister laugh and asked in a wicked tone, looking at Lexie as she slowly staggered in. She had a foul smell and was unkempt."

"Lexie sat on the chair of the detention center with a distant look on her face. She stared at Zoella in a daze, not moving an inch."

What's wrong? Don't you recognize me? Zoella's eyes were filled with an unfathomable darkness.

Don't... Don't hurt my child. Lexie saw the fierceness in her eyes and suddenly felt so afraid that she began to tremble. She wrapped her arms around her body and cried out.

"Enough. Stop. Zoella's face darkened, as she bellowed with impatience written all over her face."

"She didn't come to see this stupid woman's pitiful cries. In her eyes, there was no pity or sympathy! The only difference between them was success and failure."

Lexie was stunned by Zoella's disposition. She immediately stopped wailing and lifted her gaze to look at her in fear.

A vulgar and lowly woman like you really wished to win over Calvin's heart? You don't know your limits. Zoella sneered and jeered.

Lexie's eyes widened in fear as she stared at the well-dressed and noble-looking woman in front of her. She slowly regained her rationality.

"Zoella, are you Zoella? Her eyes lit up and she asked in surprise."

Yes. Zoella held her head up high and glanced at her from an angle.

She was like a queen scorning at a slave.

"Zoella, help me, save me. I don't want to be in jail. Please, Zoella, help me. After I'm out, I will do everything to repay you. Lexie rushed forward and grasped Zoella's hand, begging pitifully."

"She was not provided with enough food and warm clothes and was even bullied every day. She didn't want to live like this anymore. If it went on, she would be tortured to death."

It was as if she had caught her lifeline. She grabbed hold of Zoella's arm desperately and pleaded.

Let me go. Zoella looked at her coldly. It never crossed her mind that Lexie would rush over like this. Her eyes were full of disgust as she shook her hand off and took a few steps back.

Sit down. A prison guard came over and took hold of the emotional Lexie by pressing her forcibly down on the chair.

Zoella looked at her disdainfully. A woman who used to be so high-class and could get anything with the wave of her hand had now ended up wagging her tail and begging for mercy like a dog.

"Lexie, I didn't expect you to be so useless. You're just good-for-nothing. A woman like you should've died long ago. Why would you still want to live? Her words were sharp and piercing, stabbing viciously into Lexie's heart."

"Lexie's trembled, and an eerie chill surrounded her."

"You were the one who said that if I wanted to obtain Calvin's love, I had to pester him and use Paige to approach him. Lexie looked up with anger in her eyes. ""You're a liar. I shouldn't have believed in you."""

"Haha. Zoella let out a chilling laugh. She then lowered her head, looked straight into Lexie's eyes, and said sarcastically, ""Are you a three-year-old child? You did everything I told you to. You're so stupid. So, you can't blame others. Do you think it's that easy to marry a rich man?"""

"Lexie looked at her, dumbfounded. Her face was filled with doubt and confusion, as well as unwillingness at accepting the outcome."

"For a woman like Lexie, Zoella knew she would not succeed from the start. Therefore, she stood by the sidelines and watched how Lexie disturbed Calvin's life. She wanted to see how the Harvey Group would be destroyed by Tristan. Lending someone else's power in defeating her enemy was her ultimate skill."

"It was just that the Harvey Group was too powerful. Calvin was blessed to have Belle, a foolish woman who loved him wholeheartedly."

"Not only did the Harvey Group avoid collapse, but it also flourished under the establishment of the automobile industry. This was something she had never thought of."

"However, this time, everything was different!"

"Lexie's miserable fate told her that this time, she had to win. She had to do everything she could to win. Otherwise, her tragic fate would have been set in stone."

"Besides, Zoella would not accept defeat."

"The reason Hudson had defeated the Yates Group was that she was too young and incapable of lending her father a hand. However, things were different now. She was a strong woman who was thriving in business. To succeed in this, she had also done many years of preparations."

"In order to collaborate with the Jones Group, she even handed herself over to the stupid and ugly Oscar."

"If Oscar was someone else's son, she would not spare him a glance, but there was no other way. In order to win over Matteo's trust, she had to commit herself to him. That was the only way for her company to merge with Jones Group."

"Oscar had congenital dysplasia. Although he didn't have any cerebral problems, his IQ was definitely not high. The reason Matteo worked with her was undoubtedly her skills. In the future, she could protect Oscar's wealth and the Jones Group. She was smart. How could she not know this?"

Zoella was the best of all women. How could she be willing to live with a disgusting man whom she did not love? Nor would she live a life that was at the mercy of others.

"Therefore, she couldn't afford to lose, and she definitely couldn't live miserably after a terrible defeat like Lexie."

"For Zoella, failure was not an option."

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"Then, what is your intention? Why are you here to see me? Lexie sized her up with a probing gaze after she was able to think normally."

"Hehe. Zoella chuckled mockingly. ""I'm here to see how you live as the underdog. Your tragic experience will serve as a reminder for me never to forget about success. Do not forget how pathetic a person's stupidity can hurt them. For a stupid woman like you, prison is your best way out. If you're out of prison, you'll be jeered to death."""

Her malicious words pierced Lexie's heart like a dagger.

"Lexie's eyes dimmed. Her face was frighteningly pale, and she began to tremble. After a while, she smiled sadly. ""Zoella, no matter how vicious I am, you're a thousand times worse than me. My fate is pathetic, but remember, you won't succeed either. If you don't believe me, then let's just wait and see."""

"Zoella was infuriated and the rage in her eyes was terrifying, but she soon calmed down and smiled confidently. ""Lexie, I'm totally different from you. How can we share the same ending? I'm smart and you're stupid, I know how to advance and retreat. I've suffered humiliation since childhood, but you're arrogant and greedy. You want to have all the good things in the world. How is that possible? I'm not greedy but I am skilled, knowing how to plot. As for you, you're just a puppet for others to play with. This is the difference between us two. In comparison, I am in a more advantageous position than you. Tell me, how can I end up like you?"""

"As she said this, she laughed."

"Lexie's whole body shuddered, and her lips quivered so hard that she couldn't speak."

Let me tell you. I've predicted your undoing and knew that a woman like you wouldn't be able to succeed. That's why I sent you to your doom. I didn't expect you to lead such a tragic life. Zoella laughed gloatingly and continued.

"Zoella, no matter how miserable I am, my life has been spared. I'm afraid you'll be dead by then. Lexie was on the verge of a breakdown from Zoella's blows. She stood up coldly and gritted her teeth as she spoke."

"Such words were beyond Zoella's expectation. She had a moment of absent-mindedness. Soon, she regained her senses and her blood boiled. She slapped Lexie hard on the face and berated her. ""B*tch, you don't know how wretched you are even when you are about to die."""

"After saying that, she fanned her hands in the air in disgust. ""You're so smelly."""

She turned around resolutely and left with her head held high.

"Dark red blood flowed from the corner of Lexie's mouth. Fingerprints with clear bloodstains were imprinted on her pale face, and there was no light in her eyes."

"She didn't register the pain. Her whole body was numb, and her mind was no longer hers."

The prison officers soon took her away.

"Zoella walked out of the women's prison and stood by the door. She looked back, and the sinister smile on her face widened."

"Remember to torture her until she has no will to live and is driven crazy, but keep her alive, she is useful to me. She fished out her phone and ordered in a cold voice."

"After saying that, the arrogant smile on her face soon returned to a neutral expression. She took out her car keys and drove her luxury car to the Sky Sword Group."

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The weather in May was volatile like a child's temper tantrums.

"When Belle and Lottie headed out that morning, the sky was still clear and the weather was nice. After a while, the dark clouds loomed and thunder could be heard."

"After Belle and Lottie visited several exclusive stores, they went to Pacific Plaza and the two of them started to shop frantically."

Women were avid shoppers.

"Sitting in his office, Calvin could occasionally hear notifications coming from his phone. It was the sound of Belle's credit card transactions in the stores."

"This gold card was the only card approved by Belle for Calvin to use freely. The rest of his money was handed over to Belle. Since it was the first time she wanted to go shopping with Lottie, he had given her the only card he had to show his love for her and win Lottie's approval."

"As a result, the frequent notifications made him unable to focus on his work. He decided to put his phone on silent mode."

"Lottie, are we done? Belle saw that it was almost noon. She had promised to have lunch with Calvin at Grand Hyatt Apartments."

"What's the rush? You seldom shop with me. Lottie said, ""Let's go back after lunch. I've discovered a new restaurant. We should eat there."""

"Belle frowned when she heard this. Lottie was still as obsessed as before. As long as she went shopping, she could not stop."

"Now that they had so many bags in their hands, Belle felt very tired."

"In recent years, she had not been out shopping with Lottie. That day, she paid for all the shopping with her credit card as a treat for her best friend."

"If it weren't for the fact that Lottie would be shopping for her wedding dress, Belle wouldn't have the mood to accompany her."

A wedding dress? It was a dress that was to be worn once in a lifetime. She'd better accompany Lottie.

"However, Lottie stopped shopping for a wedding dress after they visited two shops. That was because Rhys sent a message saying that he had prepared for their wedding to be held in Europe."

"Belle could only go shopping aimlessly with her. Furthermore, she also needed to buy a few more sets of outfits for herself, as well as Jerry's clothes."

"A few hours later, Belle was tired and her legs were sore. She placed the bags on the sofa in the fitting area and sat down to rest."

"Liya, what do you think of this dress? It is pretty. If you wear it, you will captivate all men. A distinct, feminine voice drifted out from the other side of the fitting room."

"No, I won't. The man I love can't recognize me now. I'm so worried. A soft and bitter female voice answered."

"Gee, it seems that you are in love. It's no wonder you have the money to buy such expensive clothes today. Which man gave you the money? Who is he? The woman next to Liya added, with her voice full of envy."

No one. Liya denied bashfully.

"Don't hide it from me. Your dad is still sick. How can you afford to buy clothes in such a high-end place? If it weren't for the man who had given you money, you wouldn't even dream about it. Hmph. Tell me quickly. Which rich man is your boyfriend? I can take advantage of him too, the woman said loudly."

"There isn't anyone. After being teased by her friend, Liya started to become irritated."

"That morning, she approached Calvin when Belle was not around. She pretended to meet him by chance. However, it didn't go the way she had imagined, as she could not even get close to him. His cold and distant demeanor was obvious, and he was completely unaware of her identity. When she thought about it, she was irked."

Calvin had indeed forgotten her. He could not remember who she was.

"It was obvious that he would not want her now, even if she offered herself."

She doubted Zoella. It was impossible to seduce Calvin!

"However, there was no other way. Zoella had given her lots of money to buy luxurious, beautiful clothes and cosmetic products. Wasn't it supposed to be used to seduce Calvin? Nonetheless, would that work though? Liya didn't have any confidence at all."

"She was beautiful. Many men would be astounded when they saw her, but Calvin was definitely different. His eyes were icy and stiff when he looked at her. He did not react to her gorgeous appearance at all. There was only darkness in his eyes, that gave off coldness."

Would such a man be seduced by her?

It was the first time.

She had no confidence in seducing a man.

"Thinking of this, she sighed and felt vaguely depressed."

"Liya, come and take a look at the dress here. It's so beautiful. The female companion next to her called out to her again."

"Belle, who was sitting on the other side, heard Liya's name being called clearly."

"This voice, this name, they were all very familiar."

"She gave it some thought. Wasn't this the new computer expert, Liya? How could she be here? It was still a working hour right then!"

"At the thought of this, doubts arose in her heart. She stood up to see what was going on."

"Belle, come and take a look. How do I look in this dress? Lottie opened the door of the fitting room. She came to Belle like a gust of wind and asked excitedly."

"Belle initially wanted to take a look at the woman named Liya, but Lottie completely blocked her view. Belle had to look at her up and down and said with a smile, ""Gorgeous. You look even more beautiful than a supermodel.""

"You're only paying lip service to my question. Your words cannot be trusted. Such exaggerated praise sounded like a superficial answer from Belle. Lottie was a good friend of hers, of course, she knew that. She pursed her lips. ""Forget it."" Then, she checked her reflection in the mirror and changed postures from time to time."

"Belle didn't have the mood to answer her. She turned around and went out to see if the woman named Liya was her employee, but when she searched around the store, the two women were nowhere to be found, as if they didn't exist earlier."

This was really strange!

There were two women in the fitting room. How could they disappear in the blink of an eye?

"Belle was startled. It reminded her of the night she attended the banquet. Someone had pushed her when she was standing by the lake. At the thought of this, she got goosebumps."

Could it be that she was having hallucinations recently?

"Could it be that her life was too happy, causing her to have a series of hallucinations?"

It was unbelievable.

"She turned around, almost bumped into someone, and couldn't help but to cry out in surprise."

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"What's wrong? You're so distracted. Can't you at least pretend to enjoy shopping with me? Lottie found it funny. Belle said that she was going shopping with her, but in such a short period of time, she started to feel restless. Judging from her wandering look, it was most likely that she was thinking about her husband, Calvin!"

"Alas, why was this woman so useless?"

"Lottie, don't creep up on me like that! You scared me. Belle saw that it was Lottie and she couldn't help but to chide her. Being frightened by Lottie, she snapped out of her thoughts."

"Hey, it's you who was distracted. You kept looking around. I couldn't see you. So, I found you here. I was just standing over here. Lottie rolled her eyes. ""Can't you be more focused? What in the world are you looking for? Is your husband coming over?"""

"It's not like that. Belle pulled Lottie to the side and asked in a low voice, ""Lottie, did you just hear a woman's name, Liya, being called?"""

"Liya? Lottie shook her head and asked doubtfully, ""I didn't hear this name at all. What's wrong?"""

"No? Belle was even more perturbed. The woman's voice was loud. Although Lottie was in the fitting room, it was not far away and was even closer to the two women. Since Lottie didn't hear anything, was it really her illusion?"

Nothing. She shook her head and was no longer in the mood to resume shopping.

"Anyway, Lottie was so immersed when trying on clothes. Not to mention the name of an irrelevant person, a thunder would not attract her attention either."

"Lottie could see that Belle was not in the mood. After trying a few more clothes, she finally ended the shopping trip Tristany."

Belle drove to the underground parking lot of Grand Hyatt Apartments.

"By the time she returned to Grand Hyatt Apartments with bags of new clothes, Calvin had not come back yet."

"Larry had finished preparing the meal. When she saw Belle, she went back to Harvey Manor."

"Belle was deep in thought as she sat on the sofa. If the Liya she met in the mall was the employee from Harvey Group, her impression towards her would turn sour as she dared to go shopping during working hours."

"Liya was usually well-behaved and knew how to please others, especially her superiors."

"As for such a subordinate, Belle actually didn't like her much. If she put all her efforts into pleasing others, she may not perform her job well."

"In addition, this newly established global network studio not only required computer expertise but also personnel with good character. It was because many trade secrets of the Harvey Group were in the database. There would be potential risks if they hired an unprincipled employee."

"As she thought about this, she fell asleep."

"When she woke up, it was almost two o'clock."

She lifted her sleepy eyes and took a look.

"The house was quiet, and Calvin had not come back."

"Sitting there in a daze, she was lost in thought."

"Since she started working, they came back to rest every day at noon. Why didn't he show up that day? They had an appointment."

"She took out her cell phone and wanted to call Calvin. She looked at the time and was afraid that he would be sleeping soundly somewhere. After all, he had been working endlessly in the evening. She decided to give up."

"After having a meal and taking a shower, she went straight back to the company."

"Without Calvin pestering her, she arrived rather Tristany."

"As soon as she signed in at the front desk, she suddenly thought of something and went to the 86th floor."

The global network studio was quiet.

There was still a few minutes before work. There should be no one present yet.

"Belle didn't know what she was doing there, but she came to see if the woman named Liya had left the office that morning!"

She didn't think that she would be able to meet anyone there at this time.

"However, when she snuck into the computer studio, the scene she saw still surprised her."

"In the computer studio, a slim figure was concentrating on work. Even when Belle walked in and stood next to her, the person did not notice her at all."

Belle's bright eyes blinked and she lowered her head to have a look.

Liya was indeed busy with the sales procedures chart of the Harvey Group.

"She tilted her head slightly, narrowed her eyes, and made a soft grunt."

"Ah, Ms. Morris, hello. Liya was startled by Belle's light snort. When she saw Belle, she immediately stood up and greeted her respectfully."

Hello. Belle nodded and looked at Liya from the corner of her eyes. She looked tired. It seemed that she had been working the whole morning.

"Belle thought for a while and said, ""Aren't you going to rest at noon?"""

"It's fine, Ms. Morris. Liya hurriedly shook her head. ""My house is far from here and I can't make it back at noon. All I want is to finish the task you assigned to me as soon as possible."""

Liya smiled and spoke seriously. Her attitude was sincere.

"Really? Belle smiled and praised her. ""Then, you are very dedicated. You are an excellent employee of Harvey Group."""

That's what I should do. Liya blushed and she hurriedly replied in a serious manner.

Where do you live? Belle looked at her serious expression and asked after thinking for a while.

"My house... My house is far away, in the northern suburbs. She answered in a low voice, and a hint of sorrow flashed across her drooping eyes."

"Oh, is anyone living with you? She asked with concern."

My family... There's no one left in my family. There's only me and my Dad. Liya didn't expect her to ask about her family. She told her the truth.

"Oh, how is your father? Belle looked around the office before resting her gaze on her face again and asked."

"My father is ill, Liya said."

"Oh, he's ill, is it serious? Belle was shocked, her face was full of worry and she asked out loud."

"Only then did Liya feel that she had spoken too much, but she couldn't think of anything to explain at the moment. She could only shake her head with a smile and say, ""It's okay, my father is fine. Ms. Morris, please have a seat. I'll get you a glass of water."""

She changed the topic and was about to fetch some water for her in a caring manner.

"It's alright. I'm going to work soon. Well, although the company has a lot of work, health is important too. Don't work overtime at noon from now on. If you have no place to go, you can take a rest in the lounge. Belle smiled and said, ""If your father's illness worsens, then you should inform the company, if you're facing any difficulties. Just let us know if you need help."""

"Okay, thank you for your concern, Ms. Morris. Hearing Belle's caring words, Liya was delighted and smiled sweetly."

"Oh, by the way, did you leave the office this morning? When Belle finally went out, she turned around and looked at Liya deeply."

Belle wanted to hear her say whether she has left the company or not.

"I... Liya's eyes widened and she immediately shook her head. ""Ms. Morris, there was no need for our department to have to head outside this morning. Everything is fine."""

"Oh, that's good. Belle's heart sank and she smiled. ""Take a seat. I'm leaving."""

"After she walked out of the room, Belle didn't know what to feel."

"Goodbye, Ms. Morris, Liya said in a friendly manner, following her to the door."

Belle went straight back to the office.

"She sat on the sofa, lost in thought."

"Liya's father was ill and her family was in poor condition. This was obviously the Liya she had met in the mall. She had gone shopping at Pacific Plaza, but she denied it well. There must be something strange going on!"

"However, she was still working overtime at noon. What was she thinking?"

"If Liya had told her the truth, Belle would treat it as if it had never happened. She would think that Liya was honest, and she might even forgive her for making a small mistake."

"However, she was obviously lying."

"In other words, it meant that Liya was not a trustworthy person."

"Regardless of her intentions, she could not continue working at the global network studio."

"On the surface, Liya was respectful to her superior, was polite, and thoughtful. However, she was mysterious. Such a woman was certainly potentially hazardous to the company's future."

"For the first time, Belle felt that the establishment of the network studio was too rushed. She should have listened to Calvin and developed it step by step, instead of being in a hurry."

"It was impossible for her to fire Liya due to her intuition and without any evidence. This was unreasonable. So, she could only wait and watch."

Calvin was not in the office.

"If he was not in the office at noon, where did he go?"

Belle felt uneasy. She had indeed encountered some strange things. She wanted to tell Calvin about it but was worried that he wouldn't believe her.

"Throughout the afternoon, Belle was perturbed. As for Calvin, he did not return to the company at all."

"Yuri, did Mr. Harvey mention where he will go today? Sitting in the office, she felt nervous. In the end, she could not help but pick up the phone and asked the secretary at the front desk."

"When Yuri heard Belle's voice, she smiled and said, ""Ms. Morris, Mr. Harvey went out Tristany this morning. He did not tell us where he was heading.""

"Is there any social engagement? Such an answer made her more worried. Generally, social engagements were held in the evening, but it could also be at noon."

"Ms. Morris, there are no records of any social engagement. Yuri flipped through the records in hand and quickly replied."

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"Alright, got it. She slowly put down the phone in her hand and sat there in a daze. There was a very uneasy and sad feeling in her heart. After a while, she picked up her phone again and dialed his number."

"The phone rang for a long time, but no one answered."

Where in the world had he gone? Why wasn't he picking up the phone?

"Belle felt a burst of regret in her heart. She struggled and held onto her worries until the end of work. Then, she grabbed her keys and quickly walked towards the elevator."

"Along the way, she tried to call Calvin again several times. This time, however, his phone had been turned off."

She had the sudden urge to cry.

Where has that b*stard Calvin gone? How dare he refuse to pick up her call?

Wouldn't he know that she'll be worried?

She parked her car in the garage and took the electric vehicle to Fragrance Garden.

"Mommy, Mommy. Jerry saw Belle coming back and ran to her happily. Seeing her son, Belle's heart was instantly filled with happiness. She bent down to pick him up and pecked his little face vigorously."

"Mommy, where is Daddy? Jerry asked. Jerry would see Calvin and Belle coming back together everyday. That day, he didn't see Calvin and he wasn't used to it."

"Jerry, be good. Have you been a good boy today? Daddy has something to do. He'll be back later. Belle felt uncomfortable hearing Jerry mentioning Calvin, but she had no choice but to maintain a smile as she carefully explained to him."

"Oh, okay. Although Jerry was somewhat disappointed, he was still very sensible. ""Mommy, I'm always a good boy. It's just that Daddy isn't here, and I miss him so much.""

I know. But Daddy is a man in charge of such a huge company. He can't come home all the time like me. Be a good boy and play. I will cook some food for you. Belle comforted him in a soft voice as she patted his head.

Jerry was a very sensible child. He came out of Belle's embrace and went to play with his toy cars.

Belle started getting busy in the kitchen.

"In a luxurious, private dining room."

"Calvin leaned against the back of the sofa, his long fingers resting on the armrest. He looked elegant and unruffled. The expression on his face was calm and neutral."

"Luqman was wearing a simple work suit, and his wide forehead was shining with wisdom. He was full of spirit, gentle and courteous. His warm eyes shone brightly."

"Mr. Harvey, no one knows that I've come to find you today. In fact, I'm not here to rope votes for myself. I'm here to talk to you about something, he said in a calm and steady manner. His every gesture carried an air of pride, as if he was on top of the world."

"Calvin bent his fingers and glanced at him. He gave a faint smile and leaned his body forward, slightly."

"I don't know what you want to say, but I have something to say first. The Harvey Group has never participated in any elections. It has always been this way for generations. As someone carrying on my family's legacy, I cannot go against it. Unless our family is planning to run in the elections, we aren't allowed to take part in politics. This has always been the way the Harvey Group operates. Even though he spoke softly, his tone was firm and bold. He was trying to show that he wasn't rejecting him on purpose."

"Mr. Harvey, I know this. Relax, I will not force you into helping me with anything. That's why I had invited you over discreetly. You don't necessarily have to help me. Luqman knew what was going on. At that moment, he only smiled knowingly and nodded."

"Alright, then tell me about it. I'll listen carefully. Calvin lifted the corners of his eyes slightly. Then, he straightened his body and put on a decent smile."

"Luqman smiled. The wealthy man in front of him was a very influential figure in the business world. He was calm and experienced. His mannerisms and composure were indeed different from that of typical, rich heirs. He would not be so frivolous to the point of being supercilious, but he had an air of awe that could not be ignored. Even Luqman, a long-time politician, had a hard time controlling him."

He didn't really consider himself as simply coming here just to lobby for himself.

"Luqman picked up the teapot in front of him that had been brewed to perfection, poured a cup for Calvin and filled his. ""Mr. Harvey, please have some tea.""

"After saying that politely, he picked up a small teacup and put it to his lips. He took a deep breath and complimented the fragrance of the tea before slowly sipping it. His whole body was soothed from the warm tea. Only then did he raise his head and speak solemnly."

"Mr. Harvey, in the coming election, Yadriel is way ahead of me in terms of popularity. He is sure to win. I am already mentally prepared to accept my loss."

"Was that true? Calvin also picked up the teacup in front of him and took a sip. He silently sneered in his heart, as if he would believe the words of a politician. He heard that Luqman had been very active when competing with Yandriel. He even wanted to try to poach Brooklyn even though he knew that Yadriel and Brooklyn were old friends. From this, it could be seen that every politician had an inflated sense of greed."

"If he had really admitted defeat, why had he come knocking on his door then? Anyone with eyes could tell that the Harvey Group had never participated in politics. Regardless of this, he remained calm and collected. He picked up the teapot to refill his tea and waited for Luqman to continue speaking."

"Luqman noticed that Calvin gave no obvious reaction and knew that he wasn't concerned with such matters. He muttered to himself and sighed lightly. Looking up at Calvin, he asked, ""Mr. Harvey, how well do you know Yadriel?"""

"Calvin did not expect him to ask such a question. He looked up vaguely and said faintly, ""Mr. Wood, you should know that businessmen like me are not interested in people like him. I don't know much about him at all."""

"That's right. He heaved a long sigh. ""There are so many people who don't understand politics or the hidden rules in a politician's world like you. Even a well-known figure like you wouldn't know, let alone an average citizen. But the truth is, no one should be more concerned with the country's well-being than the citizens. Every politician's priority is to make the people happy. That is why I've come to you today."""

"His words sounded like a bunch of superficial talk or platitudes. Either way, it sounded extremely weird to Calvin."

Wasn't it just an election? Why did he make it seem more like a war? Had their country already reached such a dire state?

Politicians were really very good at playing the game. Even the citizens' well-being was their chess piece.

"Unfortunately, all there was, was just their selfish desire for power and status. When it came to the people's welfare, the Harvey Group had not done any less than those so-called politicians. His gaze deepened as he raised an eyebrow to stare at Luqman."

"Luqman knew what he was thinking. He smiled and said, ""Mr. Harvey, I trust you're familiar with the petrochemical factory in Wullen Town?""

"The petrochemical factory? Calvin could not help but to feel his heart skip a beat. Just how many people had been alerted by such a small petrochemical factory? How much more was hidden behind the scenes? Looking at Luqman's mysterious expression, Calvin felt that his father was right. Some wealth in this world did not belong to them. There was no point in forcing it."

"Mr. Wood, it's funny you would bring that up. I don't know much about the petrochemical factory. So, I've already given up on it. He seemed to be speaking casually but his heart was frozen."

"The smile on Luqman's face deepened and he chuckled. ""Young man, you are ambitious and courageous. I thought highly of you. But now you recoil at the first sight of a challenge. This is not a good sign. After all, a big enterprise must overcome all the obstacles to progress and advance even further.""

"As he said this, he picked up his tea and gulped it down."

"Do you know why chamomile tea has such a strong taste? It's not a particularly unique tea, but rather the slow intake of it at the perfect temperature is what gives it that deep flavour. The effect of brewing it slowly enhances the taste and intensifies the flavour. Likewise, a huge corporation needs to be built up slowly. Every detail must be perfect. As time goes on, each detail intertwines together and blossoms when the right time comes. At its peak, it will be just like chamomile tea, deliciously fragrant and unforgettable. Lugman was a man of thought as he spoke eloquently."

Calvin's heart wavered when he heard this. He was struggling to keep up with Luqman. His thoughts were spinning rapidly.

"Harvey Group would still focus on automobiles in the future. Without settling the raw materials needed for automobiles, it would be difficult to carry out their plan and development in the long term."

"In the market, if someone monopolised the car parts industry and controlled the prices, Harvey Group's plan to produce cars would be cut short. They might be controlled by others or even be unable to carry on at all."

"As such a huge corporation, how could they not have their own production company? Without it, their future opportunities would be reduced significantly. How could Calvin not know this?"

"Mr. Wood, are you saying that you don't want me to give up on the petrochemical factory? He looked at Luqman meaningfully."

"You are the president of the Harvey Group. You know best whether you should give up or not. I'm not here to convince you to do that either, as I have a bigger issue at hand. If my problem is solved, yours will naturally be solved as well. Luqman avoided talking about his hidden doubts and spoke with a previously unseen, solemn gaze."

"There's something wrong with the petrochemical factory. I believe you've already noticed it. Otherwise, you wouldn't have given up. Luqman gave a meaningful smile. ""Have you thought about what the problem might be?"""

He asked indifferently. The light in his eyes was somewhat unreadable.

"Calvin's heart sank. At this point, he wanted to stand up and leave, because he knew that he should not be knowing about the shady things that went on behind the scenes. The more he knew, the worse it was for him. He knew it instinctively, even though no one told him."

"However, since he was there, he could not leave. Lugman had purposely come here to warn him."

"Evidently, the incident at the petrochemical factory had something to do with Yadriel."

"They were political enemies and would definitely sabotage each other. If the Harvey Group was involved for internal benefits, they were likely to end up as cannon fodder. Old Master Richard's advice was still fresh in his mind. If he colluded with these dangerous political figures, the consequences would be too severe for him to bear."

"However, now..."

"He stood up and said in both stiff and indifferent manner, ""Mr. Wood, what could go wrong with such a tiny petrochemical factory? Even if there is a problem, I'm not interested. Sorry, but it's getting late and I still have something to do at home. I have to go."""

"After that, he walked past him and was ready to leave."