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Once Justin was gone, Bella helped Steven, who went numb all over, to the office.

After laying Steven flat on the sofa, Bella pursed her lips and examined his limbs without bothering to wipe the sweat off her forehead.

She could pass as a physician.

"I'm fine, Ms. Bella."

Even though Steven went limp, he still had some limited mobility. He felt a lump in his throat, seeing how Bella was so concerned about him. "I'm sorry to trouble you.'

"Don't say that. You were only trying to help me. Don't act so

recklessly next time." Bella leaned over to give his legs a massage.

"I wasn't acting recklessly."

Steven tried his best to sit up on the sofa. His intense gaze was proof of his stubbornness. "Even if the same thing happens a thousand times over, I will dive in to rescue you every chance I get.

"Don't be overconfident because you can fight and put yourself in danger, Steven. You're no match for Justin. His four years in military service should mean something to you.

Bella panicked. "He went easy on you today. If you weren't-my secretary, he might have broken your arm. "He can break my arm for all I care! It doesn't matter if I die!" Gritting his teeth, Steven wobbled to his feet. His tall build towered over Bella. "Even if I die, I won't allow that animal to abuse you!" "Steve..." Bella's bulging eyes stared straight into his tearful gaze. Tears rolled down Steven's cheeks. As his nervous system was numb, he did not realize that he was covered in tears and snot. "Why are you crying, Steve? You're supposed to be older than me, and yet you're a crybaby." Feeling a catch in her throat, Bella teased him and reached out his tears. Steven somehow found the courage to hook his arm around her wa and pull her closer to him. His other hand pressed down on her spine as he tried to hug his beloved employer. Bella could take a hint. She could sense a complex blend of emotions swirling within Steven's embrace. "Let go, Steve. Let's not complicate things." She pushed him away.

"Ms. Bella, I'll accept any punishment for my behavior." The tear stains on Steven's face softened his facial features.
He exposed his vulnerability, fishing for Bella's sympathy.
It was shameless, but the misery and fury were on the verge of driving
him to insanity
Bella was not the easiest person to get through to.
Bearing somber in her eyes, she jabbed Steven's chest with two fingers.
Steven, still regaining strength, fell back onto the sofa.
"I know you mean no harm, Steve. I won't punish you for this."
Bella glanced at him with a mix of emotions, but her voice was
chilling. "You are on a week-long leave starting tomorrow. You should get some rest.
"Ms. Bella" Steven was shocked as his heart sank to the pit of stomach.
"You have been on edge and emotional lately. Take the week's brea to relax and sort yourself out. Then, you can reflect on how you intend to carry on working with me.