

Honey You're a Billionaire Chapter 31

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By _ / August 23, 2024

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Chapter 31 The Woman that Jonathan Has Set His Eyes On

Rose? She wore a simple white shirt paired with jeans, her long hair cascading over her shoulders. As it was the first time Zac saw her in person, a hint of

astonishment flickered in his eyes.

After returning to the country for four years, he mingled with the socialites in Aquastead.

Nevertheless, he had never come across her. Instead, Jonathan, who came from Regalia, noticed her. He sighed with regret, he dared not covet the woman Jonathan had set his eyes on

He glanced at his phone. Jonathan had replied to the invitation message he sent just now

I'm up to something I can't make it," Zadresponded straightforwardly.

Zac was seething with anger. He had worked overtime to complete the tasks assigned by Lucas and rushed back from Leafshire, just to catch up on the latest gossip about his romantic encounters

Yet, he didn't give him the chance to do so. His gaze turned toward Rose while editing the message swiftly.

'It seems like I've spotted your little beauty. Rose.' Then, he sent the messag

Three seconds later, he received a response from Jonathan

"Location"

He rolled his eyes and muttered, "He's favoring romance over friendship!"

After that, he sent the address Jonathan took a glance at the address on his phone. Despite almost reaching Zemwood Gardens, he made a U-turn without any hesitation

Meanwhile, Rose had entered the private room. Jamie and Chelsea were in the private room, together with Maya and her family. They were gathering around a young man and engaging in a lively discussion

When Rose entered, the young man's eyes lit up with amazement

Rose's aunt, Amelia Shaffer, deliberately caused her voice and flaunted

Jackson is the manager under Finch Group. He's highly regarded by Mr. Finch at such a young age. Maya is fortunate."

Rose glanced at Maya in surprise. She wondered when she had gotten a boyfriend.

Maya looked smug as she said, "That's because I have good taste, unlike someone willing to settle for just about anyone. Jackson's family has collaborations with the Gibson family too his joining Finch Group is purely based on his abilities without relying on his family."

"Jackson must have met Mr. Finch, right?" Amelia immediately asked.

Jackson was simply a minor manager under Finch Group. Where would he have the opportunity to meet someone as influential as Jonathan?

However, he proudly raised his chin as he said, "Of course, I've met him!"

Jamie's eyes sparkled.

"Jackson, can you introduce me to him?"

Jamie had missed the banquet held by the Finches last time due to a last-minute matter. He heard that Jonathan wore a mask that night, but no one had seen his true face.

Finch Group had several gem mines in and outside the country.

If he could establish a connection with the Finch family, his plan to crush Celeste Jewels and rebuild his empire would be even more secure.

As he was in a dilemma, Amelia promptly answered for him, "No problem at all. It's just a small matter. It can be arranged at any time, right, Jackson?"

Jackson had no way to arrange Jonathan's schedule. However, he reluctantly nodded under everyone's expectant gazes.

At that moment, the manager of Gourmet Haven led the staff to serve an exquisite meal. It was so sumptuous that it left everyone in awe. Jamie was the first to notice the unusuality.

“Is this not what we ordered?”

“Mr. Gibson ordered us to serve the meal as a welcome gift. We use the finest ingredients in our restaurant. It’s limited to only one serving per day. We hope

+15 BONUS

you all enjoy it.” Before leaving, the manager emphasized, “Mr. Gibson has paid for the bill. Please enjoy.”

Gourmet Haven was a property of the Gibson family, which had only one son. In the entire Aquastead, there was only one “Mr. Gibson”

Jamie was extremely surprised. He rarely had the chance to get in touch with the core of the Finch family. Therefore, he couldn’t fathom why Zac was being

so generous.

“Oh! Could this be because of Jackson’s connections?” Amelia exclaimed.

Jackson chuckled. “I do have some connections with Mr. Gibson.”

At once, Amelia’s praises flowed incessantly.

Rose, who had been sitting quietly, listened to Amelia’s flattery. The Shaffers had become prosperous through Celeste Jewels’s business, which was founded by her mother.

Amelia and her family relied on the profits from Celeste Jewel, considering it their own. Nevertheless, they still felt inferior in their hearts.

Now that Maya had found such an outstanding boyfriend, they were naturally eager to show off. As Rose continued eating her meal, the focus suddenly turned to her.

Maya said mischievously, “Maya, I heard you got married. Where’s your husband? Why isn’t he here?”

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Chapter 32 Maya Recognized Him

Rose responded without even lifting an eyelid, "He has something to attend to. He won't be coming."

Jamie's face immediately darkened. He had intentionally called the people on the spot to establish dominance over Rose's new husband. Now that he was not coming, his arrangement would be in vain.

"What could be more important than meeting a father-in-law? Call him now and ask him to come over," Jamie ordered.

Rose seemed to ignore his command as she continued eating her meal.

Suddenly, Maya chuckled as she said, "Could it be that my brother-in-law can't bear to show his face? Is this the reason Rose doesn't want him to come? Oh!

He isn't some old geezer, is he? Does he know about the night you went to Nightfall Lounge for excitement? Let's say if my brother-in-law were an old geezer, you'd be better off marrying that handsome guy at Nightfall Lounge that night!"

Rose had just taken a bite of lobster when her movements suddenly froze.

She did marry the guy from Nightfall Lounge. However, she was relieved she didn't let him come. She'd rather handle these cold remarks herself.

Nevertheless, her nonchalant attitude stirred up some individuals.

"Jackson, you might not know—that night, Rose..." Maya exaggerated the details of Rose's nightclub escapade as she told Jackson about it.

The latter then started looking at Rose with a lascivious and ambiguous gaze.

When he first saw Rose, he was captivated by her appearance. He thought she was hard to reach, but it turned out she was a party-goer.

He decided to find an opportunity to have some fun with her. The others were unaware of his intentions.

On the sidelines, Amelia sneered as she said, "How despicable, Just like her mother, back in the day..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Rose picked up her glass and poured its contents toward her.

+15 BONUS

“Ah!” Amelia jumped up out of shock. She glared at Rose with embarrassment. Are you crazy?”

Jamie commanded with a stern face, “Rose, apologize to your aunt!”

“Apologize for what? Shouldn’t she be the one apologizing?” Rose retorted. “ Aunt Amelia has been insulting my mom behind her back not just once or twice. You all enjoy everything she left behind, yet you devalue her to nothing! Don’t you find that ridiculous?”

As her words ended, Jamie slapped her across the face with a loud smack. A burning pain spread across her cheek as she stood there in a daze. Seizing the opportunity, Amelia grabbed her wrist.

“You disrespectful brat! Since your mother passed away early, I’ll teach you a lesson on her behalf!”

“Mom, calm down. You’ll hurt Rose...” Maya said as she stepped in.

It seemed like she was trying to break up the fight, but her sharp nails were aimed squarely at Rose.

Rose seemed to forget to resist as she was still reeling from Jamie’s slap. Soon, her hair and clothes were disheveled due to the

tugging and pulling from Amelia and Maya.

On the other hand, Jamie watched the scene with indifference while Chelsea’s lips curled with a hint of schadenfreude. Suddenly, Maya pushed Rose hard, causing her to stumble backward toward the wall.

Just then, a tall figure appeared at the door and cradled the back of Rose’s head.

As the anticipated pain didn’t come, Rose looked up to see a familiar face. For some reason, tears welled up in her eyes instantly.

Jonathan frowned. He couldn’t understand how she had been bullied to this extent when she was the one who confronted Nixon fearlessly yesterday. He took off his suit jacket and draped it over her.

“Who are you? Don’t meddle in other people’s business!” Amelia scolded him with her hands on her hips.

Maya looked at Jonathan. She felt like she had seen him before. Jonathan’s

aze was dark and

neracing.

He was about to speak when Rose tightly grasped his arm and said, "Let's go."

She was afraid that he might get into trouble

Jonathan hesitated for a moment before he replied, "Okay"

He then embraced her shoulder and prepared to leave

Just as they took their first step, Jamie's hostile voice echoed from behind. Are you the man who married her?"

Jonathan halted and turned to meet his gaze.

"Yes," he replied with just a word. Yet, it exuded an overwhelming air of authority.

As Maya gazed upon his handsome face, she suddenly seemed to recognize him.

"You – you're the man at Nightfall Lounge from that night, aren't you?"

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Chapter 33 Handsome Guy

"Oh! Rose, I never thought you'd stoop so low as to be with a..." Maya said excitedly as her face filled with mockery.

She was seizing the opportunity to humiliate Rose. However, before she could finish her sentence, Rose slapped her across the face.

"Ah!" She covered her face. "Rose, you..."

"This slap has been a long time coming. If it weren't for you that night

Rose stared coldly at Maya. Her presence was overwhelming. A hint of guilt flashed in Maya's eyes. It seemed she was afraid Rose would reveal what happened that night when she drugged her.

Then, she preemptively threatened, "Rose, my boyfriend is the manager of the Finch Group. He was highly regarded by Mr. Finch. If you dare to hit me, don't be surprised if my boyfriend asks Mr. Finch to deal with your family."

Upon hearing this, Jamie immediately moved to strike Rose. Before he could land a blow, Jonathan grabbed his wrist.

A touch of irony appeared on Rose's lips as she observed the situation. A single threat was all it took for Jamie, her father, to raise a hand against her without hesitation.

A pang of pain spread within her as she questioned Jamie with a sorrowful tone, "Did you ever love my mother? Was her death truly an accident?"

Jamie seemed unprepared for her sudden mention of Celeste. A hint of guilt flashed in his eyes. Rose's heart grew colder as she witnessed his reaction.

She had secretly investigated before, but she had never directly confronted him. His response had already given her the answer—Celeste's death was not an accident, and he had known it all along.

Rose didn't dare to delve further into the implication behind it. She walked out of the private room while trembling inside.

Before leaving, Jonathan cast a cold gaze upon Jackson as he asked, "What's your name?"

Jackson was overwhelmed by the powerful pressure as he stuttered, "Jack..."

+15 BONUS

Jackson Cadwell.

"Good. Very good."

Jonathan sneered and left the room. The atmosphere inside the room turned strange. Jackson suddenly felt a sense of unease, as if he had offended someone he shouldn't have.

Suddenly, he noticed Zac standing by the door of the private room. He quickly pushed aside his thoughts and approached him, trying to ingratiate himself.

"Mr. Gibson, I'm sorry if I embarrassed you earlier. Thank you for the dishes you sent..."

“Do I know you?” Zac interrupted emotionlessly before hurrying out as if he had something important to attend to.

Jackson was left bewildered. It wasn't just him; everyone in the private room wore a look of astonishment. They wondered who sent the dishes earlier as a favor if Zac didn't know Jackson.

Did he do it in Rose's favor? It was impossible—she was a fallen heiress with no formal job. She couldn't possibly wield such influence.

On the other hand, Zac caught up to Rose when she was leaving Gourmet Haven. Jonathan had driven away with her and headed to Zenwood Gardens. Throughout the journey, Rose remained silent. It wasn't until they arrived at Zenwood Gardens that she finally spoke.

“I want to drink.”

Jonathan cast a glance at her and left in resignation. A few minutes later, he returned with a few cans of beer. Rose was cuddling her knees and curling up on the sofa.

She was like a wild cat that lost its claws even though it used to fight relentlessly. Her eyes revealed profound sadness.

Jonathan opened a can of beer and handed it to her. She took it and emptied the beer in three swigs. Then, she proceeded to open more without stopping.

At first, she drank in silence. However, tears began to fall by the fourth bottle. She drank while wiping her tears as if she was struggling to hold back her emotions.

+15 BONUS

At one moment, it seemed like she couldn't contain herself any longer as she suddenly cried out. Her words were barely coherent as she vented her frustrations.

Jonathan had initially wanted to console her. Nevertheless, Rose suddenly stood up as he reached out.

“I'm not easy to be trifled with,” she declared passionately despite her swaying stance.

Jonathan quickly stepped forward to support her. Her eyes were blurred with intoxication.

With a grateful smile, she said, “Who are you? You're quite handsome. Do we know each other? Hehe... Thanks, handsome guy... Ugh...”

The overpowering scent of alcohol emanated from her, and she vomited all over him. Jonathan's perfect, handsome face gradually shattered. The look of disgust in his eyes threatened to spill over.

Just as he was about to push her away, Rose suddenly embraced his sturdy waist.

She gazed at him with a hint of coquetry as she said, "I remember now, you're my husband..."

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Chapter 34 You Are the Only One I Have

The words "my husband" sounded particularly sweet coming from her mouth. Jonathan was momentarily stunned.

"I have nothing left... I've been cast out of my family, and I've given you all the money. You're the only one I have."

Rose seemed genuinely aggrieved. Jonathan recalled what had happened at Gourmet Haven. She had endured all the humiliation and bullying, but she had stood up for him in the end.

He retrieved the idea of pushing her away as he said, "If you want to get back at them, I can help you."

He rarely lent his hand to others. Nevertheless, in light of her defense of him, he could make an exception.

After a while, the person in his arms still didn't respond. He furrowed his brows as he looked down, only to find that she had fallen asleep:

Her face was against his chest, and there was drool at the corner of her mouth.

"So filthy!"

Jonathan was full of disgust. However, he still picked her up and carried her into the bathroom. Once inside, he regretted his decision.

They had crossed boundaries they shouldn't have, more than once. He knew every inch of her skin intimately.

However, the process of cleaning her was undeniably torturous for him as his body was becoming restless.

After tidying up Rose and placing her on the bed, he went back to the bathroom and took a cold shower for two hours to quell the rising desire within him.

Nevertheless, as soon as he left the bathroom and saw Rose on the bed, his hair-drying motion froze. She had kicked the blanket away, exposing her fair legs.

The intense visual impact caused the desire that he had struggled to suppress to reignite slowly.

+15 BONUS

"Heh..." he self-mockingly chuckled after realizing that he was acting like an inexperienced boy who was unable to resist temptation.

He then picked up the blanket and covered her before hastily leaving the room. As he couldn't sleep at all that night, he decided to call Finley.

Ten minutes later, the heads of various companies under Finch Group in Aquastead were awakened from their sleep. They were informed that Jonathan had scheduled a video conference.

In the video conference, they could only see a silhouette in a black robe sitting on the chair.

"Which company does Jackson Cadwell belong to?" Jonathan asked in a low, discontented tone.

The heads were cautious and relieved to confirm that there was no one named Jackson in their companies.

Just then, a person responded with a trembling voice, "Mr. Finch, he's from our company. He's just a minor Sales Manager."

"Terminate him immediately," Jonathan ordered coldly and then ended the conference.

The heads were left bewildered. They couldn't believe that Jonathan had made such a grand announcement just to terminate a person.

In less than ten minutes, in a small community in Aquastead, Jackson was awakened by a call from his superior.

Feeling a sense of accomplishment as he was highly regarded by his superior, he answered the phone.

However, the person on the other end said angrily, "Jackson, you have been terminated."

Jackson was taken aback.

"Why?"

"It was a direct order from Mr. Finch. Think about whom you might have offended recently."

+15 BONUS

With that, the superior hung up the phone. At that moment, a commotion could be heard in the living room.

"How could it end up like this? We have a good partnership with the Gibsons. Why did they suddenly decide to terminate it? And it's Mr. Gibson's decision! Jackson, what did you do to offend him?"

Jackson suddenly felt as if his world was falling apart. He remembered

Jonathan's sneer and the dishes Zac had sent at Gourmet Haven. Probably, it was all because of Rose.

"Damn it! Maya and her family have implicated me!" he cursed in a low voice.

He suddenly remembered the improper thoughts he had harbored about Rose. Cold sweat ran down his back. What should he do now?

On the other hand, Rose had a sound sleep that night. Early the next morning, she found herself waking up in an unfamiliar room.

It was only when she walked out and saw her star escort husband, who was drinking coffee and eating breakfast at the breakfast bar, that her heart finally settled.

She couldn't hide her surprise as she looked around the house.

"Is this your house?" she asked.

It was a spacious, luxurious flat in Zenwood Gardens. It was undoubtedly a high-end property.

“It belongs to my friend,” Jonathan replied nonchalantly.

He had paid for it, but the property was registered under Zac’s name. Rose was in shock regarding his ability to buy a house there when she heard his response.

She naturally regarded his so-called “friend” as “sugar mommy” as she blinked suggestively at him and said, “I understand. It’s a ‘friend’s’ house. I get it!”

Jonathan stared at her with a suggestive look.

“What do you understand?”

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Chapter 35 I Can Make Changes

Rose felt her scalp tingle under his intense gaze. Could she say it directly?

“Nothing...” she chuckled awkwardly and fled.

After fiddling with the printer for a while, she returned to Jonathan with a contract in hand.

“This is our marriage agreement. We didn’t have the chance to draft it before, so let’s do it now.”

Jonathan took a glance at the contract. It clearly stated that their marriage was a transaction, and they would divorce without any ties after one month.

Besides, she also promised to clear the debt of more than four million she owed him before the divorce.

Jonathan couldn’t help but feel a sense of dissatisfaction as he asked, “One month? Are you sure you can pay off more than four million in one month?”

Rose patted her chest confidently.

“Of course! One month is enough. Hurry up and sign it.”

The National Jewelry Design Award was just one month away. Once she secured the championship and inherited Celeste Jewels, the transaction would come to an end.

Jonathan did not know about her agreement with Jamie. He stared at her for a while before signing his name reluctantly.

Noticing his neat signature, Rose mumbled, “Finch...”

Apart from the first syllable, she couldn’t discern the other words. However, she didn’t press the matter further and happily kept the agreement. As she was about to leave, Jonathan stopped her.

“Rose!”

“Hmm?”

She turned back. Her steps took her into his deep, dark eyes.

“Come here.”

+15 BONUS

His voice was sultry. Rose then walked over, almost against her will. Jonathan hadn’t slept at all the previous night as he was aroused by her.

Now that he was further agitated by her desire to end the marriage without ties in one month, an unexplainable dissatisfaction arose in his heart. He grabbed her wrist and pulled her into his embrace

Rose’s heart skipped a beat as she bumped into his sturdy chest.

She could feel his breath on her ear as he said seductively, “I’m not quite satisfied with this agreement.”

Rose swallowed hard, and even her speech became stuttered.

“You

What are you not satisfied with? I. I can make changes.”

Jonathan raised his brows.

“I don’t need changes. Just add one clause verbally.”

“What... to add?”

“If you can’t pay off the debt in one month, you’ll have to pay it with your body. How about that?”

His lips inadvertently brushed against her earlobe. It was just a brief contact before he pulled away. Rose was left in astonishment.

“Pay with her body? What kind of suggestive language is that?!” she thought.

Her face instantly turned red as vivid and unsuitable images flashed through her mind. Her embarrassment was visible on her neck.

As if she had suddenly regained some rationality, she quickly pushed him away.

Looking at his charming and evil face, she shouted indignantly, “You.... you ever think about it!”

Don’t

With that, she promptly dashed out of the room. Her hurried departure left Jonathan thoroughly satisfied.

He didn’t want to be the only one who had suffered the previous night. He wanted her to experience the feeling of being flirted with.

+15 BONUS

Rose went downstairs with her heart pounding. The words “pay with your body” seemed like a spell that echoed in her ears, making her unable to shake them off.

He was indeed a star escort; his flirting skills were top-notch. However, the thought of him pleasing the other “sugar mommies” in the same way suddenly made her feel uncomfortable.

Just then, she received a call from Evan.

“Evan...”

She was a bit awkward. Just as she was about to explain the incident at Aquastead Hotel that morning, Evan spoke first.

“Rose, do you have some free time? K&K has a client who wants a custom gown. I’m not comfortable assigning this design to anyone else. Hence, I’d like to invite you to design it.”

He was cheerful as if nothing had happened.

Rose relaxed instantly and replied, “Of course, I have time!”

Without a penny to her name, and with a huge debt owed to her star escort husband, she indeed needed to earn money.

Evan then sent the client’s requirements via email. Within minutes, Rose received a prepayment.

Looking at the sudden increase in her bank balance, she was stunned for a few seconds before excitedly exclaiming, “I have money now!”

Her first order of business was to think about her star escort husband.

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Chapter 36 Publicly Announce Their Relationship

Inside Finch Building, the heads were all on edge after the impromptu video conference held last night. They were expecting bloodshed to hit the company today.

However, Jonathan arrived with an unusually smiley face.

Everyone was left bewildered, including Finley. Since he left work early yesterday, he wondered what had happened in his absence that made Jonathan so happy.

“Mr. Finch, this is a letter and documents we received this morning.”

▮

Finley placed the items on the desk. He wanted to question him to clear up his confusion, but he dared not to. As Jonathan casually flipped through the documents, his gaze focused on an anonymous letter.

He opened the envelope and saw a photo, which captured the scene in the hotel room yesterday morning.

Initially, he wanted to investigate the source of this photo. However, he noticed that in the photo, Rose looked anxious on the bed—she was probably worrying about him.

He raised his brows, and an inadvertent smile formed on his face.

On the sidelines, Finley was curious about the content of the photo. He was about to take a peek when Jonathan received a text message on his phone.

Jonathan picked up his phone. He saw a message informing him of a deposit of 100 thousand dollars, with the sender being Rose.

He wondered if she was in such a hurry to clear the debt because she wanted to avoid “paying with her body“, or if she was eager to sever their relationship in one month.

He felt an unexplainable sense of dissatisfaction.

Just then, his secretary knocked on the door to inquire, “Mr. Finch, Mr. Lane is here. Would you like to see him?”

Nixon—he was the one who sent Kelly, the woman who tried to seduce him, to him at Aquastead Hotel two nights ago.

1/4

Thinking about that, a cold, fierce glint flashed through Jonathan’s eyes as he said, “No, I don’t want to see him. In the future, he’s not allowed to set foot in Finch Building again.”

After being rejected and left outside, Nixon was very frustrated. The previous morning, he had witnessed Jonathan leaving the hotel with Rose. They seemed very intimate as they were holding hands.

It seemed Jonathan was quite satisfied with Rose. Nixon wondered why he refused to see him.

“Damn it!”

He couldn’t hide his impatience as he decided to call Rose to question her. When the call went through, he didn’t even have a chance to say anything.

Rose’s voice came through coldly, “Was it you who arranged for that incident at - Aquastead Hotel?”

Nixon was taken aback.

“Nixon, I must have been blind to think you were just a playboy who couldn’t control your desire. I didn’t expect you to be such a scumbag!”

Rose had a lot of anger pent up inside her. If it weren’t for her star escort husband, she might have fallen victim to that middle-aged man that night.

Nixon’s face darkened as he said, “Rose if it weren’t for me, how would you have a chance to get close to Uncle Jonathan? You should thank me. You’d better tell him to see me!”

Rose was confused by his address toward Jonathan.

“Get lost, Nixon! I’m holding this grudge against you. If I see you again, I’ll hit you every time I do!” Rose roared before she hung up the phone.

Nixon was furious. He decided to call Kelly to seek comfort.

At this moment, Kelly was holding the application form for the National Jewelry Design Award. She had heard that Rose was going to participate.

The Young family, one of the three major families in Regalia, was the host of the award. There were rumors that the Young family was working hard to get Jonathan to be a special judge for the award.

If Kelly seized this opportunity, not only could she beat Rose, but she could also attract Jonathan’s attention. As for Nixon...

Her lips curled into a cold smile as she responded sweetly, “Nixon, I’m not feeling well. Maybe I caught a cold.”

Upon hearing her words, Nixon was concerned and said, “How did you catch a cold? I’ll come see you.”

“It’s okay, Nixon. My parents are at home. I’m afraid they’ll find out about our relationship. I’ve taken some medicine and just need to rest.” Kelly coughed a few times to make it sound convincing.

They chatted for a while before hanging up the phone. Nixon was extremely frustrated. Before, he had to marry Rose because of Celeste Jewels.

Now that Rose had made things difficult for him, their engagement was no longer valid. He could openly be with Kelly as well. He decided to find an opportunity to publicly announce his relationship with Kelly.

However, he didn't know that Kelly, who had Jonathan on her mind, had something else planned.

After hanging up the phone, Kelly went downstairs and bumped into Maya, who was also holding an application form for the National Jewelry Design Award. A hint of disdain flashed in Kelly's eyes.

Meanwhile, Maya said excitedly, "Kelly, guess who I saw? It's Rose's husband. Do you know who he is?"

As Kelly thought about the picture of that remarkably handsome man she had seen, her eyes still held a hint of disdain,

Then, Maya continued, "It's the guy who was with her at Nightfall Lounge that night. He's the host there! Hahaha! I can't believe Rose married him!"

Her statement finally attracted Kelly's attention.

The latter then responded sarcastically, "It seems she doesn't have high standards."

"Exactly! She even tried to keep it under wraps last night. It seems like she's afraid of being embarrassed"

+15 BONUS

Maya deliberately ignored the fact that the guy had a good-looking face. She was still smarting from Rose's slap last night.

With a sinister plan forming in Kelly's mind, she mused, "If she wants to hide. her relationship, I won't let her have it her way. So..."

She then shared her plan with Maya. The two of them were quickly in agreement.

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Chapter 37 He Believed

Having acquired some money, Rose promptly booked a hotel room for the night.

As Jonathan returned to Zenwood Gardens at midnight, he found the house completely vacant. Rose hadn't returned yet. Jonathan immediately called her as he was worried that she might be in danger.

After a few rings, he heard Rose's drowsy voice from the other end as she said, "Hello? Who is this?"

"Where are you?" Jonathan asked in a deep, low voice.

Rose's mind took a few seconds to digest his words as she was still groggy from sleep. She couldn't grasp what was happening.

"I'm at a hotel. Who are you?"

With that, she promptly hung up the phone and went back to sleep.

Jonathan stared at his phone with a dark expression. Only then did he realize that she had only stayed for one night here, yet he had come to regard this place as their home.

However, she was right. After all, he was nobody to her. Both of them were just participants in a contractual marriage. They would go their separate ways in a month. Yet, he had taken it seriously.

He let out a self-deprecating chuckle and left Zenwood Gardens. In the following two days, he altered his plan and personally went to Arizona to handle the merger of the financial institutions under Finch Group.

Rose had completely forgotten the call between them that day.

During these two days, she had registered for the National Jewelry Design Award. She quickly created a design and uploaded it to the official website of the award.

She had also completed a design for K&K. The clients were very satisfied with the design she submitted. In celebration, Evan asked her out for dinner.

Rose didn't decline sch

haven't properly thanked you. So, it's settled, I'll arrange it for tonight."

As soon as she hung up the phone, she received a Facebook notification. It informed her that she had been added to a chat room.

The chat room consisted of several socialites from Aquastead, and messages started pouring in.

"Yes, we're all in. It'll be just a sisters' gathering between us."

“Why is Rose being so quiet? Could it be that her husband is too bad-looking and she’s embarrassed to introduce him?”

Rose frowned as she replied, “He’s very handsome!*

“We don’t care if he’s handsome or not, Rose. You don’t have to bring your husband along. Just come and have fun with us. You must come! We’ve already chosen a place and time. We’ll inform you right away!”

Rose rarely interacted with these women. They were just her high school classmates. Nevertheless, it seemed that she couldn’t escape this “sisters” gathering” this time.

After leaving the hotel, she found a nice fine-dining restaurant and waited for Evan there. Evan hadn’t arrived yet, but Rose received a call from Yvonne.

*Rose, you got married? How could you not tell me about something so significant? Do you no longer consider me your best friend? Who is that man? I heard this news from my brother. Anyway, I had thought you might become my sister-in-law, but it seems that’s not going to happen!” Yvonne roasted.

Rose felt a bit guilty. However, she had nothing to hide from Yvonne.

“I intended to tell you that day, but I ran into Evan. I hadn’t planned to marry for real; I just happened to need a husband, and that person happened to be a suitable one.”

“You mean a fake marriage?”

Yvonne’s mouth was agape at the other end of the phone.

Rose frowned as she explained, “It’s not exactly fake because we got the marriage certificate. It’s just that it will end once the time is up.”

“So, my brother still has a chance riebias

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Yvonne playfully teased, “Rose, please consider my brother. He’s young, handsome, and rich. Furthermore, the Spencer family is also one of the top families in Aquastead, and my brother will inherit everything. Besides, he seems to have a crush on you!”

Rose choked on her saliva as she was taken aback.

“How is that possible? Please don’t make such jokes!”

At that moment, Evan’s voice came from outside as he knocked on the door of the private room. Rose was so startled that she promptly hung up the phone.

“It seems like I’m a bit late.”

Evan walked in. His casual outfit made him look like a boy next door.

“Not at all. You’re right on time,” Rose said as she stood up to welcome him.

For some reason, she kept thinking about Yvonne’s words regarding her speculation of Evan having a crush on her. She felt an inexplicable sense of unease.

However, during the meal, Evan’s attitude was professional and friendly. Their conversation centered around design matters.

There was no hint of any romantic interest in his gaze. It made her feel

relieved. She considered Yvonne was just being mischievous. There was no way Evan could have a crush on her.

After the meal, Rose declined Evan’s offer to take her home. The latter didn’t insist. As she left, Evan’s gaze held a trace of affection and barely concealed excitement.

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Chapter 38 Intending to Humiliate Her

Rose and the man were only in a contractual marriage that would end when the time was up—he had heard it all outside the private room just now. It meant he still had a chance.

He did have a crush on Rose; it was since high school when she came to his house with Yvonne for the first time. However, she was too young at the time. He had been waiting for her to grow up.

Little did he know that after he went abroad, she ended up being together with Nixon.

When he saw those messages from Maya in the high school alumni chat room that day, he didn’t believe that Rose would be involved with another man.

He was sure something had happened. Hence, he left his work there and immediately came back. Even their encounter on the street that night wasn’t a coincidence.

He heaved a long sigh. Since Rose and the man were just having a contractual marriage, he would wait for them to end it.

The next morning, Rose had just woken up when she received the message regarding the time and location of the gathering

Tonight at 10 pm, at Nightfall Lounge.”

Seeing the words “Nightfall Lounge“, her head buzzed and she instinctively wanted to refuse. However, the messages from those socialites kept popping

up.

“Rose, you better not bail on us. If you don’t show up, we’ll keep pestering you until you agree!”

All these socialites were connected to various businesses in Aquastead, and some even had collaborations with Celeste Jewels.

In the future, when she took over Celeste Jewels, she would inevitably cross paths with them. After considering it, she sent a few words.

“I’ll be there on time.”

At 10:00 PM, Rose arrived at Nightfall Lounge punctually. As she entered the

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bar, the socialites who had been waiting for her spotted her immediately. Mandy Walts greeted her with excitement.

“Rose, you’re finally here! We thought you might chicken out and not come.”

Afterward, she pulled Rose to their served booth in Section A. The booth was filled with the so-called toxic friends, most of whom Rose hadn’t seen in a long time.

However, a person stood out—Maya was here too. Rose instantly realized that this gathering was a trap, but it was too late to leave now.

“Rose, you’re so unexciting. You didn’t tell us about your marriage; we only found out from Maya. Come on, let’s have a shot!”

“One shot! One shot!”

The

socialites were all joining in to force her to drink a forfeit. Rose smirked. She had to respond accordingly to their strong menace. She poured herself a drink and downed it in one shot.

After the three shots from Rose, Maya's eyes flashed with malice amid the crowd's encouragement.

She chuckled and said, "Rose, everyone insisted on celebrating for you. They even suggested earlier that we bring all the hosts to celebrate for you. Rose, you're someone!"

Amanda grabbed a microphone from somewhere and loudly announced, "Come over here, all the handsome guys. Tonight, we're celebrating our good friend, Rose's marriage. We've ordered the most expensive drinks in the bar. Whoever comes to serve us will get a commission!"

Soon, all the hosts swarmed in. While the bar did have private rooms, they had intentionally chosen a booth today so that everyone could see them.

Rose looked at Maya. She wasn't sure if this group of toxic friends knew about the identity of her star escort husband.

Nevertheless, she could tell that Maya had some malicious intent tonight—she wanted to humiliate her!

Her lips curved with a hint of amusement as she said, "The drinks at Nightfall Lounge are quite expensive. With so many gentlemen here, each of them

+15 BONUS

deserves a commission. So, how much should we order?"

"You don't have to worry about that. We'll pay for the bill," Amanda said.

Indeed, she came from a wealthy family, and so did the other socialites. They never lacked money. However, Maya was much more financially strained compared to them.

Hence, Rose wanted to make her spend to humiliate her.

She played innocent as she said, "But Maya was the one who brought up the gathering, wasn't she? She must have chosen this place herself. According to our rules, the person who organized the gathering should pay the bill. We can't break the rule, can we?"

Maya's face stiffened.

Rose could see right through her as she asked, “Are you unable to afford it?”

Maya’s family relied on Celeste Jewels and Jamie for their livelihood. They had deep-seated feelings of inferiority and vanity.

Hence, Maya couldn’t admit she couldn’t afford it, especially in front of these socialites.

As Rose had expected, Maya raised her chin and said, “Why wouldn’t I be able to afford it? I’ll cover all the expenses tonight.”

Inside, she was bleeding. She was determined to make Rose pay for it tonight.

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Chapter 39 A Proposal on Such Occasion

Maya couldn’t wait any spot Rose’s husband.

longer. She glanced around at the hosts but couldn’t

Unable to contain her curiosity, she blurted out, “Rose, where’s your husband? Why haven’t we seen him? You should call him over; we’re all friends here, and he should get a share of the commission.

Her speech caused chaos within the calm atmosphere. All the socialites were taken aback.

“What do you mean?”

“What do you mean by letting him get a share of the commission?”

Maya pretended to be surprised as she said, “Oh? You all don’t know about it? Rose’s husband works here!”

The socialites were left in shock.

“Is it for real? Hahaha!”

“So, Rose’s husband is a host who works here. Rose, your taste is truly unique!”

Mockery erupted in all directions. It was becoming clear that Maya had set up this scenario to humiliate Rose.

Mandy was excited as she asked, "Rose, where's your husband?"

She had always been envious of Rose as she was both beautiful and talented, making her the center of attention wherever she went. She couldn't miss the opportunity to humiliate her.

She was determined to expose her husband to make the situation even more entertaining. She took her phone and was ready to take a video which will be posted on social media.

Then, she called the manager and instructed, "Get all your hosts out here!"

The manager counted on the hosts and replied, "I'm sorry, Miss. They're all here."

"How is that possible?" Maya was holding a glass of wine as she raised her chin. She said condescendingly, "If any of the hosts have been left out, the

commission we promised just now won't be valid."

"It's impossible to have left anyone out. Would you like to check the list personally?"

The manager handed her a list. Maya checked the names with the photos one by one. However, she couldn't find Rose's husband.

Mandy grew impatient as she asked, "Maya, have you found him yet?"

Maya's face turned unpleasant. She tossed the list aside and directly asked Rose, "Rose, could it be that your husband has resigned? Well, it makes sense. After all, he can't continue selling his body in a place like this once he's married."

Her words provoked Rose, who then stared coldly at her as she said, "Maya

That gaze sent a shiver down Maya's spine.

However, she assumed Rose wouldn't dare to do anything with so many people around. Hence, she continued her humiliation.

"Rose, you and your husband are a perfect match. One was kicked out of the family, and the other..."

Before she could finish her sentence, a man's voice suddenly rang out.

"Maya... I've finally found you!"

Everyone turned to see an unshaven man in a disheveled shirt. He was in a mess. It was Jackson. He hurried to Maya's side and took her hand.

"Maya, come with me!"

"Who is this person?" the socialites asked in curiosity.

Maya hadn't expected Jackson to show up, but it was perfect timing.

She pretended to ignore his disheveled appearance and proudly introduced him, "This is my boyfriend. He comes from a family-owned business and holds a high position in Finch Group. He's also highly regarded by Mr. Finch. Jackson, don't get the wrong idea. I'm just here to hang out with my friends. I won't be like some people."

She looked at Rose with a triumphant expression, as if she had already

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crushed her under her feet. A cold smile played on Rose's lips. She was about to say something when Jackson saw her

The next moment, Jackson suddenly let go of Maya's hand and knelt on the ground with a loud thud. This action startled everyone.

"Jackson, what are you doing?"

Maya thought he was about to propose to her.

She blushed and said, "Jackson, there are so many people here. You know I don't like to make a scene..."

She was excited inside. For sure, she was a high-profile person who liked to receive attention. Jackson's proposal to her on this occasion was elevating her to the heavens.

As for Rose... Maya was maliciously calculating how to humiliate her even further. She was completely oblivious to the respect and fear in Jackson's eyes when he looked at Rose.

Then, Jackson crawled to Rose and slammed his head on the ground with a loud thud.

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Chapter 40 Begging for Mercy

“Ms. Shaffer, I’m sorry. It’s all my fault... No, it’s all Maya’s fault. I haven’t done anything wrong. Please, I beg you, help me plead for mercy. I can’t afford to lose my job at Finch Group, and my family’s cooperation with Gibson Holdings. is at stake!” Jackson pleaded.

Upon hearing his words, Maya was left in a daze. She suddenly realized that he was not kneeling to propose but to beg for mercy. Moreover, he was pleading with Rose.

She couldn’t believe what she was witnessing and didn’t trust her ears.

“Jackson, what are you saying?”

She wondered what he meant by losing his job at Finch Group and the cooperation with Gibson Holdings.

Jackson became even more frustrated upon hearing her voice as he said, “ You’re asking me? I offended Mr. Finch just because of you!”

Then, he turned to beg Rose again.

“Ms. Shaffer, if you want to blame someone, please blame Maya. From now on, I have no relationship with her. Please talk to Mr. Gibson and Mr. Finch for me. I’ve heard that it was Mr. Finch himself who ordered my dismissal...”

Rose was left bewildered. She had caught on to the fact that the cooperation between the Cadwells and Gibson Holdings was in jeopardy. Besides, Jackson had lost his job at Finch Group.

Nevertheless, she could do nothing to help.

“I don’t know Mr. Gibson or Mr. Finch!” she said as she recalled the confrontation at the Lane residence and the harrowing hijack incident on the mountain road.

The name “Mr. Finch” was synonymous with danger for her. She wanted to avoid encountering him at all costs. Jackson grew even more anxious as he assumed she was unwilling to help.

His gaze flickered, and he suddenly grabbed Maya’s hand with a strong pull. In the next instant, Maya found herself forced to kneel on it

“Ah!”

Her exposed knees scraped against the floor and got scratched.

However, Jackson showed no mercy. He shouted angrily at her, "Maya, your need to beg Ms. Shaffer for mercy. It was your idea to invite me to the family banquet that night to watch a show. You, your mother, and your aunt conspired to humiliate Ms. Shaffer and her husband. None of this is my fault!"

Rose did know that the family banquet that night was intended to humiliate her. Yet, her heart was filled with irony even now. She stared coldly at Maya, who felt utterly humiliated.

The surrounding socialites looked on with amusement. The plan had been to humiliate Rose, but it had somehow backfired. Maya was the one being

humiliated now.

Jackson continued to urge, "Maya, speak up! Quickly apologize to Ms. Shaffer. As long as you apologize, I can consider continuing our relationship."

Maya's eyelashes trembled upon hearing his words.

Meanwhile, Rose said with a cold smirk, "I don't need an apology. I told you, I don't know Mr. Gibson or Mr. Finch. If there's nothing else, I'll be leaving."

Before anyone could respond, she turned and left. However, Jackson, who had failed in his plea for mercy, shifted all the blame to Maya. He suddenly slapped her hard across the face.

The loud smack reverberated throughout the hall, accompanied by the socialites' continuous mockery.

"We thought Maya had found such an outstanding boyfriend..."

"Exactly! Today we came at the right time. We got to see a show..."

Maya gritted her teeth as she looked at Rose's retreating figure not far away with determination in her eyes. Suddenly, she dashed toward her.

The socialites watched her actions. No one offered any warning to Rose but rather eagerly anticipated the spectacle. On the second floor, Jonathan, who had observed everything, suddenly tightened his gaze.

Beside him, Zac could sense his worry as he teased, "What's this? You're not going to be a hero and come to her rescue?"