

In A Flash 101

Chapter 101

Aurelia entered the kitchen and organized the raw food materials in the refrigerator by category.

After putting on an apron, she prepared to pan-fry some steaks.

However, something was still on her mind.

She wondered how Millie's blind date was going.

Aurelia tried calling her but she was unable to reach her.

So, she sent Millie a few messages instead.

"Millie, why can't I reach you on your phone?"

"Millie, please call me back when you see this."

She knew that Millie had a habit of sleeping in during the holidays. So she assumed that Millie was planning to sleep in the whole day

Setting her phone aside, Aurelia started cooking.

She washed some vegetables and cherry tomatoes for some salad. She planned to have them chill in the fridge while she pan-fried the steaks.

Sweating profusely, she went to switch on the electric standing fan. But it was gone.

Instead, a cool breeze wafted in through the opened kitchen door.

She was confused and perplexed.

She walked over to the kitchen door and noticed the electric standing fan was running, blowing in cool air from the air conditioning toward the kitchen.

The angle of the fan had to be positioned intentionally.

The only person who could have done it was Leslie.

The heat dissipated from Aurelia's body.

She couldn't help but glance at the study.

Perhaps living with Leslie wouldn't be as challenging as she thought.

Maybe they could live more harmoniously together in the future?

Future?

Aurelia was startled by this thought and quickly shook her head.

Leslie only married her for Linda's sake. There was no real future between them.

She turned around and continued cooking.

In the study, Leslie called up his subordinate who would be lending him their car.

“You don’t have anything strange in your car, do you?” he asked.

“Nope,” the subordinate said.

“Take everything out of your car tomorrow. Especially clear out your music player, remove all the songs,” Leslie said in a low voice.

“Hehe. Boss, the songs are good, right?” The subordinate laughed sheepishly.

The employees of One Technology were Leslie’s confidants from overseas.

Though they worked for him, they share a close relationship.

“I’m taking two days’ worth off your bonus,” Leslie said.

“But, boss...” The subordinate was on the verge of tears.

Satisfied, Leslie hung up the phone.

Just then, a new email came in from his computer.

It should be Daniel’s investigation report on Young Advertising that he asked.

As he was about to open it, he heard a scream from the kitchen.

“Ah!”

Leslie immediately rushed into the kitchen.

As Aurelia tried to put a piece of steak into a pan, the stove erupted accompanied by a loud explosion.

Oil splattered everywhere. She screamed while quickly covering the pan with a lid.

However, the lid was thrown off, and flames shot out from the gaps.

She couldn't dodge in time.

Fortunately, he was saved by Leslie, who pulled her from behind.

away

She fell heavily into Leslie's arms, causing her to panic.

Leslie used a spatula to shut the lid back and it managed to extinguish the fire.

"It's okay," he said calmly.

"Sorry." Aurelia quickly explained, "I didn't mean to. I've never made steak before, so I probably forgot to dry the water on the surface. Maybe that's why it caught fire.

"If the pan was damaged, I'll buy you a new one." As someone who loved eating beef, she felt a bit embarrassed about making such a mistake.

Both her parents didn't like steak, so she never cooked it at home. She only ever had it with Millie a few times at restaurants.

She thought it would be similar to stir-fried beef, but she ended up making a fool of herself.

"It's okay to not know this sort of thing. No one's blaming you." Leslie said, his voice not containing a hint of admonition.

"Hm?"

Chapter 102

"Is there a problem?" Leslie glanced at her calmly.

"I...I thought you would be mad at me," she muttered.

One time when Seth was sick, Aurelia went to his apartment to cook for him.

However, she wasn't familiar with h

to operate an electric stove and ended up breaking it.

Seth reprimanded her for being inconsiderate and causing him trouble.

He even argued that he was scolding her for her own good. Otherwise, she would end up being good for nothing.

In the end, she even had to compensate him a hundred dollars.

Thinking back, she felt like a fool for being that way.

Leslie dragged her away from the pan and said, "I can't cook, so who am I to say anything?"

Aurelia fell into silence and lowered her head.

After a while, all the noises from the pan ceased.

She wanted to clean up the mess when she noticed that she was in Leslie's arms, his hand resting on her shoulder.

Startled, she jolted away toward the fridge.

Leslie narrowed his eyes. How many times has she done this? Did he smell bad or something?

"Did you get burnt?" he asked, feeling slightly annoyed.

She shook her head. "No."

Her face did feel like it was burning, though.

"If you're that reluctant to be around me, why did you agree with my mom to marry me?"

Aurelia paused and considered his question. "That's because ..."

Just as she was about to explain about the conflict between her mother and Seth, she smelt something burning.

"Mr. Synder, do you smell that?"

"The pan is burning." He pointed at the pan, expressionless.

"My steak!"

az?" at the pan and bit he

Aurelia stared at the black object on the pan and bit her lip.

Years of cooking experience yet she failed to even make a simple steak.

Leslie glanced at the pan in disgust. "It's fine. Let's order some takeout."

Aurelia stared at the steak.

She recalled the thoughtful look on Leslie's face when he looked at the steak inside the fridge.

Leslie was so nice to her, yet she couldn't even make him some steak.

She pushed him gently. "Mr. Synder, go watch TV. I'll call you when the food is ready."

Before Leslie could react, he was pushed out of the kitchen.

He almost had his nose bumped against the door when he turned around.

Whose house was this, really?

He wasn't annoyed though. Instead, he felt quite relaxed.

He walked straight to the balcony, casually closing the door to prevent the smell of smoke from entering the room.

The balcony was his favorite spot in this house.

It was much larger than those in typical homes.

With its semi-circular shape, it was equipped with a sunshade, tables, and chairs. It was a perfect place for relaxation.

He leaned against the railing and lit a cigarette.

He started observing a family of three in the opposite building sitting down for a meal.

The family was smiling.

The child watched their parents while the father fed the mother a bite of food. They were all laughing heartily.

Leslie never paid attention to these sorts of things, but he was now feeling a sense of longing for something.

The cigarette smoke started obscuring the image of the happy family before him.

In an instance, it took him back to a different memory.

A boy of the same age as him walked up to him, grinning maliciously.

“Leslie, you’re an illegitimate child, you know? Dad loves me! My mom said the one not loved is the homewrecker!”

Leslie immediately punched him and sent him to the hospital.

Later, he and his mother were kicked out.

“Mr. Synder? Mr. Synder? Are you okay?”

Chapter 103

Aurelia’s voice gradually came to him as he snapped back to reality.

Leslie turned and saw her standing behind him.

The wind ruffled her hair and blew away the smoke before him, revealing a faint smile on her face.

“Mr. Synder, your cigarette is burning out.” She pointed at the cigarette between his fingers.

He immediately put out the cigarette while puffing out the last mouthful of smoke.

He couldn’t help but glance one last time across the building.

Aurelia followed his gaze and her smile deepened.

“They sure look happy, right?”

She was once that happy.

A hint of bitterness appeared on her smile as she said, “You will be that happy one day as well, Mr. Synder.”

“Hm?” He turned and shot her a confused look.

Did she know what she was saying? She was his legal wife at this moment.

Noticing his confusion, her eyes widened as she awkwardly said, "I mean you will be happy. Not that I'll make you happy. Haha..."

She made it sound like she wanted to start a family with him.

"Did you need something from me?"

Seeing how embarrassed she was, Leslie changed the subject.

Relieved, Aurelia replied, "Food's ready."

"Alright." He turned and stepped back into the apartment.

Aurelia took one last glance at the family of three before returning inside as well.

As he approached the dining table, he paused when he saw the steaks on the table.

Not only did Aurelia cook some steaks, but she also took the time to plate them beautifully.

"I've only been to steakhouses a few times. I think this is how they were served?" she said.

"Thank you." Leslie sat down slowly.

"It's not a big deal. You carried a lot of things for me today. Dig in."

The two exchanged a few words of courtesy before starting to eat in silence.

During that time, Aurelia would occasionally check her WhatsApp for a message from Millie. Leslie casually asked, "Is/something wrong?"

Aurelia hesitated for a moment.

She thought Leslie might have a different perspective on Millie's blind date as a man. So, she asked him a question.

"My friend went on a blind date. The guy has a company and a villa in the Emerald Valley. He has no specific requirements for the girl, just that she should be gentle. Are there really men like that?" she asked.

"No," Leslie said bluntly.

"The purpose of a blind date is not to explore each others' emotions. It's to assess the other person's condition. There won't be men who compromise unless they have ulterior motives."

Leslie's words left Aurelia feeling uneasy.

She set down her utensils and hurriedly called Millie.

However, there still was no response.

"I can't reach her. What if something happened to her?" Aurelia frowned.

Leslie wiped the corner of his mouth with a tissue.

"You're not her parents. You can't intervene in her marital affairs. Besides, she's an adult. She should know that there's no such a thing as free lunches," Leslie remarked.

"Oh." Aurelia nodded, her gaze dimming slightly.

She felt like Leslie was hinting at something.

Did Leslie think she had taken too much dowry? Or did he feel she was taking advantage of him?

“We are an exception because we aren’t truly married,” he blurted out and regretted immediately.

Why did he bother explaining?

Aurelia breathed a sigh of relief, though she still felt slightly hurt.

Still, he was just stating a fact, so there wasn’t much for her to say.

“Let’s continue eating,” Leslie suggested.

She lowered her head and continued to eat her steak.

After finishing, Leslie stood up with the plates and entered the kitchen.

Aurelia stood at the doorway and pointed to the dish soap on the windowsill.

“Mr. Synder, the dishwasher is new and it won’t hurt your hands.”

“Got it.”

Leslie stood by the sink, rolled up his sleeves, and then removed his watch.

It was a simple action.

But the muscular arm that was partially hidden under the watch was somewhat alluring.

Chapter 104

Aurelia noticed her indecent thoughts and quickly returned to her room.

She sat on the bed and continued to work.

1/3

Meanwhile, in the hotel.

Millie didn't want her parents to worry so she used the hotel landline to call them.

She informed them that she was staying at a friend's place.

The beds in high-class hotels were large, soft, and undeniably comfortable.

Nothing like her single bed at home.

If it weren't for the hotel calling to inform her that Kimberly had arranged lunch, she wouldn't have wanted to leave at all.

After getting up, she applied a bit of makeup to cover up the red marks on her cheeks and neck.

Then, she went downstairs in the clothes Kimberly had given her for lunch.

Steak, red wine, and dessert-each item was so delicious that she was in total awe.

What bewildered her even more were the prices. Each item cost close to three digits. This was the first time Millie didn't hate Kimberly so much.

"Millie? You're still here?"

Speaking of the devil, Kimberly's voice came up from behind Millie.

She turned around and saw Kimberly in a black studded dress, holding a Chanel purse.

She looked like a young lady from a wealthy family.

More importantly, there was a young man standing beside Kimberly.

He

He was dressed in a navy blue suit, with a branded watch on his wrist and diamond earrings hanging on his earlobe.

He looked handsome and wealthy.

Kimberly changed her date again.

Millie pressed her lips and recalled how she came close to getting violated by a man yesterday. Yet, Kimberly always managed to navigate herself through various high-quality men.

Even Aurelia, who came from a similar upbringing as Millie, managed to snatch a great man.

It was driving her mad with jealousy.

Kimberly saw through Millie's thoughts and smiled. "Millie, you better not don't misunderstand. This is my friend. There's no way we'd ever be together."

With his hands in his pockets, the man flashed a dashing smile. "Pah. I don't like strong women like you anyways. I prefer gentle and cute girls, like her. She is much better."

As he spoke, he glanced at Millie.

Millie blushed and felt a little shy.

Although she almost suffered last night, hearing the man say he preferred her over Kimberly still pleased her.

Kimberly shoved the man. "You better control yourself. This is my colleague. She is a decent girl."

"I'm a decent man, too." The man pointed at the empty seat. "Do you mind if I sit here, pretty lady?"

"Sure." Millie nodded.

Once the man sat down, he placed his car key on the table.

She immediately recognized the logo. It was a Ferrari.

Kimberly sat down and said to Millie, "I'm sorry. He's just like this. Why don't we eat together?"

"Sure." Millie stole a glance at the man, only to find him looking back.

After finishing their food, Kimberly stood hastily.

“I have something else to take care of. Why don’t you help send Millie home? I can’t let a girl go home alone.”

“Sure. Go ahead.” The man waved his hand, then turned to Millie. “My name is Jackson Morrison.”

“I’m Millie Parker.”

“Since we are friends now, why don’t we exchange numbers?” Jackson took out his phone.

“I...broke my phone yesterday and didn’t have time to get a new one.”

“Let’s go, then. I’ll buy you a new one,” he offered.

“No, no. I can’t accept that.”

Despite what she said, she was secretly thrilled.

“I won’t let a lady spend her own money when I’m around,” he said and waved the waiter over. “Pack another set of these desserts for this lady here.”

“Yes, sir.”

Millie waved her hands. “It’s fine. I’m full now.”

Jackson leaned back against the chair with a smile. “You seem to like these, so I got you another set. You can have them at home. It’s not expensive anyway.”

Millie fidgeted with her fingers, impressed by how generous wealthy men were. Shortly after, she carried the bag of desserts and followed Jackson to his Ferrari.

everyone around her stared at her, she straightened her back proudly.

When

She was oblivious to the fact that Kimberly was watching them inside the hotel.

With a smirk, she sent a message.

“Make sure you don’t leave any traces.”

A reply immediately came back.

“Don’t worry.”

Chapter 105

After she was done with work, Aurelia laid in bed, looking through her phone.

Just as she was about to fall asleep, her phone vibrated.

She thought Millie had finally replied to her messages and quickly unlocked her phone.

It turned out to only be messages from the company group chat.

“Millie, was it you I saw at the Glamour Shopping Center?”

Glamour Shopping Center? Wasn’t that the mall that only sold luxury brands?

Kimberly frequented that mall, but why would Millie be there?

In the midst of Aurelia's confusion, Millie replied. "It's me."

Another person replied. "Is the tall and handsome guy next to you your boyfriend?"

"Not really." Millie answered vaguely.

However, these vague responses were enough to invite speculation.

"Are you

sure? I saw him buying you all sorts of nice things. He's treating you so nicely."

"Yeah, he's not too bad." Millie replied.

"Apart from Kimberly, you're impressing me most now. You either want a great catch like this or nothing else."

"Speaking of which, what happened to Kimberly's rich, handsome suitor? Didn't she say she'd introduce him to us?"

Kimberly didn't respond.

"@KimberlyWatson."

A few colleagues tagged Kimberly, but she didn't respond.

In the end, it was Millie that supposedly hated Kimberly the most who spoke up.

"Let's stop. Maybe she's just busy."

Instantly, silence loomed over the group. Even Aurelia was stunned.

Millie was actually standing up for Kimberly.

Realizing that something was off, she immediately gave Millie a call.

After a few beeps, Millie finally picked up.

“Millie, are you okay?”

“I’m fine. Are you disappointed?” Millie said sarcastically.

“What...what do you mean?” Aurelia said, surprise.

“Why didn’t you answer the phone last night? Do you know that I almost got violated by the

blind date guy at the bar because of you?” Millie accused.

Hearing this, Aurelia froze for a moment and Millie continued to reproach her.

“Aurelia, was I not good enough to you? I stood up for you when the others targeted you. Yet, this is how you treat me. I trusted you so much and asked for your help, yet you just ignored. me.”

“No, I went out last night ...” Aurelia explained.

“Are you seriously going to make excuses now? Is it that difficult for you to admit your mistakes? It’s no wonder people don’t like you! Don’t you think it’s all your fault? It’s so exhausting to be your friend,” Millie spoke bitterly.

“Is that really how you really think about me?” Aurelia’s chest heaved and she felt as if she were choking.

Millie paused for a moment, realizing that she had spoken too harshly.

She immediately changed her tone and said, “I didn’t mean that. I was just really angry.”

However, there was no way to take back what was already said.

Aurelia wasn’t a pushover. She took a deep breath and retorted, “Millie, are you using me as a punching bag for your anger?”

“Did I force you to go on a blind date? Did I make you go to the bar in the middle of the night? I told you before your date that the guy was suspicious.

“I kept messaging you halfway through, and did you reply to me? Now that something happened, you’re blaming me?”

“You’re an adult, Millie. Don’t you understand that there’s no such thing as free lunches?”

As Aurelia spoke, she recalled Leslie’s words.

Millie understood it well. She just wanted to take shortcuts.

Millie stayed silent.

Aurelia pursed her lips and said, “Stop throwing tantrums. Did you report this to the police?”

Millie suddenly raised her voice. “We’re not reporting this to anyone! Do you want to

embarrass me even more?”

“Millie, what if this person goes on to harm others?”

“Why should I care? If you tell anyone this, I’ll be forced to die.”

“Millie...”

Beep, beep, beep...

Chapter 106

Aurelia stared at her phone with resignation.

Meanwhile, the group chat was in a heated discussion about Millie and the man.

There were quite a few comments about his wealth, thoughtfulness, and, most importantly, his generosity toward her.

These descriptions made Aurelia feel as if she were witnessing the creation of another Kimberly.

However, Millie had explicitly expressed her dislike for braggadocious people like Kimberly.

Although...Millie did mention that the man from the blind date had tried to take advantage of her. The man she was spotted with couldn’t have been the same person.

Who was he then?

How could she have encountered a new man after just one night?

Aurelia racked her brains but couldn't figure it out.

In the end, she sighed and decided to ask Millie in person tomorrow.

At the very least, they needed to clear up the misunderstanding between them.

With that in mind, Aurelia set the group messages to 'Do Not Disturb' and continued with her work.

Eventually, she fell asleep.

When she woke up again, it was already dark outside.

Feeling disoriented, she remembered she hadn't prepared dinner yet.

She quickly got up and left the room.

As she passed by the dining table, she noticed a thermos with tableware beside it.

She carefully opened it.

It was beef stew inside, still oozing steam.

It must have been prepared by Leslie.

Aurelia felt touched and glanced around the living room.

There was no one in sight.

She went to Leslie's favorite balcony, but he wasn't there either.

Turning toward the study, she saw light leaking out from the door crack.

She took a step forward, wanting to express her gratitude, but hesitated.

Leslie was usually busy with work, so it was better not to disturb him.

After she sat down at the dining table, she took out her phone and opened WhatsApp.

“Mr. Leslie, thank you.” She typed.

“Yeah.”

“I didn’t expect you could make beef stew.”

“It’s takeout.” Leslie replied without hesitation.

Well, at least Leslie didn’t lie to her.

He didn’t even wake her up to ask for dinner.

Aurelia often heard her female colleagues complaining about whenever they’re not cooking, their husbands would rather go hungry than prepare food themselves.

On weekends, they had to do laundry, cook, and take care of the children. It seemed more exhausting than going to work.

While enjoying the steaming stew, Aurelia pondered.

Leslie would definitely make a good husband in the future.

He was quiet but he would help out around the house.

Wait, wasn't Leslie her husband?

Although, it was just in name.

Meanwhile, in the study.

Leslie set his phone aside and continued reading. He had a relaxed expression.

Aurelia probably didn't know how horrible the soundproofing was in the apartment, so he heard every word she said to Millie.

He was glad that at least she wasn't a fool and knew how to fight back.

After all, she was a woman who punched a man until he bled.

For some reason, he felt the urge to laugh every time he thought back to what happened.

Aurelia seemed like an ordinary woman, yet she always did unexpected things.

Just then, he received a text on his phone.

“Mr. Synder, the police report you filed at 8:25 on 10/5/2023 has been resolved. Ms. Simmons and Mr. Martinez had both reached an agreement last night. Please call us if you have any questions.”

Leslie's eyes darkened.

An agreement?

Last night?

Did that mean that Aurelia went out and settled the case with Seth after he fell asleep?

Despite saying that she wanted nothing to do with her ex-boyfriend, it seemed as though she couldn't stand watching him suffer.

She was such a great actress that even he was fooled.

He even thought that he misunderstood her for a moment.

Clenching his fists, his expression darkened even further.

He called Daniel. "I need you to look into someone else for me."

"Who is it?"

"Seth Martinez. i want all the available details on him."

Leslie swore to show Aurelia what it meant to fool him.

Chapter 107

Aurelia, unaware of anything, woke up at six in the morning.

It was Monday, the day of her mother's surgery

She felt nervous.

Because of it, she got distracted when making breakfast, and her shaking hands almost burnt the eggs.

It was only half past six after she ate.

She didn't want to bother Leslie and headed to the hospital alone.

soon as she entered the ward, the caretaker saw how pale she was and hurried over to help her.

"Ms. Simmons, you must've not slept well last night?"

"Yeah. I'm a little nervous," Aurelia answered honestly.

"It's okay. I'll be right here with you." The caretaker tapped her on the back gently.

"Thank you," Aurelia said after taking a moment to breathe.

Like that, Aurelia and the caretaker watched as her mother was wheeled into the operating room.

Shortly after, a nurse came out holding a form.

"Ms. Simmons, I need to inform you about the risks concerning the surgery. Watch closely where I point and make sure you sign after you take in all the information."

"Sure." Aurelia nodded.

“Your mom’s condition is quite unique and, considering her poor health, this surgery could potentially lead to paralysis or death...”

”

The nurse was carried on, but Aurelia wasn’t listening.

As soon as she heard the word ‘death’, her mind went blank.

She recalled how much her parents cared about her

What her father said to her in his last breath.

She thought back to how Seth told her to give up.

Even Leslie’s face flashed before her.

She knew that she was too afraid.

“Do you understand?” the nurse asked.

“Yes.” Aurelia nodded dazedly.

“Then sign, please.” The nurse placed the pen on the paper.

With trembling hands, it took Aurelia two tries to pick up

the

pen.

2/2

“Ms. Simmons, are you alright? Do you have any other family members around? It’s best to have someone else be here with you,” the nurse said worriedly.

It was a high-risk operation. There was no guarantee as to what may happen.

If something went wrong, Aurelia may not be able to handle it on her own.

There were countless people in the hospital losing control when they heard of their loved ones ‘passing. Some even attempted to take their own lives.

Aurelia shook her head with determination. “I can do this myself.”

She didn’t tell Linda and Leslie that her mother was undergoing surgery that day.

It was bad enough that she needed to deal with this fear, so why bother dragging others into this?

The caretaker came and supported her gently. “Don’t worry. I’ll stay with her.”

Aurelia glanced at the caretaker gratefully and finally gathered the strength to sign the form.

Once the nurse confirmed everything, she entered the operation room and the sign above the door lit up.

Aurelia’s heart fell.

She stood in place for a while.

After a while, the caretaker gave Aurelia a gentle nudge.

“Ms. Simmons, your phone keeps vibrating. Is someone looking for you?”

“I’ll check”

Aurelia snapped out of it.

She tried to move but even slight movements made her body go numb.

The caretaker had to help her sit down to help soothe the numbing pain.

She finally took out her phone.

The constant buzzings were from the company group chat.

She initially didn’t want to look.

But, she worried it might be work-related so she clicked onto the messages.

When she unlocked her phone, she saw photos of Millie looking like a completely different

person.

Chapter 108

In the photo, Millie wore a blue dress with a slender branded belt. A black GUCCI mini bag rested on her shoulder.

With her exquisite makeup, she looked exceptionally charming.

Colleagues in the group chat estimated that her outfit alone would cost at least seven thousand dollars, nearly seven to eight months' worth of Millie's salary.

Millie commented. "It's not too bad. I actually had my eye on a five thousand dollar bag. It was out of stock and I didn't want to wait. But he did say he would take me to see it when it's available."

If she didn't look at the profile picture, Aurelia would've genuinely thought it was Kimberly speaking.

How had Millie changed so much in just two short days?

Millie continued. "By the way, he said he would take me to fine dining in a few days, the one Kimberly couldn't get a reservation for last time. He just made a call, and now I can go there whenever I want."

Millie's pride was present in every word, and she didn't forget to overshadow Kimberly. Aurelia could see through this obvious intention, and so could their colleagues.

Kimberly had connections, and nobody dared to offend her.

Millie's background was completely different.

She was the only university graduate among three generations and her whole family was eagerly awaiting her to succeed.

She was overly straightforward and incredibly talkative. She would've offended everyone long ago if it weren't for Aurelia helping her navigate through office politics.

If there was anything everyone hated most, it would be how arrogant she was acting.

Their words became increasingly sarcastic as a result.

“@All staff, come and take a look at the future Marie Antoinette. Even those who aren’t married can bask in her glory. Who knows? Maybe one day we can all be rich as well.”

‘@All staff, Look at the new rising star in our department. Teach us quickly how to make a man spend several thousand in one night!’

All the messages were accompanied by sarcastic emojis at the end.

Aurelia knew they were mocking Millie. Surprisingly, Millie didn’t seem to mind.

“Maybe I’m just lucky to encounter a handsome, wealthy man.’

Those words left Aurelia speechless. She quickly exited the group chat and sent a private message to Millie.

“Millie, don’t talk about your relationship in the group. They are implying that something to get those branded items.”

you did

“I know, they’re just jealous. Jealousy distorts people’s faces.” Millie replied. Aurelia felt a headache coming on and didn’t know how to respond to her.

She thought of another way to approach the topic. “Millie, who is this man?” “Aurelia, you’re already married. Is it appropriate to ask about other men?”

“I don’t mean anything else. I just find it strange that you encountered trouble during a blind date, and then suddenly met another wealthy and handsome man. Don’t you find it odd? My friend said men won’t compromise for less unless they have other motives.”

Aurelia recalled Leslie’s words. She found them very profound and decided to share them with Millie.

She didn't have many friends, and Millie was the closest person to her. She genuinely didn't want her to get hurt by a man.

Millie took a while before responding to the message.

"I told you not to mention that again! Are you doing this on purpose? What do you mean by 'compromise for less'? Are you saying that I'm not worth it? You are saying that I'm not worthy of a good man, right?"

"Your background is even worse than mine, yet you can find yourself a husband who stays in a million dollar house. Why can't I? What exactly are you trying to say?"

These words left Aurelia feeling disappointed.

She didn't reply, nor did she know what else to say. Perhaps nothing she said mattered to Millie anymore.

As she set her phone down, the company group chat stirred once again.

She wanted to silence her phone, but accidentally opened it and found a photo of Kimberly and Zachary Zeller.

"They are both dressed professionally. I heard they are going to One Technology."

"If Mr. Zeller is taking Kimberly instead of Aurelia, I guess the vice director seat is confirmed!"

Aurelia froze.

What's happening? Weren't they supposed to go to One Technology next Tuesday?

Chapter 109

Aurelia was quick to snap out of her shock.

She immediately called Zachary, but there was no answer.

1/2

She tried calling Kimberly's number next, with the same result.

It dawned on Aurelia that she might have been blocked. But why?

Her mind went blank. Her gaze fell onto the photo of Zachary and Kimberly.

Zachary was wearing an unfamiliar suit, while Kimberly's outfit was unlike her usual bold and enthusiastic style.

She wore a black suit with her long hair tied up in a refined and professional manner.

In a moment of realization, Aurelia understood that she had been fooled.

It had to be planned all along. Kimberly couldn't have changed outfit and makeup while in the office.

It was planned from the beginning to have the meeting with One Technology on Monday, but Zachary lied to Aurelia and said it was on Tuesday.

The goal was to make her intentionally miss the meeting and bear all the consequences.

What could she do anyways, now that she knew? Would she have skipped her mother's surgery for a promotion and raise?

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At this moment, Aurelia realized that there was no point no matter how hard she worked.

She had no background. She was never the best candidate in Zachary's mind.

They never intended to leave her any room for a raise.

Aurelia took a deep breath to calm her indignation and anger.

However, when she saw the "operation room" sign on the wall, she bit her lip bitterly.

A person like her should only accept her reality. What else could she do?

She tried harder to calm herself and mumbled to herself, "It's okay. Not getting promoted is okay. I still have my mom..."

But before she could finish the sentence, the resentment in her heart erupted.

Tears streamed down her face.

She wanted to fight this helplessness she's feeling, but couldn't summon the strength to do so. Aurelia lowered her head as the light went out of her eyes. She felt like the entire world had abandoned her.

She had done her best, but it simply wasn't enough for her.

Meanwhile, in One Technology.

Leslie woke up and could not find Aurelia anywhere, so he concluded that she intended to keep

the case with Seth a secret.

Feeling like he was fooled, he arrived at the office with a dark expression.

Everyone trembled in fear when facing him.

But as his assistant, Daniel had to report to Leslie regardless.

“Mr. Synder, I’ve emailed you the proposal from Young Advertising. Please take a look. They will be here soon.”

“Sure.” Leslie opened his mailbox and found an unread email from Daniel the day before.

It was a report for the investigation conducted about the employees in Young Advertising. Leslie spotted Aurelia’s name right away.

After pondering for a moment, he clicked on her name.

He wanted to know what a hypocritical woman like her was actually like when he’s not looking.

To his surprise, he found a rather simple description.

Apart from her glorious achievement at work, the rest was about her tragic family background.

Her father died after using up all the money for medical fees. Then, her mother fainted due to critical illness. All her relatives avoided her and she was left alone to support her family.

Chapter 110

Aurelia’s only experience with love was with a scumbag like Seth.

It was no wonder that she was just a fool in love despite her outstanding performance at work. As Leslie stared intently at Aurelia's report, Daniel realized that it was no coincidence that Leslie had helped Aurelia at the hotel. Even instructing him to investigate Seth.

Once Daniel looked into it, Seth turned out to be Aurelia's ex-boyfriend.

Although this was the first time Leslie showed interest in a woman, he had an obligation to warn Leslie as his exclusive assistant.

Aurelia's situation was a bit complicated and she was not a suitable match for him.

"Mr. Synder, although Ms. Simmons is quite pitiful, her situation is rather complicated. Not only does she have a seriously ill mother, but she also has a horrible ex-boyfriend, Seth Martinez. You told me to look into him.

"According to my investigation, she wanted to borrow money from Seth because she struggles to pay the medical bills. Seth claimed to have no money but bought a new car to show off at her company.

"The most disgusting part is that he even intended to wait for Ms. Simmons' mother to die and then seize the inheritance. After breaking up, he couldn't rise in his career, so he kept harassing Ms. Simmons, making her the laughing stock of her firm."

"The key thing is... Ms. Simmons is already married. However, the investigator couldn't find out who her husband was. But, who her husband is doesn't matter. Even if the husband

doesn't know everything, he's probably a useless man if he allows his wife to suffer this much.

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Leslie narrowed his eyes on Daniel. He was the 'useless man' Daniel spoke of.

Daniel felt a chill down his spine. "Mr. Synder, what's wrong?"

Leslie coldly said, "It seems that the investigator you found is not competent. Seth's actions against Aurelia don't constitute harassment. It's clear this woman is enjoying it."

Daniel noticed a strange tone in Leslie's voice and continued, "That's impossible. I think Ms. Simmons must deeply hate Seth. Because of the harassment, Seth was reported to the police by Ms. Simmons' husband. He was arrested."

"Seth's mother barged into Ms. Simmons' mother's hospital room, causing trouble and forcing Ms. Simmons to reconcile with him. Otherwise, Seth would still be detained as we speak."

"What did you say?" Leslie's expression changed.

"It was written in the last line of the investigation report. Today is the day of Ms. Simmons' mother's surgery. Ms. Simmons would surely have a hard time if Seth's mother got her mother killed, so she had to reconcile."

Daniel tapped on the screen and read the last line of the text.

The time when Seth's mother caused trouble in the hospital room coincided with the time he

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received the text message from the police.

Leslie fell into deep thought, but Daniel continued to speak.

"Mr. Synder, there's something rather strange. Ms. Simmons is an accomplished employee of Young Advertising, but she's not on the list for this presentation. If she doesn't

will

present the proposal?"

"She's not on the list?" Leslie snapped back to reality.

come, who

He had seen Aurelia's proposal. Anyone with some level of intelligence could tell that her proposal was the most suitable for One Technology.

Who else was going to present the idea, then?

Daniel tapped on his iPad and said, "The marketing director and...Kimberly Watson are coming instead. Isn't this the woman who clung to Mr. Lynch? He said that Kimberly's uncle has been wanting to work with us."

Leslie recalled something and silently opened the proposal sent by Young Advertising.

It was indeed Aurelia's proposal, yet the signature below was changed to Kimberly's.

Instantly, he realized what had happened and stood abruptly.

"Go stall the people from Young Advertising. Wait until I get back."

"Mr. Synder, where are you going?" Daniel asked.

"To handle some family affairs."

Daniel was confused. Since when did his boss have family affairs to take care of?

Leslie strode toward the door and turned. "Daniel, find someone to give Seth's company some trouble."

"Yes, Mr. Synder." Daniel was shocked. How did Seth anger his boss?

Leslie had just personally issued an order, to destroy Seth.