

In A Flash 111

Chapter 111

In the hospital, Aurelia sat dazed outside the operating room.

Suddenly, a gentle voice reached her.

“Aurelia.elia’s

“Mom...” Aurelia’s voice hoarsely called out as she felt like a beam of light had shone upon her.

Linda held her tight and scolded her, but Aurelia felt a sense of relief.

It turned out that there were still people who cared about her.

“Aurelia, what is this? You are too sensible sometimes. We are family. Why didn’t you tell me your mom is having surgery?”

“I...” Aurelia choked on her words.

“Alright, don’t say anything. Leslie said you should hurry to his company now.” Linda pulled Aurelia up to leave.

“Mr. Synder?” Aurelia blinked dazedly.

“Yes, it’s Leslie who asked me to come. He knows he’s not good with words, so he sent me to comfort you. Hurry up! You’re a smart young lady, so you won’t let the bad guys succeed. Don’t worry, Leslie will help you.”

Hearing this, Aurelia felt warmth in her heart and Leslie’s face flashed before her eyes.

Still, it was all too late.

“Mom, it’s too late. Mr. Zeller and Kimberly have already gone to One Technology early in the morning. It’s all too late now.”

A1

“Aurelia, it’s fine. With Leslie there, those villains won’t succeed,” Linda reassured.

“No, Mom. Mr. Synder is just an employee. Intervening in upper-level decisions could cost him his job!” Aurelia objected.

“Rest assured, Leslie has his ways. Besides, are you willing to let someone steal your hard work? Leslie is preventing the company from cooperating with hypocritical thieves. That’s a significant achievement. If you don’t go, his efforts will be in vain.”

Linda winked at Aurelia.

Aurelia wavered, but sat back down when she saw the light above the operation room.

“My mom is still in operation.”

“Aurelia, don’t worry. I’m right here. I will inform you right away if something happens,”

Linda said.

“Yeah, Ms. Simmons. I’m here, too. Go to work. You worked so hard to have your work taken by someone else,” the caretaker said.

Aurelia glanced at them, a feeling of warmth washed over her.

Though there were plenty of awful people around, there were an equal amount of kind people.

She stood and adjusted her hair and dress.

“I’ll leave it to you two, then. I’m going to leave first.”

“Quick, go,” Linda and the caretaker said in unison.

Aurelia took one last glance at the operation room.

Her parents had always told her that she would face discrimination because she was adopted, so she couldn’t give up so easily.

She came close to giving up, but thankfully....

She ran into the elevator and texted Leslie while calming herself. “Thank you, Mr. Synder.”

“No worries,” he replied.

It was a simple message, and she could already picture the expressionless look on his face.

Still, it made her feel safe.

She caught a taxi and rushed to One Technology.

Along the way, she quietly revised all the information on her proposal. In her heart, she kept reminding herself she needed to deal with this calmly.

This was a collaboration between One Technology and Young Advertising and now also an issue between her and Zachary.

Once she starts a fight, she would be at a disadvantage.

After all, only someone who was guilty would cause a scene and Zachary knew this better than she did.

When she arrived at One Technology, she strode into the building.

Just as she was about to enter the elevator, she heard Kimberly's sharp voice.

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"Aurelia!? What are you doing here?"

Hearing her voice, Aurelia turned and saw Kimberly getting up from the couch with a shocked expression.

Aurelia was also slightly surprised and couldn't help but lower her head to check the time.

It was already ten o'clock.

It had been more than two hours since Kimberly and Zachary left the company.

Considering the travel time, they should have presented the proposal long ago.

Why was Kimberly still sitting in the lobby?

Lost in thought, Aurelia wondered.

Could Leslie really be risking everything to help her delay the time?

In that case, where was Zachary?

Just as Aurelia was scanning for Zachary, Kimberly walked over with a cold sneer and a coffee in hand.

cup of

“Don’t bother looking. Mr. Zeller was invited upstairs by One Technology ten minutes ago. think they are currently preparing for the presentation, and I am the presenter for today.”

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As she spoke, Kimberly flaunted her carefully chosen outfit of brand–named products.

Regardless of the content of the presentation, the overall cost of her ensemble alone already scored her extra points.

But since when did the workplace allow anyone to recklessly snatch opportunities from others just because they had money?

Aurelia clenched her fists and asked, “You knew about this all along?”

Kimberly feigned innocence. “Knew what? Don’t just start pointing fingers. I only knew that your skills couldn’t match up, so Mr. Zeller ultimately chose my proposal. Aurelia, I advise you not to mess things up. Consider your future. Our industry is well connected. Once you create a scene, would anyone want to hire you in the future?”

Kimberly smiled and continued, “I know your mom is still in surgery. Be a good girl and hurry back to the hospital. This isn’t the place for you, understand?”

Aurelia glared at her. She was so infuriated that she wanted to march up and slap Kimberly.

Still, she knew she couldn't do that, or she'd fall into Kimberly's trap.

Suppressing her anger, she said, "Kimberly, you can't get used to something that's not yours. Just like the shoes you're wearing. You'd rather wear shoes smaller than your feet. You will just end up suffering."

With that, Aurelia turned around and headed for the elevator.

Kimberly didn't manage to enrage Aurelia and ended up getting mocked. Her face flushed with anger.

Finding no one around, she briskly approached Aurelia and tripped her.

The heels Aurelia had been wearing for years couldn't withstand the sudden twist and snapped, causing her to stumble and fall to the ground.

Seizing the opportunity, Kimberly poured her coffee on Aurelia.

"Oh my, I'm sorry, Aurelia. Why are you so careless? Are you really going to go up looking like this? You would give a bad impression. This is a disrespect to our client. No one would trust you. If One Technology doesn't agree to the collaboration, the boss will fire you. You need to consider your mom. Your husband's salary can hardly support you all.

"As your colleague, I have to remind you that you can't just survive on talent alone in this society."

Following a "ding," the elevator door opened.

Kimberly walked past Aurelia and tossed the remaining half of coffee into the trash can and stepped into the elevator door.

She then closed the door with a smile. "It's almost time, so I'll go up now."

Aurelia struggled to get up and took out some tissue paper from her purse to wipe the coffee stain.

However, her white shirt was already soaked so she couldn't clean it.

Glancing at her reflection on the elevator door, she momentarily felt drained.

However, that was no excuse to give up.

She could lose, but not to a thief.

She glanced at the coffee in the trash can and dipped her finger into it, before painting a pattern on her shirt.

It was Summer. Her clothes should dry faster than usual.

She just needed to head to the bathroom to blow dry it for a moment for the pattern to set in place.

She couldn't bring herself to throw away the heels, so she took them off and placed them into her bag.

After that, she faced her reflection once more to comb her hair, before pressing on the button.

"Are you going to go up looking like this?"

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A calming voice echoed behind Aurelia, and she turned around to find Leslie standing there.

“Mr. Synder? What are you doing here?”

“Waiting for you.” Leslie studied at her pale face and felt a tightness in his chest.

He deliberately avoided Zachary and Kimberly as they descended the stairs, timing his appearance to coincide with Aurelia’s arrival. However, he was a step too late.

He couldn’t stop Kimberly from pouring coffee on Aurelia.

Leslie had thought Aurelia would give up. To his surprise, she swiftly composed herself and walked towards the elevator.

Even Leslie was momentarily stunned. The woman before him was delicate yet resilient, forever unyielding.

After hearing Leslie’s words, Aurelia wondered if she had misheard him.

Leslie was waiting for her?

“What are you looking at? Don’t you know how to fight back when someone bullies you?”

Aurelia could sense a hint of concern in Leslie’s voice. She didn’t dare think too much of it and simply pursed her lips.

Leslie continued with annoyance, “Where is that fierce spirit of yours when you threw those punches at people?”

Aurelia retorted impulsively, "We can't brawl outside your company, can we? What if someone finds out about our relationship? They might think your wife is a terrifying woman, and then you ..."

She quickly covered her mouth.

What was she saying? Why did she bring this up?

Aurelia bowed her head and felt Leslie's gaze on her.

His eyes were not as cold as usual. In fact, it's quite hard to read.

Leslie cleared his throat. "Our company knows that Ms. Simmons from Young Advertising can throw a punch that makes a man's nose bleed."

Aurelia's face turned red, and her ears buzzed.

How embarrassing!

The tension caused by Kimberly earlier now transformed into a somewhat ambiguous romantic atmosphere between her and Leslie.

Leslie glanced at the blush on her face and smiled, before changing the subject. "Did you go to reconcile with Seth with the police?"

Aurelia hesitated before responding, "Oh, sorry, I've been busy with the proposal presentation lately. I forgot to tell you."

Leslie's furrowed brow relaxed. Aurelia hadn't taken Seth's matter seriously from the beginning.

“Why didn’t you tell me that his mother was causing a scene in your mother’s hospital room?”

“You knew about that too?” Aurelia was surprised and impressed.

She continued, “I tried to reach

out to you that day, but you didn’t respond. I thought you

were asleep, so I went to the hospital on my own.”

Leslie recalled that night and realized he must have misunderstood the situation.

Instantly, he felt a little guilty.

He wasn’t someone driven by ego. He was wrong to misunderstand Aurelia, there was no need for excuses.

“Sorry, I didn’t hear you.”

“It’s okay.”

Aurelia was somewhat shocked by Leslie’s apology. But at the same time, it’s not too surprising.

Beneath his cold exterior, Leslie was never a self-centered person.

On the contrary, he was mature, reserved, and responsible.

“Let’s go.” He pointed at the door. “Let’s get you changed.”

“But the presentation is about to start, right?” Aurelia glanced at the time worriedly.

“It won’t. The boss is busy and it will take a while.”

“Mom told me that you have been stalling for me. Thank you, but won’t you get into trouble for leaving your workstation?” she asked.

“I won’t.”

Well, more like no one would dare to say anything about him.

Before she could react, Leslie dragged her out of the building.

One Technology was located in the center of Seacester, an area where the rent alone would surpass Young Advertising’s by several folds.

It was no wonder that so many businessmen were eager to work with the founder of One Technology.

Anyone who could afford to establish a firm in the area was anything but ordinary.

Even normal salarymen who walked around this area were dressed in at least one or two brand -named products.

At this moment, Aurelia was wondering why everyone was staring at her and Leslie. She followed their gazes and lowered her head to find herself holding Leslie’s hand.

When the women on the street saw Leslie, they all looked smitten.

When women walked past them, they all looked at Aurelia with a hint of disdain, as if she was not worthy of standing beside Leslie.

Indeed, she was wearing a coffee-stained outfit, barefoot, and looked rather disheveled.

In fact her disheveledness made Leslie look even more distinguished.

They looked rather peculiar together.

Aurelia lowered her head and quickly pulled her hand away. "I can walk by myself."

Leslie silently looked at her bare feet. "Am I walking too fast?"

"No, I... Ah!" Aurelia exclaimed as Leslie suddenly lifted her up.

She had no time to refuse and hurriedly reached to secure her dress, fearing it might reveal too much.

Surprisingly, her hand came into contact with Leslie's arm instead.

He was using his arm to support her legs and simultaneously press down her skirt without directly touching her body.

Leslie said, "Don't mind others. You're not living for them."

Aurelia was shocked that he saw through her thoughts.

Why was he still carrying her, then? Didn't he find it embarrassing?

Aurelia snuck a glance at Leslie.

There wasn't a single flaw on his face, and even the sunlight appeared less dazzling in comparison.

Suddenly, she felt her body burning, and her breathing was all over the place.

"We're here. Stop looking around." Leslie's deep voice slowly made its way to Aurelia's ears.

Aurelia raised her head abruptly and found people staring at them.

There were various gazes, a mix of envy, jealousy, and hatred.

Embarrassed, she grabbed Leslie's collar and covered herself.

"Quick, put me down."

Leslie lowered his gaze.

Compared to her usual domineering appearance, she looked rather interesting when she was shy.

Still, he didn't intend to tease her for it. He turned around and placed Aurelia on a bench near the mall entrance.

"Wait for me."

Before Aurelia could speak, Leslie turned and walked into the mall.

"What is he planning to do?" she wondered.

After a while, Leslie pushed a wheelchair towards her.

“I borrowed it from the service desk. If you feel embarrassed, just use this.”

“Thank you.” Aurelia breathed a sigh of relief.

It was romantic to be the damsel in distress in fairy tales. But it was mortifying in real life.

She was just an ordinary person and had no desire to become the focus of everyone’s attention. Once she sat in the wheelchair, Leslie pushed her into the elevator, heading straight to the women’s section upstairs.

This mall was more luxurious than the Glamour Shopping Center where Millie and Kimberly had gone.

You could always find something with a higher price tag.

As soon as they entered the store, Aurelia immediately went for the basic loose dresses, thinking they might be more affordable.

However, when Leslie saw the dark bundle of clothes in her hand, he rubbed his temples.

Aurelia was only twenty-five. Why is she dressing like a thirty-five year old woman?

He walked over to a shelf and grabbed a beige dress, before shoving it into her hands.

“Wear this.”

“The waistline is too tight for me. I won’t fit into it,” she said.

The staff scanned Aurelia and said, "This gentleman has great eyes. I wanted to recommend this to you earlier. You look slim, so why would you think that?"

"You just don't think I'm fat because I am wearing something loose. I have thick legs and waist," Aurelia explained.

The staff stared at her in shock, wondering who told Aurelia that.

Leslie frowned as well.

Aurelia returned the dress to the staff and continued to search for her size among dark-colored dresses, intending to just buy a random dress.

"You can fit into it. I just know," Leslie blurted out.

Aurelia froze and blushed.

What did he mean he knew?

Did he see something when her pajamas got wet the last time?

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Leslie handed the beige dress back to Aurelia and cleared his throat. "Go try it on."

"Alright."

Aurelia could already sense the curious stares from the staff members.

She felt incredibly embarrassed.

She took the dress and tiptoed into a fitting room.

Just then, a staff member approached and knocked on the door.

“Miss, we have disposable slippers here. Do you want a pair?”

“Yes, thank you.”

“You’re welcome. It was the gentleman’s thoughtful idea. We’ll return the wheelchair to the service desk.”

“Alright.”

How could he be so considerate?

Aurelia hesitated for a moment before opening the door and accepting the disposable slippers from the staff member.

“Miss, here’s a clean towel. I noticed you were sweating, so I bought it for you.”

“Thank you.”

Aurelia took the towel. She knew the staff had probably noticed the coffee stains on her clothes and wanted to prevent her from dirtying the white dress in the store.

However, their tactfulness and thoughtfulness didn’t make Aurelia feel repulsed.

Clearly, they were professionally trained attendants.

Aurelia wiped herself down, then put on the dress.

She expected the zipper not to budge, but it zipped up instantly.

What was going on? When she tried on clothes before, this size never fit.

She remembered it clearly.

On her birthday last year, she invited Seth to dinner, but he had completely forgotten her birthday.

She wasn't particularly bothered, but Seth insisted on taking her to a mall to shop as compensation.

At that time, she needed to meet a client who was very particular about appearance, so she agreed to Seth's suggestion to buy a better outfit.

She saw a beige long dress that cost eighty after discount. The fabric and style were both excellent. When she said she wanted to try it on, Seth said he would get her a fitting size.

However, she couldn't zip it up, and she didn't want to use too much force in fear of breaking

In the end, she had to take it off.

At the time, she complained to Seth, "I'm not fat. Why can't I fit into a size M?"

Seth laughed. "You're not fat? What girl wears a size M? The girls I've seen all wear S or XS. But it's okay I like you just the way you are."

He then handed her a black dress.

“This black one looks slimming and it suits you well. It conveniently covers your little belly and thick legs.”

Maybe it was because Seth repeatedly called her fat, she subconsciously thought she might have gained weight.

She bought that black dress that day. It was twenty-six dollars after discount.

Now, looking at herself in the mirror, Aurelia couldn't quite believe it.

The long dress accentuated her waist beautifully. It was feminine without appearing too mature.

The V-neck design didn't reveal too much. Instead, it delicately showcased her collarbone, making her look exceptionally elegant.

Aurelia twirled in place like a young girl wearing a dress for the first time.

She then thought about the time Seth bought her clothes. She couldn't help but roll her eyes.

The dress she tried on at the time was quite similar in style as the one she was wearing.

They were also the same size, but she remembered that the dress that she tried on with Seth felt at least two sizes smaller.

“That cunning jerk!” she thought.

In order to buy her a cheaper dress, he swiped the dress for a smaller size while she wasn't looking.

Recalling all the memories she shared with Seth, there was nothing but misery and unsavory schemes.

Seth was the one who pursued her. If he didn't love her, why did he do that?

They met at an event when she was still an intern.

She didn't know a thing and Seth was the one who helped her out.

Afterward, Seth found her through her colleagues and started pursuing her.

Everyone told her that she got lucky because not many men would go after women so boldly. After all, it would be embarrassing if they failed.

Seth was understanding and caring when he was pursuing Aurelia. Otherwise, her parents would've never agreed to them dating.

Once they started dating, Seth was clearly not as passionate anymore.

However, Aurelia put value on relationships and trusted him.

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Whenever anything was off, she would try to tolerate and compromise.

She never thought she would be taken advantage of because of it.

Well, perhaps she was just too foolish, or she wouldn't have been deceived for so long.

If her mother hadn't fallen ill, she might have been fooled into marrying Set without realizing it.

Fortunately, she cut her losses in time. Otherwise, no one would sympathize with her.

She even felt somewhat fortunate to have married Leslie.

Despite his cold nature, he would respond to anything.

Thinking about Leslie, Aurelia involuntarily let down her hair and tidied it up. She then took out a sample of makeup from her bag and touched up.

She wondered how Leslie would evaluate her appearance. Would he be as critical as Seth?

Aurelia was momentarily puzzled.

Why should she care about what Leslie thinks?

With a sense of unease, she pushed open the door and stepped out of the dressing room.

As she lifted her head, she met Leslie's complicated gaze.

She felt a bit disappointed.

"Do I not look good? I'll change then."

"Aurelia, just wear this. It looks fine."

After speaking, Leslie immediately lowered his head to choose something else.

He tried acting casual, but his gaze remained fixed on Aurelia.

The long dress accentuated Aurelia's fair skin, and as her hair fell gently when she bowed, it added a touch of charm.

He can't help but regret making her wear something so beautiful.

He was startled by his own thoughts.

He comforted himself by thinking that he simply couldn't stand Aurelia's usual style. It was too unsightly.

Soon, Leslie regained his composure and picked a few more items, handing them to the staff. "Pack these up for her."

Upon hearing this, Aurelia hurriedly stepped forward to stop him.

"Mr. Synder, I don't need these many clothes. I already have my own." Aurelia looked at him and whispered, "It's very expensive here. One dress is enough."

"They are on sale," Leslie said indifferently.

"Even if that's the case, it's still very expensive here." Aurelia shook her head.

Leslie glanced at the staff.

The staff immediately approached. "There's a ten percent off for one item, 50 percent off for two items, 70 percent off for three items. It's more cost-effective to buy more than one."

Aurelia thought it made sense and trusted Leslie's judgment.

“Well, how much is it in total?” she asked.

“Three dresses in total. The total is 15 thousand...” the staff said but paused when she saw the look in Leslie’s eyes.

What is she saying? She couldn’t afford to cross her boss.

“What?” Aurelia asked in surprise.

“There’s a ninety percent off and after all the discount, it’s five hundred,” Leslie said thoughtfully.

It wouldn’t be convincing to say that a dress in this area cost under a hundred.

Aurelia wasn’t someone who didn’t know the value of things, so five hundred was the lowest price Leslie could think of within the reasonable range.

Aurelia was surprised.

Considering the designs, material, and ornaments of the dresses, any piece would cost hundreds. Purchasing a dress would cost half her monthly salary.

Yet Leslie said each dress only cost a little over a hundred.

Leslie could tell that she didn’t believe him, so his cold gaze swept the staff.

The staff hurried over and started lying, “Miss, you should thank this gentleman. He got lucky in the lucky draw and drew a ninety percent off deal. Otherwise, each dress would have cost around five hundred each. It’s the anniversary of our shop and the only top price has been drawn by this gentleman.”

The staff maintained a professional smile, silently hoping that she could get a bonus for being such a great actress.

Working was hard, indeed.

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Aurelia nodded upon hearing the staff's explanation.

She found it quite reasonable that Leslie won the first prize in a lucky draw.

For some reason, she saw him as an exceptionally talented and chosen individual.

"Scan my code." Aurelia took out her phone to pay.

"I've already paid," Leslie said.

"No, I can't let you pay so much," Aurelia hurriedly tried to transfer the money back to him.

Leslie blocked her phone with his hand. "I can afford this."

"Then, thank you."

Aurelia hadn't received her salary this month yet, and the money in her account was all spent on her mother's surgery.

The remaining funds were just enough to cover for her living expenses, and buying clothes would leave her with nothing for the next month.

Perhaps she could add some extra money to their budget for the coming month. She couldn't just take advantage of Leslie.

While Aurelia was lost in thought, the staff took the opportunity to discreetly cut off all the price tags. The actual price was strategically covered.

The dress Aurelia wore was the store's flagship product, featuring a skirt adorned with shimmering white petals that took a month for their embroiderer to craft. The flower buds were embellished with pearls of the same color, creating a radiant effect as you walked.

Others wouldn't be able to purchase it, and it was even impossible to steal it.

The boss actually sold it off at such a low price and paid for it himself.

The staff handed the bag to Aurelia enviously.

"Miss, Sir, welcome to visit again."

"Thank you."

Aurelia took the bag, noticing a blue orchid printed on the black lace bag.

She felt like she had seen this orchid somewhere before.

"Mr. Synder, about this orchid ..." Aurelia pointed to the bag.

"It's almost time. We still need to buy shoes." Leslie glanced at the orchid and smoothly changed the topic.

"Oh, okay."

Aurelia didn't ask further questions and followed Leslie wearing the disposable slippers.

However, after Leslie had walked a few steps, he turned around and took the bag from her hands.

Aurelia was momentarily stunned and realized he was a much better person than she had imagined.

At the shoe counter, she chose a pair of black high heels because they were resistant to dirt.

Leslie directly handed her a pair of nude-colored high heels.

Seeing the black high heels, he thought of the high heels Seth had given Aurelia, which were now hidden in her bag.

Although Seth was a scum, he was Aurelia's first love, and they had been together for more than three years. Those feelings wouldn't just suddenly disappear.

Leslie didn't know why he felt uncomfortable.

"This pair."

"But..." Aurelia tried to argue, and Leslie's intense gaze landed on her.

"What?"

"Okay."

Aurelia put on the high heels, which were comfortable and matched her outfit. Even the staff praised her repeatedly.

“Miss, you have fair skin, so the nude color looks great on you.”

“Thank you. How much are these shoes?” Aurelia couldn’t let Leslie spend more money.

“It’s not expensive. Just eighty ...” Sensing Leslie’s gaze, the staff immediately changed the price to eighty from eight hundred.

Aurelia was surprised. “Is it your shop’s anniversary, too?”

“That’s right,” the staff said while they chuckled.

The boss makes the decisions after all.

“Please give me the receipt, then.”

“Of course. Please wait,” the staff said.

Aurelia hurried to Leslie and smiled. “Mr. Synder, you are such a lucky star. When you’re here, it’s either a big discount or a shop’s anniversary. With just a touch of your luck, I hope everything will go well for me later.”

“It’s just a discount. What’s there to be so happy about?” Leslie asked in confusion.

“You don’t get it. I’ve never come across such good things. I just have to live like that. Besides, the world moves on. I can’t just go through life in tears all the time. You and your mom helped enough. No matter what happens next, I’ll be fine.” She smiled.

He frowned. He had never met a woman like Aurelia.

She puts her emotions aside and tries her best to not worry others.

He had seen women who demanded the world's attention just because they were upset.

Some even thought it was only right that men should spoil them.

Aurelia, on the other hand, gave him a different feeling.

"Mr. Synder, what's wrong?" she asked, wondering why he was staring at her.

"Nothing. Let's go." Leslie turned around, resuming his usual indifferent expression.

Aurelia nodded and followed him back to the office.

As they entered the building, he paused.

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"I have something to attend to. You should head up yourself," Leslie said.

"Alright, I'm sorry for delaying you," Aurelia apologized.

"Go ahead."

"Okay." She walked towards the elevator, then turned back and said, "Mr. Synder, can you manage dinner by yourself tonight? My mom is..."

"I understand," he said in a deep voice.

Aurelia didn't say much since he agreed and entered the elevator.

Coincidentally, she met Jason in the elevator.

"Mr. Lynch, what a coincidence."

Jason looked at Aurelia, surprised. He was almost unable to recognize her.

He hadn't expected Aurelia to be so beautiful since she always dressed dully.

He didn't express his surprise, though. After all, it wasn't a coincidence that he ran into Aurelia.

Leslie had sent him down to pick her up.

Leslie, a man who usually kept his distance from women, had become surprisingly considerate and protective.

Jason thought that if Leslie liked Aurelia, then everything should be alright.

Jason looked at Aurelia with a big smile.

But the next second, he froze.

Aurelia was married!

Leslie had no chance!

Aurelia smiled awkwardly and wondered, "What's wrong with him? Why is he looking at me this way?"

Downstairs, Leslie hadn't left.

Instead, he found a discreet spot and sat down.

He dialed Daniel's number. "You can start now."

"Yes, Mr. Synder."

Exiting the elevator, Aurelia followed Jason forward.

Along the way,

she scanned the surrounding curiously, assuming this to be Leslie's workplace.

The office was luxurious. The overall color scheme was silver-gray.

No matter the office area or the rest areas, it gave off a futuristic sense.

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There were even robots delivering documents.

At the sight of the robot, Aurelia remembered the scene of meeting Leslie by mistake in the restroom at the technology exhibition.

She quickly stepped aside to avoid the robot.

To her surprise, the robot followed her.

“Beautiful lady, what’s your number? Do you have a boyfriend?”

Aurelia stood still in amazement. She had never dreamed that one day she would be asked for her number by a robot.

Jason noticed her embarrassment and gave a stern look around. “Who tampered with the robot program again?”

“It’s me.” A man wearing a checkered shirt and glasses raised his hand apologetically.

Laughter erupted from the surrounding colleagues.

“Arthur, are your parents urging you to get married again? Your eagerness is rubbing off on the robot.”

“Shush.” Arthur walked over Jason. “Mr. Lynch, I was testing the robot’s emotional changes. I think it only said that because this lady here is too pretty.”

Pretty?

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Aurelia couldn’t believe he was talking about her.

When she snapped out of it, Arthur had already extended his hand toward her. “Hello, I am-”

Before Arthur could introduce himself, Jason pulled him aside. “You can’t flirt with her. You will be digging your grave.”

“Why not? She’s so pretty and is clearly really gentle–hearted. It’s not like she can be any scarier than Ms. Simmons from Young Advertising who defeated a foreign guy with one punch, “Arthur said with a smile.

The one who defeated a foreign guy with one punch?

Aurelia felt a chill down her spine. Leslie was right that everyone already knew what she did.

Jason glanced at her and tugged the corner of his mouth awkwardly.

She smiled.

Instead of getting upset, she was impressed by how light-hearted the atmosphere was here.

Feeling playful, she pointed at the tag around her neck and showed it to Arthur. "Hello, I'm Aurelia Simmons from Young Advertising."

"Si-Simmons?"

Everyone was stunned, not expecting the woman who defeated a grown man to be such a beautiful lady.

"Ms. Simmons, ignore them. Let's just go," Jason said.

Aurelia nodded and waved goodbye at the others, before leaving.

Suddenly, the commotion at the lounge caught everyone's attention.

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Upon hearing the commotion, Aurelia turned her head. She noticed that there were several people gathered around the door to the lounge, peeking inside.

Two of them, judging by their attire, seemed to be receptionists. They were the only two women among this group of men.

They were eavesdropping on something with great interest and were completely unaware of Jason's approach.

Jason cleared his throat with a stern expression. "What's going on here? Don't you have work to do?"

Startled, one of the receptionists patted her chest and immediately took two steps back when she saw Jason.

Pointing to the lounge, she said, "Mr. Lynch, Mr. Xenos seems to have gotten lucky in the romance department."

Jason frowned. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

The receptionist said seriously, "I'm not messing with you. I just went in to deliver some coffee.

"When the female planner from Young Advertising saw Mr. Xenos, her eyes lit up. Then, she turned to the side and unbuttoned the top two buttons of her shirt..."

The receptionist glanced down at her own chest, feeling a little embarrassed articulating the details.

Aurelia immediately knew that they were talking about Kimberly.

However, although Kimberly liked to show off, she wouldn't behave so recklessly during such an important occasion.

Moreover, Zachary was with her. He would have stopped her if she did something inappropriate.

While Aurelia was thinking about it, the other receptionist snickered and said, “Mr. Lynch, why are the people from Young Advertising so strange? That director is also fawning over Mr. Xenos.”

Jason glanced at the lounge and then looked at Aurelia awkwardly, realizing that something wasn't right.

Aurelia looked into the lounge curiously. After seeing what was happening, she froze in shock.

The usually serious Zachary was actually grinning and offering tea to Daniel.

Kimberly was sitting on Daniel's left while Zachary was on his right.

Daniel had a resigned look on his face as he dodged their advances.

It was truly an amusing sight.

Aurelia observed Daniel, feeling like she had seen him somewhere before.

Suddenly, a figure flashed across Aurelia's mind. She finally understood why Daniel seemed familiar.

Wasn't he the supposed founder of One Technology that Kimberly kept flaunting on her social media page?

Had Kimberly been mistaken about his identity all along?

Aurelia was amused. Kimberly kept bringing all these situations upon herself.

Just then, the voices of the three people drifted over from the lounge.

“You must have worked hard today. Why don't you have a cup of coffee to refresh yourself?” Kimberly asked sweetly.

She handed Daniel a cup of coffee, her chest pressing against his arm.

She knew that the employees of One Technology were watching, but she didn't mind.

It was better if everyone in the company knew that she was connected to their boss. That way, no one would dare to disrespect her during the meeting later.

She then shot Zachary a triumphant look.

There was no way that Zachary would regret bringing her along now. After all, if it wasn't for her, he would've never known that this man was the mysterious founder of One Technology.

Zachary gave her a reassuring look, his eyes silently telling her that the vice director position was hers as long as she secured this deal.

In Kimberly's mind, Aurelia was no match for her.

Chapter 120

Zachary observed the two, silently approving of Kimberly's actions.

He smiled. "Since you and Kimberly are so close, why don't we just sign the contract now? There's no need to waste time in a meeting, right? I believe you must be familiar with Kimberly's abilities."

Without waiting for Daniel to refuse, Kimberly linked her arm with his.

"Rest assured, my proposal will definitely satisfy you. Let's sign the contract now, since we're already here. I'd also like to invite you for a drink in advance to celebrate our collaboration.

As she spoke, her fingers playfully caressed Daniel's arm.

Daniel jumped away from the two, horrified.

“Please respect yourselves. You're here to discuss a collaboration, not to invite me for a drink. Also, I don't have the authority to sign a contract with you without proper approval.”

Kimberly thought Daniel was embarrassed in front of his employees. After all, there weren't many men who could resist her charm.

She laughed. “You're really funny. Everyone in Seacester wants to get to know you. The entire One Technology is under your control.

“Who would dare to go against you? Rest assured, we sincerely want to cooperate with you.” Men always enjoyed flattery. With just a few praises, they would agree to anything.

If the woman who gave the compliment was beautiful, the result would be even more guaranteed.

Confidently, Kimberly tossed her long hair over her shoulder and sashayed toward Daniel. Every move showcased her charming and seductive demeanor.

Today, she had come for the position of vice director and to charm the wealthy bachelor who owned One Technology.

Thinking that this strategy would surely win over Daniel, Kimberly was surprised when she saw his

eyes filled with disdain. He even avoided her as if she were a venomous snake. Kimberly's face stiffened. Just as she was about to keep trying, laughter echoed from outside the door.

Then, the door was unexpectedly pushed open, and several employees stumbled in while suppressing their laughter.

The way they looked at her made her feel even more embarrassed and indignant.

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Fuming, she glared at them as if she owned the place. "Don't you have any manners? We're discussing work with your boss here. Will you be taking responsibility if something goes wrong?"

"Boss? Where?" one of the employees chuckled.

Kimberly snorted and quickly approached Daniel.

"I won't get upset for your sake, but why do your employees have such poor manners? Do they have no regard for you?"

"I'm saying this for your own good. If you don't establish your authority now, it'll be difficult to manage them in the future,"

Zachary chimed in, "Kimberly is right in many aspects. Ultimately, she has your best interests in mind, so you can completely trust in her proposal. After all, she'll be the vice director of our planning department in the future."

Kimberly immediately lifted her chin arrogantly, and the way she looked at the others changed.

A few employees failed to contain their laughter.

One of them pointed at Daniel and said, "Mr. Xenos, when did you become the boss? Are you pretending to be the boss to get a date?"

“Why would I? I’ve never said that I was the boss. You are all witnesses!” Daniel exclaimed, shaking his head in resignation.

Another employee chuckled. “Miss, if you like Mr. Xenos, you can just say it. There’s no need to beat around the bush like this.”

“So, who on earth is he?” Kimberly’s face turned pale, and her voice was sharp.

“Ms. Watson, your question is a little rude. What do you mean by that?” Daniel said with displeasure.

“A-Aren’t you the boss of One Technology?” she asked in horror.

“Of course not. When did I say I was the boss?” Daniel replied with a frown.

She should be thankful that he wasn’t actually the boss. Otherwise, she would have been kicked out long ago without even getting the chance to speak.

“Then, who are you?” Kimberly asked.