

In A Flash 151

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Leslie's gaze sharpened. He wondered if his mother had told Aurelia about his true identity.

"What else could I be?" he asked coldly.

Aurelia didn't sense anything odd. After all, Leslie had always been cold and distant.

"Maybe a businessman. You're just as cunning as one," Aurelia replied with an awkward laugh. "A cunning businessman, huh?"

Leslie put down his cup and wiped his hands.

Aurelia chuckled but eventually quieted down, realizing that it had been a bad joke. "Sorry."

"If I'm a cunning businessman, what does that make you? A cunning businessman's wife?" he asked.

Silence fell over them instantly. They were both rendered speechless as their conversation suddenly shifted to the topic of "wife".

Aurelia was unsure of how to react to this.

Leslie wiped his mouth and changed the subject. "I'm done eating. It's settled then. You don't have to worry about anything. Just be yourself on Friday."

Aurelia nodded. "Thank you. Sorry for troubling you."

Leslie hummed nonchalantly and stood up. Aurelia followed suit and went to pay the bill.

When they left the restaurant, the sun was shining brightly.

Aurelia raised the umbrella and angled it slightly toward Leslie. However, he was too tall, and she had to stand on tiptoes even though she was wearing high heels.

Leslie took a couple of steps before his head bumped into the top of the umbrella. He sighed and stopped, then took the umbrella from Aurelia's hand.

"I'll hold it."

"Thank you," Aurelia said, looking up at him with a smile.

When he saw her smile, Leslie's grip around the umbrella's handle tightened.

After her makeover, Aurelia seemed to radiate a soft glow. Her lustrous black hair, fair skin, and gentle smile all blended together into a captivating sight.

Leslie suddenly realized that he was staring at Aurelia.

He composed himself and kept walking.

Although there was still quite some distance between them, when Aurelia looked at their shadows on the ground, she noticed that the umbrella was consistently tilted toward her side.

She was touched by this detail. Then, she was reminded of the three years she had spent with Seth.

When it had rained, Seth would offer to pick her up. But by the time they reached the subway, her shoulder would be completely wet.

Yet, he would complain incessantly about getting a few raindrops on him.

“Aurelia, I wouldn’t have gotten wet if I hadn’t come to pick you up. I’m doing this because I love you so much. You should treat me better in the future.”

“Of course,” she had replied.

When falling in love for the first time, a person would tend to magnify the other person’s virtues and overlook the negative details.

Aurelia had thought that Seth coming to pick her up in the heavy rain was an act of love. But she had ignored the fact that the umbrella had never once tilted her way.

The delicious scent of pastries wafted over as she was lost in her thoughts.

Aurelia sniffed and looked in the direction the smell was coming from, just to see people queuing up to buy the pastries.

It had been a while since she had eaten any.

When she looked back, Leslie had changed his course and was headed straight for the bakery.

He calmly said to the staff, “One box, please.”

By the time Aurelia came to her senses, there was already a box of pastries in her hand.

“You’re drooling onto your clothes,” Leslie said.

Aurelia immediately wiped her mouth. “No, I’m not.”

Seeing this public display of affection, the shop assistant behind the counter pursed their lips.

Feeling slightly embarrassed, Aurelia turned around and walked away.

As she held the warm pastries in her hand, her heart felt just as warm.

It turned out that such small details could indeed bring joy.

She glanced at Leslie, who had a cold and silent demeanor as usual.

When they arrived at the entrance of One Technology's building, Aurelia immediately took her laptop and bag from Leslie.

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"Then, I'll head back to my company now."

"Alright."

Leslie nodded and turned to enter the building.

"Mr. Synder, hold on." Aurelia stepped forward and handed him half the box of pastries. "These are for you. I'll be going now."

With that, she waved her hand and got into the taxi.

Leslie was taken aback for a moment. Then, he lowered his gaze and looked at the pastries in his hands.

He didn't enjoy eating them, but he still took them upstairs.

When Daniel saw the pastries, his eyes lit up. "Mr. Synder, are those for me?"

He reached out to take them, only to have his hand slapped away.

He hissed in pain and rubbed the back of his hand. "Mr. Synder, I thought you didn't like sweets."

"Don't touch them," Leslie said.

Daniel fell silent and glanced at the sky outside, wondering if it would start snowing soon. Leslie had been acting strange ever since he had ended the meeting abruptly.

Sensing his gaze, Leslie looked up and said,

and said, "Have you done what I've asked?"

Daniel's expression immediately became more serious. He said, "Yes. By the way, Seth's company has informed us that there's no way he would get a promotion. On top of that, he's basically isolated in the company now, after he was detained for scamming someone else's

money.

"Alright."

"Also, Synder Corporation called again. They asked when our Mr. Synder will be back. I sent them an invitation and informed them that there will be an opening banquet next month," Daniel continued cautiously.

"They seem to be in quite a rush," Leslie said coldly.

“I heard that Synder Corporation will be sending their eldest son to attend the banquet.”

“Eldest son?” Leslie repeated. His eyes darkened.

Daniel realized that he had said something wrong and immediately lowered his head.

“Mr. Synder...”

“Get back to work. You can start taking action on the matters assigned to you for Friday.”

“Alright.”

Aurelia returned to the company and found that everyone else had already returned to the office. However, as soon as she entered, the previously chattering crowd immediately fell silent.

Aurelia was in a good mood and paid no mind. She held the box of pastries and returned to her seat. As soon as she opened the box, the delicious aroma wafted out and attracted the attention of her colleagues.

“That box is from the bakery in the business district. That’s a prime location. What was she doing there?”

“Her husband can afford dresses worth thousands, so maybe he’s working there. Any white-collar worker there earns an annual salary of at least hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

“It’s no wonder that she couldn’t care less despite being bullied at work. It turns out that she has her husband’s backing.”

“Oh, I’m so jealous. It’s impressive that she can still eat after what happened.”

Aurelia heard these comments, but she remained indifferent.

She had no intention of trying to prove anything. After all, no matter what she did, there would always be dissenting voices.

However, these words sounded harsh to Millie.

She thought that she would shine as brightly as Kimberly with a boyfriend like Jackson. But her radiance was always so short-lived.

On the contrary, Aurelia never did anything or said anything, but she always managed to attract all the attention.

Recalling how Jackson had asked Aurelia for her name earlier that morning, Millie became increasingly upset.

She wasn’t a fool. There was only one reason for a man to ask a female stranger for her name.

However, she firmly believed that Aurelia had done something to deliberately seduce Jackson.

Millie stood up and walked to Aurelia’s desk. With a sweep of her hand, the pastries fell to the ground.

“Sorry, I wasn’t paying attention. But Aurelia, it’s office hours now. Isn’t it inappropriate to eat?”

Aurelia looked at the mess on the ground and stood up with displeasure. She glared coldly at Millie and then pointed to the clock on the wall.

“Go see a doctor if you have bad eyesight. Don’t blame others for your own problems.”

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Everyone looked in the direction Aurelia was pointing at and saw the clock. It was 1:20 pm. There were still ten minutes left before their lunch break was over.

Millie’s expression darkened. Instead of apologizing, she intended to just brush things aside. “I told you that it was an accident. What else do you want? Aurelia, you can’t just vent your anger on me just because work isn’t going well for you.”

In the past, Aurelia would have felt that it was unnecessary for any conflicts and would have just smoothed things over.

She also didn’t want others to think that she was simply venting her anger on others.

However, Leslie’s words earlier had inspired her. Even if she avoided trouble, it didn’t mean that trouble wouldn’t find her.

Instead of trying to resolve a troublesome situation, her efforts would be better spent getting rid of the people causing trouble.

She was also tired of Millie’s unprovoked behavior.

“What else? Compensate me. You’re dressed in brand-named products, so I’m sure you can afford to compensate me, right? Or have you gotten so used to spending other people’s money that you can’t bring yourself to spend your own?”

“What are you trying to say? Jackson and I truly love each other. Why are you bringing money into this? Anyway, it’s just two pastries. I’ll pay for them! You must be desperate for money!”

Millie took out her phone and sent the money to Aurelia.

Aurelia accepted it and glanced at her from head to toe.

“Truly love each other? Then, what have you given him? Why don’t you show it to us?”

“For someone as wealthy as Jackson, you’d probably be too embarrassed to give him any gift below ten thousand dollars, right? I’m sure you aren’t one of those gold diggers they talk about online.”

Millie’s eyes widened, and she froze on the spot. Their colleagues around them nodded and bombarded her with questions.

“Yeah, Millie, what did you give to Mr. Morrison? Show us.

“If you want to be with someone with his background, there must be a mutual exchange of gifts. Otherwise, the relationship won’t last long.”

Millie’s mouth twitched, and she muttered, “I’ll show it to you next time.”

Aurelia smiled. “Then, we’ll be waiting.”

Based on Millie’s financial status, it was impossible for her to spend ten thousand dollars on a gift.

However, she would undoubtedly pay the price for showing off today.

Let’s see if she would dare to talk nonsense again!

“What are you doing? It’s already office hours! Aurelia, can you stop causing trouble? Have you finished the self-reflection essay you were supposed to write? It needs to be submitted to

the director tomorrow,”

Kimberly stood at the office door and exerted her authority.

Aurelia looked at her. “I understand, vice director.”

Hearing this, Kimberly looked pleased with herself. She didn’t expect Aurelia to give up so quickly.

“Well, hurry up and get to work.”

Aurelia silently cleaned the pastries off the floor and then obediently sat down to work.

No one bothered her again for the rest of the afternoon.

After work, Aurelia received a message from Leslie.

“I’ll be working overtime, so I won’t be coming back for dinner.”

“Okay,” she replied.

Leslie’s company was about to hold its opening banquet, so there had to be a lot of work that still needed to be done.

It was normal to work overtime.

However, a strange feeling overwhelmed Aurelia as she looked at their chat records.

It seemed like an ordinary conversation between a married couple.

A married couple?

Aurelia was shocked. She had unconsciously placed Leslie, her roommate, in the role of her husband.

She quickly dispelled her inappropriate thoughts and took a taxi to the hospital.

Her mother still hadn't woken up yet, but she was gradually recovering.

After having dinner with the caretaker, she went home.

After arriving home, she saw that Leslie still hadn't returned yet. She sat on the couch and waited, planning to make supper for him when he returned.

However, she accidentally fell asleep. When she woke up, she found herself lying on her own bed.

She rubbed her head.

Hadn't she been sleeping on the couch? Did Leslie carry her to the room?

She remained dazed for a few seconds, then tiptoed out of the room. She saw Leslie's coat draped over the couch.

He rarely left his belongings lying around so casually. It seemed that he was exhausted last night.

Aurelia didn't disturb him and made breakfast. At the same time, she tossed the clothes he had

changed out of into the washing machine.

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By the time breakfast and the lunchboxes were ready, the clothes were done being washed.

She hurried to the balcony to hang the clothes. Halfway through, she inevitably came across Leslie's boxers.

It was no big deal. After all, she had washed her father's boxers when he was sick.

She trembled and glanced at the boxers, comparing them with the ones she had seen when Leslie had deliberately caused a mess at home. They were indeed...

"What are you looking at?" A deep voice with a hint of weariness sounded from behind her.

Aurelia paused, still holding the boxers in her hands, then turned around abruptly.

Leslie was leaning against the glass door in a black sleeping robe. It was loosely tied, revealing his solid muscles underneath. His ruffled hair fell casually over his eyes.

He had clearly just woken up, and he looked extremely alluring.

Leslie raised his chin and gestured to Aurelia's hand.

Blushing, she lowered her head and shoved the boxers into his hands.

"You can hang this up yourself. I'm leaving for work now."

With that said, she ran off with her breakfast and lunchbox.

On the way, she received a text from Leslie.

“Thanks for the lunchbox.”

“You’re welcome,” she replied.

She had prepared some pasta and paired it with some fruits for a nutritious meal. She had even taken the time to arrange the contents of the lunchbox into cute shapes.

Leslie took a photo of the lunchbox and sent it along with a message, “This dog looks cute.”

“Mr. Synder, that’s supposed to be a bear,” she replied.

Leslie responded with a few question marks.

Aurelia had to suppress her laughter when she realized that Leslie had probably been rendered speechless.

As soon as Aurelia entered her office, she noticed that everyone was looking at her. Kimberly walked out of her office almost immediately after.

“Aurelia, where’s your self-reflection essay? You didn’t forget it again, did you?” she asked.

“No, I’ve written it,” Aurelia responded.

She opened her laptop and sent the email to Zachary.

She had written it last night while waiting for Leslie, utilizing all her language skills acquired since childhood. Every word expressed remorse and self-blame, but she had cleverly avoided mentioning anything about plagiarism.

She had written the essay to pacify Kimberly and prevent any further conflicts. However, she wasn't foolish enough to write a confession.

Zachary and Kimberly were satisfied with her essay. They both thought that she had accepted her fate.

Over the next few days, Kimberly finally stopped messing with her, and even Millie remained quiet.

It wasn't until Thursday that Aurelia found out the reason why Millie had been staying so silent.

In order to make everyone think that she and Jackson were a perfect match, Millie had spent ten thousand dollars to buy a giant teddy bear ornament for him.

It was something that was purely meant to be a decoration, to be placed on a porch, and it didn't have any practical uses whatsoever.

That was ten thousand dollars for an ornament!

As someone who came from an ordinary family, Aurelia couldn't comprehend this.

But it was no longer her concern.

On Friday, the company's monthly all-staff meeting was held. In the large conference room, people from every department filled the seats.

When the boss entered, everyone quieted down.

"Alright, let's begin the meeting. Before we get down to business, let's address some internal issues first.

“Aurelia, come up and read your self-reflection essay to everyone. Everyone must take it as a lesson. We’re one big family, and we need to help each other instead of competing against each other.”

All eyes turned to Aurelia.

When Aurelia stood up and went to the stage, Kimberly and Millie looked smug.

Aurelia began slowly, “First of all, let me take a few minutes of everyone’s time here...” “Hold on.”

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The abrupt interruption drew everyone’s curious gaze toward the conference room door.

It was Daniel.

He stood there with two tall young men on either side of him. They were dressed in white shirts and black trousers, and they were all carrying laptop bags.

Despite their simple attire, they exuded confidence and charisma. At a glance, it was evident that they weren’t ordinary people.

The boss glanced at Daniel and immediately walked over to him with a smile on his face.

“Oh, why has the boss of One Technology come here in person? If One Technology requires anything, just ask Kimberly directly. The two of you are old acquaintances, right?”

As soon as he finished speaking, everyone in the room began to whisper.

“He’s the boss of One Technology? He’s so young. Kimberly is so awesome. She actually knows such an influential person.”

“It must be him. His figure is identical to the one Kimberly posted on her social media account before.”

“Hey, why isn’t Kimberly getting up to greet her old acquaintance? Didn’t she say that the boss of One Technology was impressed by her proposal?”

As everyone whispered, they turned their attention to Kimberly.

Beside her, Millie was nudging her excitedly.

Aurelia had to suppress her laughter upon witnessing this scene.

She couldn’t help but admire Leslie for even sending over the executive assistant of One Technology’s boss.

With Daniel’s arrival, her plans could be considered half successful.

Daniel had intentionally worn the same outfit that he had worn in the photo Kimberly flaunted on her social media page, so it was no wonder that everyone recognized him at a glance.

Now, Kimberly and Zachary stared at Daniel as they both paled.

The marketing department interacted directly with clients, and the boss rarely intervened in such matters.

After all, apart from event planning, Young Advertising’s major income came from advertising design.

That was why Kimberly and Zachary could conceal everything that happened at One Technology. They knew that their boss wouldn’t go out of his way to contact One Technology.

However, they never expected Daniel to come over in person.

This was all Kimberly's fault. When she was boasting on social media, she didn't think to block her boss.

So, when the boss saw Daniel, he immediately recognized him as the person from the photo in Kimberly's post, mistaking him to be the founder of One Technology.

Aurelia wondered what expression her boss would make if he realized that he had been deceived by Kimberly and made a fool of himself in public.

Of course, she wasn't foolish enough to be the first to speak up.

She would just stand by and wait for the right moment to strike.

The next moment, one of the young men beside Daniel turned to look at him.

"Mr. Xenos, when did you become the boss of One Technology?"

"Mr. Xenos, I thought Ms. Simmons was the only person you know from Young Advertising," the other man said.

Instantly, silence fell over the room.

The boss' expression contorted, and his lips twitched. He then turned to look at Kimberly, who was stiff and pale.

Kimberly's mind went blank, and she couldn't say a single word.

Everyone immediately revealed contemptuous looks.

“What? She was bragging about One Technology’s boss buying her gifts. Was it all fake?”

“Before, she said that she was close to Mr. Lynch of One Technology, but Mrs. Lynch mocked her for that. Mrs. Lynch didn’t say who it was, but everyone knew that she was talking about Kimberly.”

“It seems that she became vice director not because she’s good at her job, but because she’s good at deceiving people.”

“I told you that she’ll suffer the consequences eventually.”

Daniel cleared his throat and said solemnly, “I’m Ian’s assistant. He heard that the proposal submitted to our company might have been a result of plagiarism. He’s furious and has sent me here to inquire about it.”

“What... Who told you that?” the boss asked awkwardly.

“Is it false? The entire building here is talking about it. Even your competitor has come to our company to tell us about it.

“Were you planning to keep this a secret from us? If you deliberately hide any issues with the proposal, our company reserves the right to terminate the contract.”

Daniel’s voice was loud and clear. His intention was clearly conveyed in just a few words.

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If the plagiarism accusation wasn’t clarified, it would lead to the termination of the collaboration.

Not only that, deliberately concealing information from the client could also result in a termination of the collaboration.

Daniel's words struck what the boss cared most about.

If news of this incident spread, Young Advertising's reputation would plummet.

Daniel had even cunningly included the detail that the entire building knew about this, along with Young Advertising's competitors. It was evident that this incident would leave a great impact, so everyone involved in leaking the company's information would face severe consequences.

As expected of someone in his position, Daniel's words were calculated and well thought out.

This also showed how intelligent One Technology's boss was. It was no wonder that the entire business district was searching for this mysterious tycoon.

When he heard Daniel's words, the boss felt suffocated and could only turn around and look at the crowd angrily.

"Who's the one spreading rumors? Come forward! Don't think I can't find out who you are!"

Everyone trembled in fear and shrank back in their seats. Seeing no one confessing, the boss shot an angry look at his assistant.

The assistant took out his phone and quickly found the person who had mentioned the plagiarism incident half an hour ago.

It was Larry, the financial accountant.

"Were you the one spreading false information?" The boss glared at Larry with fury.

The junior accountant, Larry, pointed directly at Arthur from the marketing department in fear.

“H-He told me about it!”

In response, Arthur shifted the blame to the receptionist. “She was the one who mentioned it in the group chat. How else would we know about it?”

The receptionist’s face turned pale. She stood up and raised her phone.

“Boss, it wasn’t me! Kimberly said it herself in the office’s group chat. Otherwise, how could we even know the internal details of the plagiarism issue? Look at the messages she sent if you don’t believe me.”

“Yes, that’s right. The people in the marketing department are the most active in the group chat. They’ve been constantly mocking Aurelia, especially Millie, who claims to have seen Aurelia plagiarizing Kimberly with her own eyes!”

The others began to chime in as well.

It was turning into a colossal joke for the company.

The entire marketing department, except for Aurelia, remained silent and didn’t dare to make a sound.

Even Zachary was holding his breath.

When it came to protecting one’s own interests, who would care about anyone else?

The boss was so infuriated that his face turned red.

He had never seen so many people willing to take the initiative to air their dirty laundry in public.

However, the boss had still seen enough in his life. He quickly regained his composure.

Fortunately, Aurelia had already been proven to have plagiarized Kimberly's work. Otherwise, even Kimberly's influential uncle wouldn't be able to save her.

The boss turned to Daniel apologetically and explained, "Mr. Xenos, I apologize for this mess. We have indeed confirmed that there's been an internal plagiarism incident. However, you can rest assured that it will not affect our collaboration.

"Kimberly is an undoubtedly capable planner. She'll ensure that your company's project will be completed with high quality."

Daniel frowned. "Are you saying that Ms. Simmons plagiarized Ms. Watson's work?"

The boss nodded confidently. "Indeed. We've looked into this matter and found evidence of this. We didn't mean to hide this incident. We just wanted to handle this discreetly out of consideration for Aurelia's family situation."

Daniel said with a serious expression, "Our boss values this collaboration highly. Since there's evidence, please explain further so that I can report it to my boss. If things remain unclear, we won't be able to proceed with the collaboration."

The boss nodded. "Of course."

He then turned to look at the employees of the marketing department.

"You're all witnesses, right? Go on, explain everything."

After seeing someone being accused of leaking internal information just now, who would dare to side with Kimberly?

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“Sir, I only heard a few words. I can’t remember it clearly anymore.”

“Yeah. My seat is in the corner, so I didn’t hear much.”

“Ask Millie. She sits closest to Aurelia. Besides, she sounded really sure of herself in the group chat that she knew the situation best.”

Everyone started to turn against one another.

Millie had been far too arrogant lately. Last night, she had posted about the gift worth ten thousand dollars that she had bought for her boyfriend, giving everyone the impression that she wasn’t short of money and that she didn’t care about how she spent it.

The others were annoyed by her flaunting, so they were all quick to point their fingers at her first.

After Kimberly entered the department, Aurelia realized that her colleagues were more or less just following the crowd. It was human nature. After all, who wouldn’t want to befriend someone powerful?

However, there were drawbacks to this, so she had kept reminding Millie to keep a low profile.

Unfortunately, not only did Millie not listen, but she even followed in Kimberly’s footsteps.

Millie was both frustrated and furious. She had always been short-tempered, and this time was no exception.

Without a second thought, she stood up and pointed at Aurelia. "She plagiarized Kimberly! Kimberly came up with an extravagant proposal before this. Didn't Aurelia secretly make one with the exact same concept herself after that?"

After hearing Millie's defense, Kimberly's expression improved slightly. She raised her head with tears in her eyes and said, "Thank you, Millie."

Millie nodded at her and said, "Don't worry, Kimberly. I support you."

Aurelia looked at Millie with a frown. Millie really hadn't listened to a single word of her advice. She wasn't aware that she was playing with fire.

Kimberly had neither admitted nor denied the plagiarism accusation herself, but Millie had jumped out to defend her.

Once it was proven that Kimberly had lied, Millie would be considered an accomplice.

Did she really think Kimberly would appreciate her help then?

If Kimberly had a conscience, she would stand with Millie. But if she didn't have one, Kimberly could even claim that Millie had misled her and made her believe that Aurelia had plagiarized her proposal.

After all, Aurelia only had the draft of the extravagant plan on her laptop.

How would Millie prove her innocence then?

Millie shot Aurelia a smug look. She had already deleted everything from Aurelia's laptop, so Aurelia wouldn't be able to prove anything.

Aurelia met Millie's gaze before looking away. Millie was no longer her friend.

After listening to Millie's testimony, the boss immediately said, "Mr. Xenos, you heard that, This matter is indeed Aurelia's fault."

When he finished speaking, Zachary gave Aurelia a warning look and took the opportunity to say, "Aurelia, hurry up and explain to Mr. Xenos!"

He then pushed Aurelia forward, and she walked toward Daniel.

"Mr. Xenos, about this matter..."

Everyone held their breath as they waited for Aurelia, the scapegoat, to admit her wrongdoings and end everything.

"Mr. Xenos, I did not plagiarize. I suspect that someone had tampered with my laptop," Aurelia said loudly.

"Aurelia!" Zachary scowled. "Are you really going to argue about this when we have solid evidence? Do you want this collaboration to be ruined?"

"Don't forget that you've already written a self-reflection essay too. That's equivalent to you admitting that you had indeed plagiarized."

Aurelia held

up

the essay. "Where in this essay did I admit to plagiarizing anything?"

Zachary thought about it for a moment and suddenly froze.

Kimberly also paused. Then, she rushed to Aurelia's side and grabbed the essay from her.

She began reading aloud, "A few days ago, I, Aurelia Simmons, was late for the One Technology presentation meeting..."

She read Aurelia's self-reflection essay from beginning to end, her hands trembling more with each word.

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There wasn't a word about plagiarism in the whole essay.

When Kimberly and Zachary had taken a look at the essay previously, they had focused on the sincerity of Aurelia's written words and assumed that she had given up and accepted her fate.

In the end, Aurelia hadn't given up at all.

Daniel said, "Ms. Simmons' words seem sincere. She clearly recognizes her mistake for interrupting during the meeting. Isn't that right? Where did she admit to plagiarizing someone else's work? I didn't hear it at all."

Kimberly and Zachary exchanged glances, and Kimberly immediately said, "There was no proposal in her laptop. There was only a draft of a proposal based on a fake idea I gave previously.

"We all have passwords on our laptops, so other people can't access them. This is enough proof that she had plagiarized my work."

Aurelia retorted, "Millie knows my password. She has gotten particularly close to Kimberly recently. The two of them started saying that they were each other's best friends only yesterday.

“But Millie used to follow me around. I believe that this was all a trap.”

After speaking, Aurelia pretended to be deep in thought.

Millie was taken aback. She explained, “No, I don’t know her password. She’s lying. I’ve always been close to Kimberly. Just ask the others.”

The others? It seemed that Millie was still clueless about her current situation.

Did she truly think that everyone would fawn over her simply because she had a wealthy boyfriend?

Millie pointed at the others, but no one tried to help her.

“Millie and I are just colleagues. I don’t know much about who she’s friends with.”

“Millie has always been friendly with everyone in the office.”

Millie stood in place with a pale face.

Aurelia then presented her chat records with Millie and said, “Millie once asked me for the password to my laptop under the pretext of reviewing some case plans. Here’s the evidence.”

Millie was speechless.

With this turning point, most people expected Aurelia to take the opportunity to argue further.

To their surprise, Aurelia’s eyes turned red, and she lowered her head.

“Boss, I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have spoken up, but I’ve been with the company since I graduated. I’m attached to this place, and I’m also attached to the proposal I had written.

“I had initially wanted to let things go, but this plagiarism incident is causing a significant impact on me. The whole building has been condemning me, so I had no choice but to stand

up for myself. I’m really sorry.”

She kept apologizing, then raised her hand to wipe the corners of her eyes, as if there were tears there.

Indeed, there were no tears.

She couldn’t be overly assertive at this moment, or the boss would resent her too.

She had to play the victim and make people think that she really couldn’t bear it any longer and was forced to speak up.

If anyone were to blame, it was Kimberly’s fault for not being discreet and insisting on making the plagiarism incident widely known to everyone.

Upon hearing Aurelia’s reluctant confession, the boss had no choice but to blame Kimberly for being so arrogant.

If it weren’t for Kimberly, the other departments in the building wouldn’t have known about the incident. Young Advertising’s competitors wouldn’t have learned about it either, let alone One Technology.

As expected, the boss turned to look at Kimberly reproachfully.

Kimberly’s arrogance vanished, and she wished she could sink into the ground.

At this moment, Daniel stepped forward.

“It seems that there’s more to this plagiarism incident than meets the eye. In order to ensure sincere cooperation between the two companies, I think it’s necessary to investigate further.”

“Investigate further? How?” The boss was momentarily puzzled.

“It seems that you’ve forgotten what our company does,” Daniel said, pointing to the two young men beside him.

The two men stepped forward and put down their laptop bags before saying in unison, “Give us Ms. Simmons’ and Ms. Watson’s laptops. We can retrieve the records of the proposal.”

“My laptop is right here,” Aurelia said, taking out her laptop immediately.

Kimberly remained silent as she trembled.

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Anyone could tell that Kimberly looked guilty, but no one came to help her.

They were all victims of Kimberly’s lies, so who would dare to help her?

“I-I... My laptop is broken,” Kimberly said.

Just then, the receptionist walked in with a laptop.

“Kimberly, I’ve brought you your laptop.”

A dazed look appeared in Kimberly’s eyes, and she started trembling.

The receptionist looked at everyone in confusion. “What’s wrong? Someone called me just now and asked me to bring Kimberly’s laptop to the conference room. I thought you needed it for work.”

Aurelia was taken aback.

Although this meeting was for all employees, someone still needed to be stationed at the reception desk.

So, this receptionist didn’t know anything. But she had shown up at just the right time.

Someone had to be helping Aurelia.

A figure appeared in Aurelia’s mind, and a strange feeling overwhelmed her.

But the voices of the others brought her back to reality. She looked in front of her.

Kimberly tried to grab her laptop, but the young man Daniel had brought along was one step ahead of her.

“That’s great timing. Hand it to me. Ms. Watson, what are you doing? Are you trying to snatch the laptop?”

“N-No.” Kimberly immediately shook her head, not daring to protest further.

The two young men sat side by side and opened both Aurelia’s and Kimberly’s laptops. They then transferred the data onto the screens.

“We won’t touch your personal data. We’ll only focus on recovering the data related to our company’s proposal, so the two of you don’t have to worry about privacy leaks.”

Aurelia nodded. This laptop was provided by the company, so no one would dare to store any private information on it to begin with.

After a few minutes, the data recovery was completed.

Right before everyone's eyes, the documents that had been deleted from Aurelia's laptop were gradually restored. Even the timestamps of when the documents had been edited were shown.

Over the past week, Aurelia had been constantly adjusting the documents on her laptop.

On the other side, some unexpected data had also been recovered from Kimberly's laptop.

At some point, the files that had originally appeared on Aurelia's laptop had suddenly shown up on Kimberly's laptop.

Over the past week, the only thing Kimberly had done was to copy the luxurious opening banquet proposal from Aurelia's laptop.

It became clear who had copied whom.

could be

Before the revelation could be concluded, Kimberly rushed forward angrily and forcefully shut down her laptop.

"It wasn't me! Someone framed me! The proposal is mine!"

She couldn't even be bothered to come up with an explanation now. She just started acting hysterically.

"Ms. Watson, didn't you say that your password was private and that no one else knows it? Who else knows your password?" Daniel asked.

The others immediately shook their heads, indicating that they didn't know Kimberly's password.

Kimberly had dug her own grave, but she continued to deny plagiarizing anything.

Daniel asked, "Then, what's our company's SIN program used for?"

Kimberly hesitated. "It's... It's..."

Daniel continued, "Ms. Watson, this was what you had written in the proposal, so why don't you know it? Honestly, my question isn't difficult at all. Anyone familiar with our company would be able to answer it."

Kimberly took a deep breath but still couldn't answer.

In fact, if she had fully read Aurelia's plan, the question wouldn't be difficult to answer.

However, she had been too confident of herself. After being promoted to vice director, she thought that everything was set in stone, and she didn't even bother to look at Aurelia's plan.

Just then, Aurelia stepped forward.

"The SIN program is a program written by Ian. It's designed for work-type robots with extremely high intelligence. This type of robot also incorporates a unique chip developed jointly with your company. It's currently one of One Technology's most powerful technologies.

"That's right." Daniel walked up to Aurelia and looked at her seriously. He nodded and said, "Ms. Simmons, it's no wonder that our boss appreciates you so much. I believe we'll have a pleasant time working together."

Aurelia looked at Daniel's hand and then looked at her boss.

Her boss nodded helplessly. Only then did she reach out to shake Daniel's hand.

"I look forward to it."

Daniel turned to Aurelia's boss and said, "Now that the matter has been resolved, we won't disturb your meeting any further. If you encounter any technical issues in the future, feel free to contact us."

Although Daniel's tone was calm, the pressure of his words weighed down on Aurelia's boss.

Chapter 160

As foolish as the boss could be, he could tell that One Technology's founder took a liking in Aurelia.

He smiled. "Thank you. This won't happen again."

Daniel smiled in silence and turned to leave.

The two young men packed up their laptops and walked over to Aurelia.

"Are you the woman Ian spoke of? You are indeed a beauty."

"Tell us how you got to know Ian."

"Yeah, he--"

Daniel returned, cleared his throat, and stared at the two. "Let's go."

“Alright.” The two young men waved their hands at Aurelia. “See you next time, pretty lady.”

Aurelia was stunned and thought, “Ian? I don’t know him.”

Just as she tried to ask them about what they said, the two left with Daniel.

Silence returned to the meeting room and Aurelia glanced at the boss, before pointing at her reflection letter. “Should I keep reading?”

The boss tensed and waved his hand. “Meeting adjourned.”

With that, his gaze swept past Zachary and he left, with Zachary following closely behind.

People in the meeting room gradually left, but not without glancing at Aurelia on their way out.

Someone whispered, “I was just wondering when Aurelia became so beautiful?”

“I was thinking the same. Her figure rivaled that of Kimberly’s.”

As the voices faded away, Aurelia, who was packing up her computer, and Kimberly, and Millie were the only ones left in the meeting room.

Aurelia ignored the murderous glares from the two and packed her laptop, before preparing to leave.

“Aurelia, do you think you’ve won? Are you proud that someone praised you?” Kimberly asked coldly.

Aurelia didn’t stop and continued walking.

Kimberly angrily shouted to stop her. "Aurelia! Do you think this will change anything? It won't! I'm still the vice director! You must obey my orders!"

Aurelia halted and turned around to look at Kimberly. "Do you really think you can stay in a position that you stole from others?"

Kimberly faltered and was instantly rendered speechless.

Millie ran over and warned, "Aurelia, don't forget that Kimberly has her uncle's support. What do you have?"

Aurelia chuckled. "She has an uncle supporting her, but what about you? A boyfriend?"

Millie stared at Aurelia in disbelief as she didn't expect Aurelia to mock her.

Aurelia walked past the two and left. However, she didn't return to her office.

She didn't want to be surrounded by people right now. She just wanted to know who had called the front desk to have Kimberly's laptop delivered to the meeting room.

She rushed to the front desk and asked the receptionist, "Who called you just now to deliver 'the laptop?'"

The receptionist frowned. "It was a man, but I don't know who it was. He mentioned Kimberly's name and knew that the people having the meeting today were from our company. Now that I think about it, this man's voice was quite pleasant. I don't think I've heard it before.

A pleasant voice?

Aurelia was almost certain it was Leslie.

Although Leslie knew about the meeting today, how could he predict when they would need Kimberly's laptop? The only possible explanation was that Leslie was around.

Aurelia ran into the elevator without hesitation. However, Leslie was nowhere to be seen when she reached the ground floor.

At this moment, she had an impulse to see Leslie.

She took out her phone and dialed his number.

"Looking for me?" Leslie's composed voice sounded.

Aurelia was momentarily stunned. She turned around and saw Leslie leaning against his car door. His demeanor was cold, yet more blinding than the sunlight.