

## **In A Flash 201**

### Chapter 201

Both Leslie and Aurelia froze.

Aurelia stared at him in surprise when she realized that he was apologizing.

Before she could think much of it, Leslie tugged the bandage and she jolted in pain.

He grabbed her wrist and said, "You want a divorce?"

Afraid to look at him, she said helplessly, "Yeah...Ow..."

Despite the tense situation, she felt like a comedian as she stuttered while looking at her hand.

Leslie tightened his grip expressionlessly. "Are you sure?"

She looked at him.

His eyes seemed to be threatening to break her wrist if she

gave

the

wrong answer.

She tilted and shook her head.

“No. No.”

Aurelia was afraid to anger him.

Leslie stared at her flushing ears and felt taken aback by his own actions.

“What am I doing? Haven’t I wanted her to leave all along? Why am I getting upset when she proposes a divorce?” he wondered.

Realizing that he was slightly out of line, he cleared his throat and explained, “My mom won’t agree to this.”

Aurelia stiffened and nodded.

Leslie was a good son, so he would never upset Linda.

What was she expecting?

Spotting the sorrowful look on her face, he continued his apology.

“I mistook the heels for garbage and accidentally threw it away. I’m sorry...I didn’t know they were a gift from your parents. I thought they were from Seth and let my frustration get the best of me on the phone.”

“Huh?”

Aurelia didn’t quite know how to respond.

“Say whatever you want to say,” he said.

She pondered for a bit and asked, "Why does it frustrate you when you thought they were from Seth?"

"That's not the point."

Leslie immediately shifted the topic.

He didn't know why but he found himself growing irritated at the mere mention of Seth's name.

"What is the point, then?" Aurelia was puzzled.

"The point is...what do you need from me as compensation?"

Leslie frowned as he stumbled on his words.

"There's no need for compensation. You've already apologized and also helped me find my heels."

"Then consider it a debt. Let me know when you figure out what you want."

Leslie was well aware that he had spoken out of line.

Even if he did make it up to her, it still wouldn't hide the fact that he had spoken hurtful words.

Aurelia hesitated, not expecting Leslie to be so insistent.

Most men would just apologize and get it over.

When women brought it up again, they would be accused of holding grudges.

Even Seth, who had been with her for three years, was like that.

Hence, she expected the same from the usually aloof Leslie.

Unexpectedly, Leslie was direct in his apology and even offered to make amends.

Aurelia could see that Leslie was sincerely apologetic, so she wasn't really angry.

She looked up and said, "Mr. Synder, may I say something?"

"What is it?" Leslie asked.

Aurelia pointed to the wrist he was gripping tightly.

"Can you release my wrist? It hurts a bit."

Leslie paused and immediately released Aurelia's hand.

He then stood up and feigned nonchalance.

"I'm going back to my room. Don't wash the dishes today to avoid getting the wounds wet."

Hearing the mention of wounds, Aurelia looked at Leslie's wound.

It seemed he hadn't applied any medicine yet.

She quickly stood up and reached out to stop Leslie.

"Mr. Synder, you ..."

This caused Leslie, who had injured his leg while searching, to lose his balance.

He accidentally pulled Aurelia along, who instinctively moved backward.

But she bumped into the table and had nowhere else to back up.

Fortunately, Leslie quickly supported her in time.

Unavoidably, they collided.

It was such a heavy collision that the sound of their teeth clashing could be heard, resonating painfully in their mouths and foreheads.

Registering the warm touch on their lips, they looked at each other in surprise.

They remained silent for a full ten seconds before Aurelia pushed herself away from Leslie.

There was an unknown romantic tension between them despite the distance.

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She put down the ointment she was holding in panic.

“Mr. Synder, remember to apply the ointment.”

With that, she ran back to her room and slammed her door shut.

Leslie snapped out of it and touched his lips.

It felt slightly numb and painful, but there was also a strange feeling.

Why do couples enjoy kissing?

Couple?

Since when did he start considering the two of them as a couple?

Speaking of couples, Aurelia and Seth used to be a couple as well.

Did they kiss?

Leslie was even more appalled by Seth.

Leslie turned and returned to his room, his ears turning red.

That night, neither of them managed to sleep as they replayed the kiss in their minds repeatedly.

They both thought they could sleep in since it was the weekend.

However, their doorbell rang early in the morning.

Aurelia and Leslie stepped out of their rooms at the same time.

“Mr. Synder, do you have guests?” Aurelia rubbed her eyes.

“I don’t know.”

Leslie walked over to the surveillance system and instantly looked alarmed when he saw who it was.

He turned around and said, "It's my mom."

Aurelia didn't think much of it and yawned.

"Then open the door. I'll make breakfast."

He grabbed her and poked her on the head.

"Aurelia, wake up. It's my mom. What are we now?"

"Roommates...," she mumbled, before snapping out of it.

Linda didn't know that they were interacting like roommates.

Linda was so excited saying that she would have grandchildren soon.

How could that ever happen if Aurelia and Leslie weren't even sleeping in the same room?

If Linda found out...

"Go to the guest room and bring your things to my room," he said.

Aurelia nodded. "Okay."

She hurried into the guest room, took all her clothes from the cabinet, and turned towards Leslie's

room.

His scent filled the air, making her feel a bit embarrassed.

However, she didn't have time to hesitate.

She opened his wardrobe and stuffed her clothes inside.

She could tidy it up later.

Aurelia even intentionally messed up Leslie's bed to make it look like two people had slept there.

Fortunately, she didn't have too many things.

Otherwise, it would've been a challenge to move all her stuff quickly.

When everything was done, Leslie opened the door.

"Mom, why are you here?"

"Where's Aurelia? What's going on between

you

two?"

Linda entered and looked around.

Aurelia rubbed her head and came out of the master bedroom.



“Mom, good morning. Have you had breakfast?”

Linda looked at the room where Aurelia came out and smiled.

She then stood beside her and glanced at the bed in the room.

It was quite messy.

She nodded in satisfaction.

“I bought breakfast and came to eat with you two. Go freshen up.

“Okay.”

Aurelia glanced at Leslie and nodded, then they went back to the bedroom together.

After closing the door, Aurelia felt loss and didn't know what to do.

Leslie noticed her unease.

“Change your clothes first.”

Aurelia became even more nervous after hearing that.

“C...change clothes?”

Even though the room wasn't small, it wasn't big either.

If they were to change in the same room, they would be able to see each other clearly.

Leslie turned around and walked to the wardrobe.

“I’ll go to the bathroom to change first. You can lock the door later.”

“Okay.”

Aurelia looked at Leslie gratefully.

Without context, it might sound less gentlemanly for Leslie to change first.

However, if she went to the bathroom first, the thought of Leslie waiting outside would make her even more nervous.

Leslie opened the wardrobe.

With a clatter, the clothes Aurelia had just stuffed inside fell on him.

Including...

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What fell on top of Leslie...included her underwear!

One of Aurelia’s pink bras hangs on Leslie’s shoulder and is almost falling onto his arms.

The thought of that happening made Aurelia incredibly embarrassed.

Just as the bra fell, she reached out to grab it, only for her hands to land on Leslie's chest.

The bra slipped away, and her wrist was caught firmly by Leslie.

"You ..." Leslie's restrained voice sounded low and deep, and the corners of his eyes were slightly reddened.

"Where are you touching me?"

"N...nothing."

Aurelia blushed and withdrew her hand, glancing at the fallen underwear on the floor.

She nudged it with her foot and moved it into the pile of clothes.

Witnessing this, Leslie couldn't help but curve his lips.

He pretended like he saw nothing as he turned away. "I'll go change. You can tidy up first."

"Okay." Aurelia nodded with her head down, afraid to look at Leslie.

She waited until Leslie went into the bathroom before she hurriedly picked up the scattered clothes on the floor, neatly folding them, and putting them away.

However, she couldn't stop blushing, especially when she was folding the pink bra.

She quickly balled it up and stuffed it into the pile of clothes.

When she was about to put the clothes into the wardrobe, she realized that Leslie's wardrobe was quite empty.

Apart from a few sets of current-season clothes, there were hardly any winter clothes.

Could it be that...men were more resistant to the cold?

It was not entirely unreasonable for Aurelia to think this way.

Many men in her company building wore suits throughout the year.

The office had air conditioning so it maintained a constant temperature in the office.

However, during the winter commute, most people would wear a thick coat.

Why didn't Leslie have one?

Just as she was pondering, Leslie came out of the bathroom.

Since it was the weekend, Leslie only wore a black casual outfit.

Leslie noticed Aurelia standing in front of his wardrobe and immediately guessed what she was thinking

"I haven't been here for long. Most of my clothes are still at my mom's place. I'll bring them over another day," he explained.

“Oh, okay.” Aurelia felt she had overthought things and nodded.

“I’ll go out first. Go ahead and get changed.”

With that, Leslie left the room.

Aurelia sighed a breath of relief, took her clothes, and entered the bathroom.

After changing into fresh clothes, she walked out and saw Linda pouring milk in the kitchen.

“Aurelia, come over. I bought donuts. They won’t taste as good once they stay out for a while.”

“Alright.”

As Aurelia sat down, Linda started to observe her and Leslie.

Feeling nervous, Aurelia glanced at Leslie.

Leslie took the initiative and spoke.

“Mom, why are you here?”

Linda set her cup aside and smiled.

“I’m worried about you two since you’re living alone. So, I came over to see if there’s anything else you needed.”

“Mom, we have everything we need here. Don’t worry.” Aurelia smiled.

“Is that so? Why did I find Aurelia’s toothbrush in the guest bathroom just now, then? Do you not have enough space in the master bathroom?” Linda asked casually.

Aurelia panicked.

She was too focused on clearing her wardrobe that she forgot about the bathroom.

“We go to work around the same time so it wasn’t convenient for us to wash up in the same bathroom. The guest bathroom is bigger so she uses it,” Leslie said.

“Yeah. That way, we won’t fight over a bathroom,” Aurelia agreed.

Linda hummed in response and did not question further.

Just when Aurelia thought she was safe, a larger obstacle came at them.

“What do you two plan on doing today?” Linda asked.

“What do you mean?”

Both Aurelia and Leslie exchanged confused looks.

Linda set her fork down forcefully and frowned.

“You two are young and newlywed. Why aren’t you going out on dates during the weekend?”

“Dates?” the two of them shouted.

## Chapter 204

Linda opened her purse and took out two movie tickets.

“It’s a good thing that I came prepared. I’ve already reserved a restaurant for you and a movie in the afternoon. I’ll cook for you two tonight.”

Aurelia was silent and Leslie rubbed the bridge of his nose.

“Hang on. What do you mean you’ll cook for us tonight?”

Linda stood abruptly, feeling like the best mother-in-law in the world.

Startled, both Aurelia and Leslie backed away.

“I’m just cooking dinner. What’s wrong with that?”

Leslie’s expression instantly darkened.

Linda turned to Aurelia and grabbed her hand.

“Aurelia, do you not trust me? I’m just trying to be a good mother-in-law.”

“Well...Mom, I just don’t want you to overexert yourself,” Aurelia said.

“I won’t. Just leave it all to me,” Linda said confidently.

“Oh...alright, then.” Aurelia nodded.

Next to her, Leslie raised an eyebrow while looking at her.

“Just don’t regret what you said.”

Aurelia wondered what was the big deal when all Linda wanted was to cook dinner.

As soon as Aurelia agreed, Linda snatched the cups from her and Leslie’s hands.

“Alright, you are done with breakfast now. It’s time for your date. I’ll just go tidy up the guest room.”

“Why?” Leslie asked.

She smiled and went to pull her luggage over from the doorstep. “As you can see, I’ll be living here for a while.”

“Why can’t you stay at your own home?” Leslie asked.

“There’s a leakage.”

Leslie was rendered speechless.

There were plenty of rooms in the villa, so it was unlikely that there was a leakage in every single room unless there was a big flood.

Linda gently pushed Aurelia and Leslie.



“Quick, go for your date. The house feels empty. Both of you can buy some decorations before watching the movie. Aurelia, don’t try to save money for Leslie. He’s a married man now.”

With those words, Aurelia and Leslie were pushed out of the house.

They were left standing in a state of disarray outside the door.

Aurelia hesitated.

“Mr. Synder, what do we do now?”

Leslie furrowed his brow and placed his hands in his pockets as he walked into the elevator.

“Let’s just go. Otherwise, my mom won’t leave.”

Aurelia nodded hesitantly.

Initially, she planned to visit her mom at the hospital in the morning.

She’ll just have to put that on hold.

She followed Leslie into the car.

While on the road, she realized the scenery outside seemed familiar.

“Mr. Synder, this isn’t the way to the furniture store...”

“Let’s go to the hospital and see your mom first.” Leslie interrupted her.

Aurelia was taken aback.

She only then realized they were heading to the hospital.

Leslie never mentioned her mother, so she didn't want to bother him.

She never expected him to take the initiative to bring her here instead.

When her mother fell seriously ill, Seth had always used the excuse of being busy with work before his promotion and didn't want to go to the hospital.

At that time, Aurelia was understanding.

But thinking back to it now, she realized that he was probably afraid she would ask for money.

Aurelia smiled. "Thank you."

Leslie replied with a hum.

At the hospital, Leslie instructed Aurelia to go to the ward first.

Thinking he had something else to attend to, she went ahead.

She took a few steps ahead and turned to find Leslie entering the doctor's office.

Suddenly, it felt as if burden had been lifted from her shoulders.

Upon entering the ward, the caretaker greeted her with a beaming smile.

“Ms. Simmons, you look happy today. Did something happen?”

Act Fast: Free Bonus Time is Running Out!

Chapter 205

“Is that so?” Aurelia touched her face and wondered if her expression was that obvious.

The caretaker continued.

“Yeah. You used to look exhausted all the time, but lately... you’ve been looking much better. I can barely recognize you. It seems like Mr. Synder really treats you well.”

Aurelia thought about it and nodded.

Though there had been conflicts between them, Leslie wasn’t afraid to admit to his own mistakes and apologize sincerely.

This already made him better than any man she knew.

Any married couple would have arguments, especially those who got married without actually dating one another.

Compromising was the most important thing in a marriage.

“Mr. Synder is so handsome and nice. You must really love him, right?”

“Love? I...” Aurelia was taken aback.

“Love what?” Leslie’s voice came from behind her.

Startled, she stood abruptly from her chair.

“Nothing,” Aurelia replied as she shook her head.

“Hm?” He stared at her intently.

Changing the subject, she said, “Mr. Synder, where did you go just now?”

“I went to ask the doctors about your mom. They said that she’s recovering well and can be transferred to the normal ward soon. However, when your mom wakes up is entirely up to herself.”

Aurelia was thrilled for a moment when she heard that her mother could be transferred to the normal ward.

But when she realized there was no telling when her mother would wake up, her face paled.

“I know a few foreign doctors and I sent them your mom’s medical report just now via email. Once they take a look at it, they will tell us what our next step should be,” Leslie continued.

Aurelia was stunned for a moment.

“You just went to...”

“Yeah.” Leslie nodded.

“Thank you,” she said.

Gazing at Leslie, her heart skipped a beat.

Leslie responded with a hum and turned to the caretaker.

“Hi. If you’re available, I’d like to discuss long-term employment with you. You can discuss the salary you want with your family and let me know. If everything checks out, we can sign an employment contract,” Leslie said.

“Sir, you...”

“Aurelia thinks you’ve taken good care of her mother. For now, her mother’s condition is reliant on personal care, and we don’t plan to replace anyone.

“Therefore, we hope for long-term employment. You don’t have to worry about losing your job all of a sudden that way,” he explained.

Aurelia stared at Leslie with her eyes widened, feeling a bit guilty since she hadn’t thought about this herself.

Thinking about it, Leslie was a considerate man.

Finding a good caregiver nowadays is difficult.

Aurelia felt reassured with the current caretaker.

She had considered offering a raise but hadn’t thought about employing her long-term.

The caretaker also seemed stunned.

“Mr. Synder, well...”

“Aurelia’s mother will need long-term supervision even after being discharged. We can provide you room and board, as well as holiday bonuses and double pay on special occasions. I believe these are things you cannot obtain as a freelancer,” Leslie continued, his voice clear and commanding.

The caretaker seemed visibly convinced.

“Mr. Synder, you ...”

“You can discuss this with your family,” Leslie continued.

“Yes, I’ll feel very reassured if you can stay. But, you don’t have to feel pressured to stay,” Aurelia added.

The caregiver smiled.

“Alright, alright. I’ll discuss this with my family.”

Aurelia nodded.

Now that her mother’s surgery was over, she no longer felt burdened.

Although she didn’t get the promotion to vice director, she could still cover the expenses for the

caregiver.

She just needed to put a little extra effort on her part in formulating plans, and the bonus combined with her salary would be enough.

This way, she could work without worrying about her mother.

She glanced at Leslie beside her gratefully, taking in his profound profile.

She felt a tingling sensation passing through her heart.

For some reason, she recalled something her mother used to always say to her.

## Chapter 206

“Aurelia, when you’re looking for a husband in the future, be sure to find someone like your dad.”

“You need a man who can make decisions in important matters. You seem quite capable, but all you do is brute force your way through hardships.”

She seemed to understand what her mom was saying now.

Leslie lowered his gaze.

“What are you looking at?”

Aurelia immediately shifted her gaze.

“Nothing. I’ll check on my mom and then we can leave.”

She walked over to her mother, but Leslie’s gaze lingered behind her.

After checking on her mom, Aurelia and Leslie went to the largest furniture store in Seacester.

This was Aurelia’s first time here, and she felt a bit disoriented.

The two stood in front of the map and studied it.

The map was so big that Aurelia had a hard time comprehending it.

Aurelia felt dizzy just looking at it, so she started walking based on her instincts.

“Aurelia,” Leslie called her from behind.

“What’s wrong?”

“Looks to me like you have a really bad sense of direction. We are supposed to go here. You’re going to the mattress section. Do you need one?”

“...Mattress?”

Aurelia looked at Leslie, thinking about something, and walked away with her

head down.

Leslie was used to this and caught up with Aurelia’s pace.



They both went upstairs together.

Aurelia wanted to buy some decorations to add some more warmth to their home.

Their home?

Aurelia paused.

She was surprised by her own thoughts.

She had unintentionally started thinking of Leslie's home as her own.

Perhaps she had gotten used to saying it and it became a habit.

When choosing decorations, Aurelia would pick them up and ask for Leslie's opinion.

Although Leslie didn't seem to care much, he always gave sensible advice so it wasn't boring to shop with him.

Just as she was selecting decorations for the cabinet, someone walked past her with a big pot of artificial flowers.

She stood and came close to getting scratched on the cheek when Leslie pulled her over at the last moment.

She stumbled into his arms and the two stared into each other's eyes, recalling the kiss from the night before.

"Um...Are you two still buying this? You aren't supposed to squeeze that so hard. It'll scatter.

A staff member appeared out of nowhere and chuckled.

Aurelia glanced at the flower basket that was on the brink of scattering, feeling embarrassed.

“We’ll pay.”

Leslie wore a half smile and proceeded to pay.

Aurelia held the flower basket and fought the urge to run away.

He glanced at her and said, “Looking good.”

Her cheeks reddened further.

She wondered why he was saying that while looking at her.

Not wanting to ask, she was prepared to leave when someone called out her name from behind her.

“Aurelia? Aurelia!”

Hearing someone calling out to her, she turned around to find that it was one of her colleagues.

This was someone who stuck around Kimberly most of the time.

If Millie was the gossip queen of the office, this person would be the second-in-command.

The colleague looked at Aurelia in surprise.

“So it really is you.”

“Yeah. Are you here shopping as well?”

“Yeah. I want to buy a vase. I love flowers and arranging them at home really relaxes me.”

The colleague smiled and glanced at Leslie.

## Chapter 207

Since everyone already found out Leslie was her husband, Aurelia felt that there was no point in hiding it.

“We’re just walking around,” she said.

The colleague nodded, her eyes still fixated on Leslie.

Leslie looked handsome even in the blurry photo from the office group chat.

He looked even more dazzling in person.

Throughout her years of worshipping different celebrities, she could confidently say that no celebrity could rival Leslie.

He had the perfect figure, looks, and demeanor.

Having such a man by one’s side would truly be flattering.

It was no wonder that Kimberly would rather lie and say that this man was her boyfriend.

She would've done the same as well.

Leslie sensed the colleague's stare on him and his expression darkened.

Worried he may get upset, Aurelia immediately blocked the colleague's gaze.

"We won't disturb you anymore. We'll be going now.'

"Don't go. Since we ran into one another, we might as well shop together."

The colleague squeezed into the gap between Aurelia and Leslie, before looking up at Leslie with a smile.

"Hey, handsome. You wouldn't mind, right? I know this area well."

Aurelia frowned at how awkward the situation was.

She was about to stop her colleague when Leslie looked down coldly.

"I mind."

"W... What?" the colleague asked in shock.

"I said I mind," he repeated.

The colleague froze in place and Leslie pulled Aurelia away.

Aurelia had no option but to turn and shout, "We will get going now."

The colleague glared at Aurelia and scoffed.

She then took out her phone and snapped a photo of Aurelia with the flower basket, before sending it to the group chat.

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"I ran into Aurelia and her husband. Her husband is super handsome in person. She's such a lucky woman. He even got her flowers." She wrote.

She had followed Kimberly for a while and learned a lot from her.

With just one sentence, it instantly awakened the resting crowd on the weekend.

Aurelia took out her phone as it kept vibrating.

She looked at the photos and message and furrowed her brow.

"What's wrong?" Leslie asked.

"Take a look." Aurelia raised her phone.

"The photo isn't so bad." Leslie nodded.

The photo showed Leslie from behind and Aurelia in a white long dress.

She was holding an exquisite and petite flower basket that amplified her charm.

Indeed, it was well taken.

“Mr. Synder, I’m talking about her text, not the photo,” Aurelia said with resignation.

Only then did Leslie notice the message below.

But, before he could finish reading, other messages came in and flooded the group chat.

“The flower basket looks pretty good, but... a grown man giving fake flowers probably doesn’t take his wife seriously, right?”

“Being handsome doesn’t cut it either. If my husband gave me fake flowers, I’ll make him suffer.”

“When Seth and Aurelia were together, he at least gave her real flowers. Now, she’s getting fake flowers after getting married. Are they really that poor?”

At this point, Millie joined in.

“Actually, fake flowers are not bad. After all, Aurelia’s husband still has to repay the mortgage, and his salary is just average.”

“Buying fake flowers means he never has to buy them for a lifetime. It’s pretty cost-effective. My boyfriend only knows how to waste money.”

Accompanying the text was a picture of Jackson giving Millie ninety-nine roses.

“When Aurelia and Seth were together, Seth even treated us to supper. After getting married, her husband doesn’t do it. Doesn’t that say something?” Millie typed.

“@Aurelia, Did you two not have a wedding banquet?”

“@Aurelia, let’s go out for a meal together. We can help you keep an eye on him.”

Aurelia didn’t expect them to apply the same set of comments used on Kimberly to her.

She quickly retrieved her phone and awkwardly looked at Leslie.

“Mr. Synder, don’t take it to heart. They’re just joking.”

“Mm.’

## Chapter 208

Leslie’s tone was monotonous and his expression was unreadable.

Did this mean Aurelia introduced Seth to her colleagues but refrained from introducing him as her

husband?

Leslie felt quite uncomfortable at this thought.

Aurelia realized Leslie may be upset.

In truth, she also found these people’s comments quite inappropriate.

It wasn't the first time she had been requested to bring her boyfriend along to treat her colleagues to a meal.

Back when she was still an intern and in her first relationship, she readily agreed when her seniors suggested it.

As a result, that supper cost her hundreds because she footed the bill.

When Seth found out it would cost that much, he accused her of caring more about her reputation than him.

He said she was being inconsiderate to someone who hadn't been working for long.

Aurelia thought Seth was right.

Making ends meet wasn't easy for everyone, and she had promised to treat everyone.

She had no right to demand that Seth cover the expense.

Hence, she paid for that meal with half a month's salary.

Later, she learned that these seniors often used this excuse to pressure other people's boyfriends into treating them.

Kimberly was no exception, but she had the money so she always complied.



Seeing her colleagues mentioning her repeatedly, Aurelia responded directly.

“We do have a mortgage to pay, and my mom is still in the hospital, so I can’t compete with Millie’s boyfriend. Speaking of which, it seems Millie’s boyfriend hasn’t treated everyone to a meal either.”

Aurelia threw the question to Millie.

Those seniors never showed mercy to rich men, and Millie would have a hard time.

“Yeah, Millie. Your boyfriend is so rich, so why hasn’t he treated us to a meal? At least Aurelia’s mother treated us to afternoon tea.”

Others chimed in.

Millie remained silent for a long time.

Aurelia stopped reading at this point.

Now Millie should know what it feels like to be targeted.

As she was about to put down her phone, Millie replied.

“Sure, let’s have a department dinner next week. My boyfriend will treat us.”

“Millie’s boyfriend is so generous. He’s actually treating us to a meal.”

“This amount of money is nothing to Jackson,” Millie replied.

“Then we need to think about what to eat. We can’t embarrass Mr. Morrison.”

“Definitely not barbecue again. I’m sick of it.”

“If Mr. Morrison is treating, we must go for something expensive.”

Several people happily discussed the department dinner.

Aurelia finished reading all the messages and sighed.

Hopefully, Jackson would foot the bill or Millie would go bankrupt.

Just as she was about to exit the group chat, Millie tagged everyone in another message.

“Everyone, bring your families. Otherwise, it’ll be disrespectful to me and Jackson.”

“@Aurelia, you will play along, right? Don’t be afraid of being compared.”

“Jackson is really nice and if there’s a chance, we may be able to introduce your husband to a better job. Otherwise, one of you is paying the mortgage and the other has a sick mother. When will you ever have money?”

Aurelia stared at the message and could already picture what would happen if she didn’t take Leslie to the gathering.

Everyone would likely mock her for not knowing her place and for not respecting Jackson..

This would become something that Millie could use to attack her for a long time after that.

To avoid something like this, Aurelia summoned all her courage and looked at Leslie.

“Mr. Synder, uhm...”

“What is it?”

“Do you want to... have a feast?” she asked indirectly.

He lifted an eyebrow at her.

“There’s a gathering for our department and we are supposed to take our family members along. Would you like to go?” She cut to the chase.

He looked at her hesitantly.

Aurelia bowed her head, realizing that Leslie would never attend something so silly.

“Alright, I understand. I’ll turn them down for you.”

“Sure, I’ll go,” Leslie said casually.

Chapter 209

Leslie would come?

Aurelia looked at him in surprise and wondered if she had misheard him.

Leslie glanced at her and placed his hands in his pockets.

“Any problems?”

Aurelia shook her head.

“No, no. It’s just that my colleagues are mostly women, and their way of talking can be a bit... sarcastic.”

While having Leslie attend the department gathering could save Aurelia a lot of trouble, it was still important to make things clear to avoid any discomfort on his part.

“I know.” Leslie nodded indifferently.

Just then, he received a message on his phone.

After reading it, he frowned.

“Is there anything else you want to buy? My mom told us to head to the restaurant.

Aurelia pursed her lips and realized Leslie may not enjoy being told what to do.

After all, he didn’t seem like someone who enjoyed being manipulated.

“Leslie, if you have something to do, you can go ahead. I won’t tell Mom.”

Leslie looked displeased.

“Aurelia, am I a virus?”

Aurelia looked at him in puzzlement.

“Are you in such a hurry to get rid of me?”

“Get rid of you? No, I’m just worried you might not like feeling pressured,” she explained.

“Pressured? I’ll let you know if I feel that way. Let’s go and have lunch.”

Leslie walked forward without waiting for Aurelia’s response.

“Okay.”

Aurelia followed Leslie to the restaurant.

The restaurant manager came forward to greet Leslie.

“Mr... Sir.”

Before the manager could finish, he sensed Leslie’s gaze and immediately corrected himself.

“Welcome, both of you. This way, please.”

Walking beside Leslie, Aurelia whispered, “The manager seems to know you.”

Leslie said in a deep voice, “He must’ve mistaken me for someone else.”

After sitting down, a waiter quickly approached with the dishes.

“Here’s the Romantic Parisian Couple Set for the two of you.”

Romantic? Parisian?

A couple set?

The two of them exchanged a look.

Two sets of heart-shaped steaks were placed before them.

The server took out a lighter and lit up two heart-shaped candles, saying, "Hearts of burning passion!"

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Aurelia dropped her utensils on the table and wondered if she really had to go through with this meal.

Leslie's expression was even darker as he stared at the burning heart in front of him.

It was a rather amusing scene.

Once the flame went out, he cleared his throat.

"Let's eat."

Aurelia pursed her lips to suppress her laughter before nodding.

"Sure."

"Is this funny?"

She tried to recall everything that made her sad and shook her head seriously.

"No. Not funny."

She lowered her head to cut into the steak and mumbled, "Wouldn't the heart be broken once we cut into it? What kind of couple set is this?"

"Madam, please wait. It's not over yet," the server said.

He took out a set of new utensils and cut each heart in half, before exchanging both halves.

"This is the unique way of dining created by our boss's mother. It's called the continuation of love." Aurelia stared at the heart-shaped steak in front of her dazedly, while Leslie held his head in

resignation.

The server continued to smile.

"Please enjoy and call me if you need anything."

But Aurelia and Leslie just stayed frozen where they were.

Where do they even start with this steak?

Spin to Claim Your Surprise Reward!

Chapter 210

"Let's just eat.'

Leslie gave up and started eating.

“Yeah, let’s not waste the food,” Aurelia said.

In the end, the two silently finished their steak.

Though it was delicious, the awkwardness was undeniably real.

Sharing a heart-shaped steak was such a cliché, and it left them both feeling utterly embarrassed.

After the meal, Aurelia and Leslie left the restaurant while the manager looked pointedly at them.

If they lingered for one more second, Aurelia felt like her face would burn up.

There was already a scorching sensation on her cheeks.

Leslie checked his phone for the time.

“The movie starts in an hour. Do you want to go somewhere?”

Aurelia shook her head. “No.”

Leslie hesitated and studied Aurelia.

Wasn’t she the one who had been in a relationship before?

Why did she seem unfamiliar with such matters?

In reality, Aurelia was not very experienced when it came to relationships.



Although she had been in a relationship for three years, she and Seth started as interns.

During the initial stages of their relationship, they earned a minimum wage while doing the work of several people.

They couldn't afford to take a break for romance.

Later, when their jobs stabilized, Seth's enthusiasm for her dwindled.

The most they did together was stroll through night markets after work.

Thinking back on her three years with Seth, Aurelia realized that the majority of their time was spent amidst the hustle and bustle of night markets.

The markets were filled with the smoke of barbecue stands, and the various cries of vendors.

Although lively, the two of them never seemed to have had a proper date.

Seth always said that she became less cute after becoming an official employee of her firm, that she spoke too properly and was boring.

He even said that chatting with her was not as interesting as it was to chat with his friends.

It seemed like a joke, but Aurelia remembered it clearly.

Lost in her thoughts, a woman wearing an apron intercepted Aurelia and Leslie.

"Sir, the flower shop is opening today, and you can buy a bouquet for only ten dollars."

The woman handed over a packaged bouquet.

Three medium-sized flowers were arranged together and supplemented by green leaves, making it look vibrant and lovely.

Aurelia was about to accept it when she remembered she was with Leslie.

She waved her hand.

“No, thank yo...’

“I’ll get that one,” Leslie said.

By the time she turned around, a bouquet of sunflowers had already been handed to her.

“Is this for me?” she asked hesitantly.

“It’s just a bouquet of flowers.”

“Thank you.”

Aurelia smiled as she took the flowers, feeling her palms warming up.

Leslie maintained a nonchalant look and walked ahead.

The shop assistant approached Aurelia with a smile.

“The gentleman seems to like you a lot. He even picked out the only sunflower. This means that you are the only one in his eyes, just like the sunflower’s hidden meaning.”

Aurelia looked at Leslie's upright figure and felt a bit dazed.

She didn't want to expect too much, though.

After all, how could Leslie have feelings for her?

Holding the flowers, she caught up with him and they walked in silence to the movie theater.

Leslie's expression darkened when he saw the title of the movie and Aurelia leaned closer to have a look.

It was a horror film.

Linda had truly gone all out to ensure they developed feelings for one another.

There was a romantic comedy playing in the next hall, yet Linda sent them to watch a horror movie.

Leslie stared at the tickets.

"Did my mom purchase the tickets because of the title of the movie?"

"What is it?" Aurelia leaned closer and read the title aloud.

"Bound Forever?"

Why would a horror film be named in such a manner?

She felt an itchy sensation on top of her head and looked up to realize that her head was practically leaning against Leslie's chest.

She immediately pulled away and changed the subject.

"Mr. Synder, are you afraid of horror movies?"

He narrowed his eyes. "No."

"Oh. I don't think it's that scary judging from the name," she said.

However...