

In A Flash 231

Chapter 231

“Aurelia is so lucky. Her husband may not be rich, but he is considerate and handsome.”

“Having a good husband is indeed the best transformation a woman can get. Look at Aurelia. She looks completely different. She’s practically glowing.

“I finally know why people say that beautiful women will look good in anything. That’s what Aurelia is.”

The others chatted as they entered the restaurant and ignored the four people in dark expressions behind them.

“Jackson, let’s go in,” Millie said gingerly, worried that Jackson would leave.

“Millie, you better keep your mouth shut later,” Jackson warned. He would have left Millie if he didn’t need her for the next step of his plan.

“Alright. I know. Let’s not keep the guests waiting.”

Millie dragged Jackson into the restaurant and Kimberly followed suit, only to notice that her fiance wasn’t moving.

“What’s wrong?”

“Why didn’t you tell me who Aurelia’s husband is?” the man questioned.

“Her husband is just a normal salaryman. How can he compare to you?”

“Salaryman? Very well. I can’t afford to be with you. I need to leave.” With that, the man left without

hesitation.

Crossing the young master of the Mulan Group for Kimberly's sake was simply not worth it.

Kimberly was livid. She turned to glare at Aurelia.

It was Aurelia again! She would make her suffer today!

Once everyone took their seats, Kimberly entered.

"Sorry, but my fiancé has something to take care of in the office. Forget about him. Let's eat."

Despite what she said, everyone could see the dark look on her face and knew that her fiancé didn't leave due to urgent business.

Still, they kept their mouths shut and waited for the dishes to be served.

Soon, fresh seafood dishes were brought to the table.

Although the portions were not large, they were delicious and everyone enjoyed their meal.

Suppressing her resentment, Kimberly cast a pointed look at

He immediately stood up to pour drinks for everyone. "Raw seafood pairs well with alcohol and it can kill bacteria," he remarked.

Nodding in agreement, everyone took a sip whether they were accustomed to drinking or not.

Aurelia didn't want to be an exception and also took a sip.

However, after that gulp, she sensed that there was something off with the drink.

Was the alcohol in the Japanese restaurant usually this strong?

Jackson explained, "Today, Millie asked me to treat everyone well, so I specially brought my dad's best liquor."

"Mr. Morrison is really good to Millie."

"Thanks to Millie, we are able to taste such good liquor."

"This liquor is really good. It's smooth down the throat."

Millie blushed at the praise. In her happiness, she called the waiter to bring the menu. "Order whatever you like. This amount of money doesn't mean much."

Jackson didn't object and played along with Millie's generosity.

Their group consisted of around thirty family members, and the Japanese restaurant had to open up two private rooms to accommodate them..

Hearing Millie's generosity, they passed the menu around to add more dishes.

When the menu reached Aurelia, she looked at the three-digit prices on some of the dishes. After some thought, she closed the menus and handed them to Leslie beside her.

Opening the menu, Leslie said calmly, "You don't like seafood?"

Aurelia was momentarily surprised as she hadn't expected Leslie to notice.

Pointing to the last page with the main dishes, he said, "I'll order a bowl of plain noodles for you."

Aurelia nodded. "Okay."

This conversation reached Millie's ears.

In a normal voice, she sarcastically said, "A bumpkin can't appreciate delicate food."

Aurelia's face turned pale, but she chose not to argue.

After all, colleagues and their family members were all present.

To her surprise, Leslie casually put down his teacup, attracting the attention of the people around him.

Glancing at Millie, he said coldly, "Ms. Parker, there's dirt on your face."

Aurelia tugged at Leslie's sleeve. "It's not dirt. It's blush."

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"Oh, it looks like dirt," Leslie said sarcastically.

Embarrassed, Millie immediately wiped her face. However, she forgot that she had a lot of makeup on and instantly smudged everything.

Everyone suppressed their laughter, and even Jackson frowned in disgust.

Millie bit her lip and stormed out.

“Ignore her. Let’s keep drinking,” Jackson said.

He then got up to fill others’ glasses. As he walked over to Aurelia, the look in his eyes was extremely.

strange.

Aurelia stared at the glass in front of her and felt increasingly baffled.

Jackson acted like he cared for Millie, but he had ignored her at such a moment.

However, everyone was already raising their cups, so Aurelia could only play along.

Just as she was about to take a sip, Leslie snatched the cup from her and downed it in one gulp.

Displeased, Jackson said, “I poured that for Aurelia. Why are you drinking it?”

“She can’t drink,” Leslie said.

“You are so funny. We all know how good Aurelia is at drinking. Most men can’t even beat her,” Kimberly chimed in.

Instantly, the colleagues’ family members started giving Aurelia pointed looks.

A virtuous woman would never drink with other men outside.

Kimberly thought Leslie would be upset, but he simply looked at her casually. “So?”

“What?” She was taken aback.

“Do you not drink?”

“I...”

“Are all your clients women?” Leslie questioned.

Kimberly was instantly rendered speechless.

Leslie continued to pour and drink tea, casually handing the bowl of noodles brought by the waiter to

Aurelia.

“Eat it while it’s hot.”

“Alright.”

Aurelia gratefully accepted the noodles, realizing that she would not suffer as long as Leslie was around. If this were in the past, Seth would definitely have sided with others for the sake of his own pride.

Thinking about it, Aurelia couldn’t help but smile.

Her smile stung Kimberly. She gritted her teeth and turned her head to glance at Jackson.

The two of them tacitly stood up to propose toasts. After three rounds of drinks, several people at the table, including colleagues and their family members, were already lying down.

Aurelia heard a thud near her and turned her head.

She discovered that Leslie had also collapsed on the table. The drinks that Jackson had poured earlier were all consumed by Leslie, so he must be drunk.

She nudged Leslie. "Mr. Synder, are you okay?"

Leslie didn't respond.

Across the table, Kimberly handed over a towel. "Go to the restroom and get some water to wipe his face."

Aurelia noticed that others were also holding towels, so she didn't think much about it.

She stood up and walked out of the private room and headed to the restroom.

After wetting the towel, she stepped out of the restroom and someone blocked her way.

It was Jackson.

Before Aurelia had the chance to raise any question, Jackson covered her mouth with the towel in his hand and led her into the adjacent private room.

Aurelia was thrown onto the ground by him and her entire body felt sore and stiff.

"What are you doing?" she exclaimed in a mix of fear and an attempt to remain calm.

Jackson sneered. "What am I doing? You disrespected me, so I can only make you obey."

"You're insane! The others are all here," Aurelia warned.

“They’re either drunk or half–drunk. Who cares about you? Even your husband is drunk. Do you think he can help you?”

Jackson slowly squatted down with a malicious look.

Aurelia backed away step by step and was eventually forced into a corner.

“Aurelia, you’ve finally fallen into my hands!”

With that, Jackson pounced at Aurelia.

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Aurelia had experienced being harassed by foreigners before, so when she saw Jackson lunging toward her, she didn’t hesitate to raise her foot and deliver a swift kick to Jackson’s groin.

The kick landed squarely on Jackson’s private area, causing him immense pain.

It also completely provoked him further.

Jackson gritted his teeth with veins bulging on his neck.

He seized Aurelia’s ankle and yanked her out from the corner against the wall.

Aurelia shouted, “Let go of me!”

The soundproofing in the Japanese restaurant was poor, and her shout should have been heard by someone. However, no one came to her rescue.

Looking down at Aurelia, Jackson sneered. "I booked all the private rooms around here a day in advance. I even thoughtfully placed your colleagues in the farthest corner from the restroom."

Aurelia was stunned with fear.

As an ordinary person, she couldn't fathom someone spending so much money to orchestrate such a plot.

She couldn't comprehend Jackson's intentions.

Did he go through all that trouble to simply tame her?

However, she didn't have much time to think about that.

She struggled with her foot and attempted to escape from Jackson.

"Don't bother. Even if you run away, so what? Who would believe you? Who do you think you are? Think about my status. Everyone saw just how great I am with Millie, so why would I betray Millie and target you? They will just think that you're jealous of Millie and try to seduce me."

"You... Was it all intentional? Were you just acting nice to Millie in front of everyone?" Aurelia asked.

"Yes. In any case, I've already slept with her and even bought her brand-name items. It's consensual.

"If you had listened to me earlier, it wouldn't have come to this. I wonder if your husband will be infuriated if he sees this scene," Jackson said, then laughed loudly.

"Why not ask me directly?"

With a click, the wooden door was pulled open and Leslie appeared at the doorway.

Besides him, there were a few colleagues who hadn't drunk too much, including Millie.

Millie looked ashamed and angry with tears welled up in her eyes.

Despite the fact that she should resent Jackson, she glared fiercely at Aurelia instead.

Seeing as he was exposed, Jackson paled.

He clenched his fists in frustration and swung at Leslie.

Leslie didn't bother to dodge. He raised his hand to block Jackson's fist, then grabbed Jackson's arm and effortlessly tossed him away with a sidestep.

With a loud crash, the door to the room fell as Jackson collapsed.

Leslie then lifted Aurelia from the floor and wiped her hands thoroughly with a small towel he took from a table.

"Where did he touch you?" he asked in displeasure.

"I... I just kicked him," Aurelia said.

"Where did you kick?"

"Uh..." She frowned and then looked at Jackson's groin.

Perhaps the scene was too unsightly, so everyone had to stifle their laughter.

Millie ran to Jackson and shielded him.

“What are you doing? Surely it’s Aurelia who seduced Jackson. He’s not that kind of person at all. He

loves me!” she exclaimed.

Aurelia felt a throbbing pain in her temples.

Suddenly, she understood why people often said it was hard to wake someone pretending to be asleep.

Millie was completely dependent on Jackson at this point, so she refused to come out of her bubble even when everyone could see the truth.

She wanted Jackson. More precisely, she wanted what she could get from him.

A few colleagues tried to talk some sense into her.

“Millie, don’t be foolish. We heard it all. Mr. Morrison plotted this. You are still young. You’ll find someone better.”

“Millie, you’re being out of line here. Aurelia has always been nice to you. She didn’t even say much despite how you had constantly belittled her recently. How can you blame her for what happened this

time?”

“Millie, we all saw what happened. Wake up. This man is lying to you.”

Although these colleagues enjoyed watching all the drama unfold, they were all on the same side when it came to horrible men toying with women's feelings.

Jackson's expression darkened when he heard all these accusations. Humiliated, he shoved Millie to the ground, scoffed and left.

Someone tried to help Millie up, but Millie vented her frustration on them.

She turned to Leslie and Aurelia and cursed, "This is all your fault! You losers! Just because you have no money, you resent those who are rich! You framed Jackson!"

The others gasped at how unreasonable Millie was being.

"Well... You three should settle this yourselves. My husband is drunk, so I'll be heading home now."

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"Yes, it's already late. We should leave. Our children are waiting at home."

After saying this, the others left one after another.

Aurelia stepped forward and asked, "Millie, is this really what you want?"

Millie turned her face away with disdain. She refused to look at Aurelia, making her intentions clear.

Aurelia didn't press further and glanced at Leslie beside her. "Let's go."

"Okay."

Leslie and Aurelia left the Jeshelian restaurant. Since Leslie was drunk, they had to stand by the roadside and wait for the driver.

Aurelia was puzzled. "Mr. Synder, I remember that you were passed out drunk. How did you suddenly appear there?"

"I knew that something was off after the first sip. Since your department is full of mostly women, he clearly had ulterior motives in bringing such strong alcohol.

"Earlier, he and Kimberly kept urging everyone to drink, so I pretended to be drunk to see what they were up to."

"Then, why did my colleagues come with you?" Aurelia asked.

"I pretended to act crazy due to the alcohol. They were afraid that I would cause trouble, so they followed me out. They just happened to be your witnesses," Leslie explained in a serious tone.

"You... had even thought of that? So... you believe that I wouldn't seduce Jackson, right?" Aurelia's heart skipped a beat as she looked at Leslie.

Leslie felt slightly embarrassed under her gaze and cleared his throat. "Yes."

His voice was low, but it was one of the most pleasant voices Aurelia had ever heard.

Just then, the driver arrived. Leslie informed the driver of their destination before getting into the car with Aurelia.

In the silence that followed, Aurelia remained a little shaken as she looked out of the car window.

“What’s wrong? Are you worried about Millie?” Leslie asked.

“No. I’ve given her my advice. If she doesn’t want to listen to it, it’s not my concern anymore.”

Aurelia frowned at him and continued awkwardly, “I kicked Jackson in the groin, and you threw him at the door. He wouldn’t hunt us down, right?”

Leslie raised an eyebrow. “Watch fewer TV dramas. The Morrison family isn’t worth much. They don’t even touch the edges of high society.”

“Oh? Is that so?”

She recalled how Jackson had spent a fortune just to target her. She couldn’t imagine how the true elites of society would behave.

That world felt as distant as a different planet.

“People can be good or bad, regardless of their status. If Jackson’s father was smart, he would tie Jackson up at home now to prevent him from affecting the family’s business. But the Morrison family won’t last long anyway.”

Leslie's tone was cold as he spoke.

Aurelia looked at him. She tilted her head, feeling slightly hesitant.

"What's wrong?" he asked.

"Why does it sound like you know these people really well?" she asked.

"I heard about them from others."

"Alright." She didn't question further and turned to stare outside the window.

Her silence made Leslie curious.

He could tell that she had been terrified earlier, and her fingers had turned red from her clenching her fists. Yet, she maintained a calm expression and tone so that the others wouldn't worry.

A woman like that made him want to protect her.

Soon, he was shocked by his own thoughts.

They didn't talk throughout the ride, until Aurelia realized that they weren't heading home.

"Mr. Synder, where are we going?"

"There's nothing special about Jeshelian cuisine. Let's eat somewhere else."

Just then, the car stopped. They entered a restaurant and ordered several filling dishes.

Aurelia was enjoying her meal when she noticed that Leslie was staring at her. She immediately wiped her mouth, feeling a little embarrassed.

"I didn't eat much just now," she explained.

He nodded. "Do you still want another plate of pasta?"

Aurelia blushed.

She had already eaten a bowl of noodles at the Jeshelian restaurant. And now she had eaten another plate of noodles.

If she ate any more, Leslie would think that she was a glutton.

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"I'm full," Aurelia said, quickly putting down her fork.

Leslie looked at her expression and felt the urge to laugh. Although she had said that she was full, her gaze was still fixed on the food.

"This ravioli dish would go to waste if not eaten. It would be a pity to throw them away."

"Then, I'll eat it. We shouldn't waste food," she said and immediately ate a large mouthful of the dish.

When she looked up, she caught a hint of a smile on Leslie's lips.

"Why are you smiling?" She covered her mouth when she almost choked on her mouthful of food.

“Finish your food first.” Leslie frowned. However, instead of looking annoyed, he looked rather relaxed.

Aurelia was eating quietly when she suddenly heard a familiar voice coming from behind her.

“Lily, I love you. Meeting you has made me realize what a perfect partner is.”

Huh?

The voice and those words sounded so familiar to Aurelia.

Aurelia wiped her mouth, then turned around and looked through the hollow partition in the wall.

Indeed, it was an acquaintance.

It was Seth.

Seth was wearing a suit with a somewhat conspicuous logo on the collar, and it even had diamonds on it.

He was sitting next to a young lady in her twenties, who had her hair tied up in a high ponytail. She was wearing a simple denim skirt, and from her innocent demeanor, she was obviously a recent college graduate.

Seth had one hand propped up on the table and the other on the back of the chair, exactly like the domineering CEOs one would see in TV shows.

He didn't forget to move his waist a little to reveal his Louis Vuitton belt.

Lily seemed a little at a loss as she blushed and gave him a nudge.

“Seth, what are you doing? There are so many people here. Sit down.”

“Lily, I want to be with you. Thank you for coming out to have dinner with me. I don’t have anything special to give you, but I’ve bought a bouquet of flowers for you on the way here.”

“Flowers?” Lily’s eyes lit up.

After all, she was a young girl. She couldn’t help but fall for a man who bought her flowers.

Besides, Seth was already good-looking, but he looked even more like a white-collar elite after dressing up.

For a young lady who had just entered society, it was natural to feel happy when such a man showed interest in her.

But when Seth took out the so-called bouquet of flowers from behind him, Lily was momentarily stunned.

There was only one flower.

When Aurelia saw this, she couldn’t hold back her laughter. Seth almost spotted her, but fortunately, she ducked in time.

“What was that?” Seth asked, looking around in confusion.

“I didn’t hear anything.” Lily accepted the flower and frowned. “It’s dying.”

“Maybe I had accidentally squeezed it on my way here. I was in a hurry to meet you after all,” he explained.

Hearing this, Aurelia felt amused. She had heard the exact same explanation before. It wasn't until much later that she found out that Seth was buying flowers that nobody wanted.

Other people would buy at least a bouquet to make it look slightly more decent, but Seth only bought one flower.

It was the same process, the same excuses, and the same words.

Just as Aurelia was snickering quietly, Leslie sat down next to her.

He glanced at Seth and said coldly, "Everything he's wearing is fake."

Shocked, she asked, "Everything?"

Leslie took a sip of his tea. "That brand doesn't put diamonds on their logos. Even if they did, why would the craftsmanship be so careless? Besides, that belt of his isn't even the right color anymore."

Indeed, Betts's fit

Srts had been irred and he had used up all his savings too bary a se

be workin' have the money to buy any designer goods.

y was he dressed like this to approach the young lady? Was he trying to

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With that thought in mind, Aurelia continued to peek through the hollow space. Seth sat beside Lily and held her hand.

“Lily, I know that your dad isn’t in good health, but it doesn’t matter. I don’t mind. I’ll continue to work hard to give you a better life.”

“You... Seth, you really don’t care about that? My dad needs lifelong medication, and a marriage won’t help me much.” Lily looked at Seth with hope.

Seth pinched Lily’s cheek.

“Your problems are mine as well. I’ll be honored if your dad is willing to marry his only daughter to me. It’s just... I’ve recently bought a car, so I don’t have much savings now. Otherwise, I’d definitely buy a big house for you.”

“It’s fine. Although my family doesn’t have much money, my grandparents each left us a house. My dad lives in one, and we live in the other. It’s more than enough.”

Deceived by Seth’s affection, Lily blurted out everything about her family.

Seth’s eyes lit up upon hearing this, and he squeezed Lily’s hand even tighter.

“Where’s that house? Don’t get me wrong. I just want to make commuting easier for you in the future.”

Lily nodded and continued without hesitation, “It’s on Maple Road. Although it’s in the suburbs, the environment is pretty good.”

“Oh, is that so? Isn’t that far from where I work? I’ll have to spend at least three hours on the road every day.” Seth frowned.

“Well, the houses in Seacester are too expensive. We’re still young, so we can’t afford them.”

“Lily.” Seth lifted Lily’s hand affectionately and kissed it. “What’s mine is yours. I’m willing to sell the car, and you can sell the house. Then, we can buy a house of our own together.”

Aurelia felt as if there were ants crawling all over her body as she watched this scene.

Feeling Leslie's eyes on her, she turned her head and saw that Leslie was frowning. His face was tense.

He narrowed his eyes at her as if he was asking why she had such bad taste in the past.

Aurelia covered her forehead in embarrassment.

She narrowed her eyes at him and gave a silent message: Mind your own business.

Surprisingly, Leslie smiled in amusement.

His restrained smile was pleasant, and his features were relaxed, which made him even more good-looking.

Aurelia couldn't help but stare, but her thoughts were soon brought back to reality by Seth's words.

"Lily, you don't have to worry about the mortgage. I'll take care of it. It's just that my mom has always been worried that I might get scammed because I'm not a local. So, you might need to compromise a little there.

"Put my name on the property certificate first. After we get married, we can add your name."

With such a sentence, he could directly turn someone else's house into his own. And if he succeeded, this would be considered prenuptial property.

Seth was becoming more and more cunning.

Aurelia thought that Lily would reject him, but she actually started considering it. Lily frowned. "Seth, I..."

Seth suddenly took out a ring box from his pocket. It had the Harry Winston logo printed on it.

As he opened the box, a dazzling diamond ring came into sight.

Could Seth afford that?

Aurelia glanced at Leslie in surprise, and he shook his head in response.

It was another fake item.

Aurelia was impressed by Seth at this point. Everything about him was fake, and there wasn't a single real item on him.

"Lily, I've wanted to marry you since the first time I saw you," Seth said.

"Seth..." Tears welled up in Lily's eyes.

Seth put the ring on her finger and kissed her forehead, looking like the perfect lover.

Everyone around them couldn't help but cheer when they saw them.

In the heat of the moment, Lily wanted to agree to his proposal. "Seth, let's

Just then, the waiter who was walking by Aurelia and Leslie's table tripped over something, and the lemon tea in his hand spilled all over Seth's table.

Seth stood angrily. “What are you doing? Do you know how expensive these dishes are?” |

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In an instant, Seth’s anger startled Lily.

She hesitated and swallowed back her words.

The waiter promptly apologized and offered to bring a new set of dishes, “I’m so sorry. We’ll serve the dishes again immediately. You were having the 13–dollar set meal, right?”

“You...” Seth’s arrogance deflated, and he felt somewhat embarrassed.

Lily looked at Seth, puzzled.

The waiter asked somewhat deliberately, “This is the 13–dollar set meal, right?”

“Yes.” Seth nodded.

The waiter glanced at him, then looked at the ring on Lily’s finger with a pointed look.

Apparently, the waiter didn’t believe that a man eating such a cheap set meal could afford a Harry Winston ring.

Lily touched the ring and asked, “Didn’t you say that this place is very expensive? Why did you order the 13–dollar set meal?”

Seth immediately explained, "I don't understand what's expensive or not. I just thought that 13 is a rather lucky number."

Lily pursed her lips without saying anything, then used a tissue to wipe the stains on her skirt.

"I'm going to the restroom."

"Lily, what did you want to say just now?" Seth seemed a little anxious.

"My hands are a little sticky. I want to wash them," she added.

"Go ahead. Take my handkerchief with you."

With that, Seth took out a handkerchief from his pocket and handed it to Lily. The handkerchief belonged to yet another luxury brand.

Aurelia glanced at Leslie's expression and instantly knew that it was another fake.

Was there something seriously wrong with Seth? Why would he get a fake designer handkerchief as well? Was it necessary?

But Lily's reaction told her that it was indeed necessary.

There were tea stains on Lily's skirt, and they were difficult to clean.

Seth was willing to give Lily his expensive handkerchief to wipe it, which conveyed that she was the most important person to him.

Lily smiled as she fell into his trap. She blushed and took the handkerchief with her to the restroom.

Seeing this, Aurelia felt uneasy, especially when she saw Seth's triumphant smile.

That girl clearly had a similar background to hers. She came from a single-parent family and had a house to her name.

Although the house on Maple Road was indeed in the suburbs, a small two-bedroom property there would still cost over a million dollars.

This girl seemed to have grown up under the care of her family and was utterly unaware of the sinister nature of people's hearts.-

Even if she came from a single-parent household, her living standard didn't seem too bad.

That house was likely worth more than one million dollars.

Seth was cheating her out of a house worth more than one million dollars with an unwanted flower, a fake ring, and a set meal costing just 13 dollars.

Aurelia couldn't stand it and stood up to go after the girl.

Leslie, who was sitting beside her, stopped her and asked, "Are you really going to help her? Aren't you afraid that she'll think you are just jealous of her like Millie did?"

"I can't generalize everyone. It's normal for girls to support girls. I can say my piece, and it's up to her whether to listen. I can't just watch as she gets scammed," she explained.

"You're strange."

"Mr. Synder, you're the one who's strange. You were the one who tripped the waiter just now, right? You actually care, but you just don't let it show.

“Keep an eye on Seth for me. I’ll go talk to that girl.”

Aurelia smiled at Leslie, then walked away from the other side.

Leslie watched as she left. He had a conflicted look on his face.

Meanwhile, in the washroom...

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In the end, Lily didn’t use the expensive handkerchief to wipe her skirt. Instead, she moistened a tissue with water to clean the stain.

Observing her, Aurelia thought of a saying that a girl who loved a scoundrel would be unlucky for a lifetime.

She approached to wash her hand and said, “That’s a fake.”

Lily’s hand paused and she lifted her gaze to meet Aurelia’s eyes. She revealed a disdainful expression. “Is it you?”

“Huh? You know me?” Aurelia was surprised.

“You’re Seth’s ex-girlfriend. Your mother’s severe illness took away his savings. To avoid repaying the money, you smeared his name in his company and even reported him to the police.

“Although you’re in a difficult position because of your mother, have you considered the harm you’ve caused him? You can’t sit still now that Seth is proposing to me, right?” Lily questioned Aurelia, her tone accusing.

Aurelia paused for three seconds, then responded, "Seth told you all this?"

"No, he would never speak ill of his ex-girlfriend in front of me. It was his mother who told me. She's currently heartbroken for Seth. Don't you feel guilty? You can't bear the thought of Seth proposing to me, right?" Lily said angrily.

Aurelia contemplated how to explain but felt that Lily had been brainwashed and wouldn't listen to any of her explanations.

Hence, she asked, "Anything else? Just spill it all out. Maybe I'll return the money to Seth once you are done."

Indeed, Lily was a naive girl. As soon as she heard that she could help Seth recover the owed money, she immediately spilled everything.

Seth's mother had said many bad things about Aurelia behind her back.

Allegations like having secret liaisons with clients for job promotion, cheating on Seth and even giving an old scarf to Seth's mother as a gift to embarrass her.

After Lily finished speaking, she looked at Aurelia with a frown. "Why aren't you upset?"

"I guess you're not that foolish after all. Let me ask you a question. Do you know when Seth and I broke up?"

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"Recently, you caused him to miss a promotion opportunity. Those videos on the internet were deliberately edited by someone you hired, all to make him suffer socially," Lily said.

"Let me show you the original videos and the audio recordings, then." Aurelia directly presented the original audio recordings, making it clear whether they were edited or not.

Hearing the threats from Seth and his mother, Lily's eyes widened in disbelief.

Aurelia continued, "Seth and I broke up a long time ago. He just wanted to blame his inability to get promoted on me and created this breakup story.

"I'm just like you. I'm from a single-parent family, and a householder. Seth must have told you that he will earn money to support the family, and you'll stay home to take care of the in-laws while enjoying life, right?

"Did he also take you to the night market, saying that's where the real festive atmosphere is? Every time he gave you flowers, it was always a single one.

"He would berate your figure and appearance, then say it doesn't matter how you look because he likes you the way you are.

"He promises to give you gifts but always ends up forgetting or losing them. Even if he immediately took you to buy something, he would find ways to make you choose the cheapest option.

"His mother is the most important player here. Did she suggest that you eat more spicy food when she first visited? Did she subtly hint at you to buy a gold bracelet for her?"

With each sentence, Lily's complexion grew paler.

Finally, Aurelia revealed the records of her buying a branded scarf for Rosa back

then.

"This is the scarf Seth's mother talked about. If I don't value them, why would I buy something this expensive?"

Lily touched the ring on her finger and shook her head. "But he..."

Aurelia pointed at the ring. "That's fake as well. The reflection of light isn't right. Even the waiter could tell.

"I once did an event for a jewelry merchant. Real diamonds would reflect lights in the color of blue, purple and orange. It definitely shouldn't reflect lights of all colors."

Lily lowered her head and noticed that the diamond of her ring was indeed

reflecting lights of different colors under the washroom light.

"If you don't believe me, I'm sure there are plenty of articles online that will teach you how to identify fake diamonds," Aurelia said.

She had said her piece and the rest was left in Lily's hands.

Aurelia wiped her hands dry and returned to her seat.

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At the moment, Seth was on the phone talking to his mother.

"Mom, don't worry. She's just a fresh graduate. I just need to use a few tricks and she'll fall for me."

Chapter 239

"She accepted the ring and was about to say yes, When the time comes, we'll sell the house, transfer the property, and then get married. This way, the house will have nothing to do with her. Her father's health is deteriorating. Once he's gone, the other house will be yours and your father's to live in."

“As long as I coax her into marriage, I’ll become a local. Finding a job won’t be difficult, right? Mom, I have to go. She’s back.”

Seth hastily hung up the phone as Aurelia watched Lily approaching.

Lily glanced at her once, then walked straight to Seth without looking back.

Aurelia’s heart sank.

It seemed that Lily had chosen to believe Seth and who knew what awaited her in the future.

Aurelia hadn’t finished her thoughts when a splash of water from the next table caught everyone’s attention in the restaurant.

It was followed by Lily’s voice as she said, “I’ll treat you to this tea! You hypocrite!

11

“You! What did you say?” Seth was clearly bewildered.

Lily tossed the ring to Seth, saying, “How dare you use a ring that cost 20 dollars to propose to me?”

“No, this is...”

“Do you dare to swear that it’s real?” Lily interrupted.

Instead of explaining, Seth blamed Lily for not being understanding. “Don’t you think my heart is what matters most? When did you become so materialistic?”

Lily was utterly bewildered. “I’m materialistic? You bought a flower that cost maybe a dollar, a set meal of thirteen dollars, and used a ring that costs around twenty to trick me into marriage? Who is the materialistic one here? And this?”

She threw the fake designer handkerchief in her hand to Seth, then looked at him from head to toe. “All those are counterfeits. Do you really think I’m that easy to fool? Are

you proud of yourself for using this little money to cheat me into giving you a house?”

Seth was stunned and paled. “How did you...”

“How did I find out? I consulted an expert just now to identify your cheap

handkerchief. This isn’t even considered a high-quality counterfeit. And all the clothes you have on are fake.

“Who are you to talk about sincerity? I think you and your mother are just

disgusting. By the way, ask your mother to return the gold bracelet I bought her, or you’ll find yourself in the police station again.”

Having said that, Lily turned and left. Seth was left alone to face the scornful looks from others.

In the end, he fled the scene with his head down.

A new cup of lemon tea appeared on Aurelia’s table. She called the waiter and said, “We didn’t order lemon tea.”

The waiter smiled. “It was ordered by the girl who ran out just now.”

Aurelia lifted the lemon tea and held it in front of Leslie.

“See? Although there are people like Millie who are confused, most girls are still sensible.”

“Are you that naive?” Leslie asked expressionlessly.

“Mr. Synder, the world is indeed not perfect, but it’s not as bad as you think. Don’t you feel that the worse you think, the worse everything around you

becomes? Don’t put too much pressure on yourself.”

Aurelia smiled and brought a clean cup. She then poured half of her lemon tea into it and handed it to Leslie.

“Cheers to a beautiful world.”

Leslie fell into silence.

Leslie looked at the smile on her face and clicked glasses with him. He never quite liked lemon tea, but it tasted nice at this moment.

Aurelia had always been optimistic.

After eating, they returned home to find that Linda had left.

She also left a note on the table that said, “I won’t disturb the newlyweds anymore.”

Aurelia handed the note to Leslie and sighed a breath of relief.

“Mr. Synder, I’ll go to your room to gather my things.”

“Sure.”

He didn't stop her and sat on the couch to give her some space.

She entered the master bedroom. Without much to pack, she gathered her things swiftly and moved them back to the guest bedroom.

Exhausted, she stretched her neck and froze when her hand touched her neck.

Her emerald necklace was gone.

She checked a few times then went to check on a mirror, before confirming that she dropped it.

It must have fallen off when Jackson grabbed her. She was so nervous at the time that she didn't notice it.

Then, the encounter with Seth took place and her attention was taken off her neck.

What should she do?

After some contemplation, she decided to retrieve it.

Chapter 240

She checked the time and noticed it was almost ten. She could only hope that the restaurant was still open.

She hurried to the door and Leslie looked up when he heard the noises she made. "Are you going out?"

"I lost the necklace you got me. Don't worry, I'll go find it," she assured.

"The restaurant closes at nine, so there's no point in going now," he said.

"That necklace might be fake, but I can't just lose it," she said and went to change her shoes.

Leslie paused.

Fake? Why would he need to buy a fake necklace?

He snapped out of it and felt curious when he saw the panicked state Aurelia was in.

"Since it's fake, just forget about it. Why are you panicking?"

"That's a gift from you! I..." Aurelia froze and quieted down when she noticed Leslie's intent gaze on her.

"You liked that necklace?" he asked in a hoarse voice.

Aurelia didn't look up and simply nodded. After a few moments, she muttered, "It looked like a real one."

Leslie felt both amused and resigned.

It was a necklace that cost six figures, yet she said it looked like a real one.

He wondered what she would say once she saw what was in his safe in the future.

He paused. Why was he thinking about the future?

Aurelia put on her shoes and apologized, "I should still go and check. What if they've kept it for me?"

Leslie took out his phone and said calmly, "It's fine. I'll call the owner and he'll keep it safe for you."

"You know the owner?" she exclaimed.

"The boss does."

Leslie made the call and spoke briefly. The response from the other end was

immediately respectful and it almost sounded like Leslie was the boss in One Technology.

After hanging up, Leslie said, "I've left your company's address. Someone will deliver it tomorrow."

Aurelia was taken aback. "Deliver? Isn't that inappropriate?"

Leslie thought for a moment and said, "Maybe it's to highlight their service. After all, their store caters to white-collar workers like you."

Aurelia considered it and found it reasonable. "Alright. I wonder if they'll be furious when they find out it's fake."

"You'll find out tomorrow."

Leslie looked at her side profile, which was fair and delicate. Her long eyelashes cast shadows that made her especially charming.

Realizing that he was staring at her, Leslie immediately snapped out of it.

He felt as if there was something wrong with him, as he had been involuntarily paying attention to Aurelia lately.

“It’s getting late. I’m going to bed. You should too.”

“Alright.” Aurelia nodded and turned toward her room.

“Aurelia, are you still sleeping in the master bedroom tonight?” he asked.

Aurelia held the master bedroom doorknob and did a full spin on the spot before entering the guest room, scratching her head.

“Good night,” she said.

Leslie chuckled, feeling that life didn’t seem so dull anymore.

As he was about to enter the room, his phone received a message with flight information.

“Can you pick me up?”

“I’m busy. I’ll arrange for someone else to pick you up.” Leslie replied.

After sending the message, he acted as if nothing had happened and went straight into the room to rest.