

In A Flash 261

Chapter 261

By the time she snapped out of it, Leslie was already dragging her out of the venue.

“I’ll go with you,” he said.

“I... I didn’t get a loan,” she explained.

“I know. You wouldn’t have to marry me otherwise.”

He pushed her into the car.

“What’s going on?” Aurelia had heard of the word “usurious loan” when she was young.

Her neighbor at the time was addicted to gambling and borrowed money from the internet.

At first, he managed to win and his family of three was happy for a time.

However, he soon started losing.

Reluctant to give up, he went for another loan.

In the end, he lost his house and his wife left with their child.

As for what became of the neighbor, she later learned that he had his leg broken by one of his creditors and no one knew what happened afterward.

From Aurelia’s perspective, getting a usurious loan was the same as getting a death sentence.

at a

There was no way that she would ever get a loan.

She really didn't know what was happening.

Just as her expression paled and sank deep into her thoughts, someone handed her a bottle of water.

"I'm right here."

Leslie didn't raise his voice, yet it was powerful enough to calm her.

She took a sip of water.

"Thank you, Mr. Synder."

Leslie didn't say much, but there was a hint of unreadable emotions in his eyes.

At the company, Aurelia noticed two vans parked downstairs.

From the scary expression on the drivers' faces, she was sure they were the debt collectors.

The driver glanced at Aurelia and she stiffened.

However, Leslie blocked the driver's line of sight and pulled her into the elevator.

"Are you okay? Do you need..." he asked.

“I can handle it.”

Aurelia clenched her fists and looked at Leslie.

“I’m not just acting tough. I genuinely can. I won’t let those people harm me.

Leslie nodded.

Watching Aurelia, he felt a strange tightness in his chest.

It hurt a bit, but he chose to respect her.

With him around, they couldn’t cause much trouble here.

When they reached the office door, Aurelia saw her colleagues huddled in a corner.

Meanwhile, a group of burly men stood inside, acting aggressively.

“It’s only right to repay debts!”

“If the 200 thousand wasn’t paid back today, none of you get to leave.”

A tattooed man kicked over a paint bucket, and red paint flowed down the corridor toward the colleagues.

Kimberly spotted Aurelia right away and pointed at her.

“Aurelia owes you money, not us! Go to her!”

Millie trembled in fear and said, "Yeah, it's all her fault."

The tattooed man turned to look at Aurelia at the door and smirked.

urend at

"The main character has finally arrived. Let's calculate how much you owe. You borrowed 180 thousand from our website, and agreed to repay five thousand per day, and it's been overdue for three days. With interest, you now owe us 200 thousand."

The amount coincidentally matched the price of Aurelia's emerald necklace.

Was it just a coincidence?

Aurelia found it strange, and surprisingly, Millie stepped forward.

"Aurelia, aren't you going too far? You borrowed money from such a shady website just to compete with me. These are loan sharks and you're risking your life! Your mother is still in the hospital, and you are this greedy and vain?"

Chapter 262

Aurelia was utterly confused and her brain struggled to keep up with everything that is happening.

Meanwhile, Leslie's gaze darkened as he stared at Millie.

"How do you know it's a shady website? These people don't have any proof of identity on them. It's obvious they're debt collectors hired by the website. The paint they threw around was just a mixture of red dye and liquid, which can be cleaned without trace using alcohol."

Everyone, including the tattooed leader, was stunned.

“The vans downstairs belong to you, right? Next time you mix your paint, hide the dye better, and don’t leave it on the windshield,” Leslie added.

The tattooed leader and his lackeys were silent.

Awkward.

Leslie took the initiative to defuse the situation and Aurelia gradually regained her composure.

She looked up at the leader.

“You said I borrowed money from you. What did I use to borrow money, and what procedures did you use to approve the loan?”

“Banks now all operate under real names. The bank transactions are clear at a glance. As a law-abiding citizen, the bank would inform me first if I received a large sum of money in my account out of the blue. So where’s the money?”

The tattooed man was momentarily stunned as he didn’t expect Aurelia to question him so calmly.

They had harassed many people for payments, and most were scared witless.

Regaining his composure, the man quickly pulled out some documents and then smirked at Aurelia.

“See? This is a loan you applied for using your ID. All the information matches or we wouldn’t have found our way here. When we borrow someone this much money, we usually keep something to be our leverage. I believe you wouldn’t want what we have leaking, right? So, you’d better pay up.”

Aurelia’s heart sank.

Leverage?

She thought of the loans mentioned in the recent anti-fraud lecture, where some attractive girls took revealing photos for loans.

She had always considered these things distant from her, only to find herself facing it at this moment.

Before Aurelia could speak, Kimberly seized the opportunity to add fuel to the fire.

“Aurelia, it’s no wonder you’ve been getting new clothes and expensive jewelry lately. Your husband

272

was just an ordinary worker with a mortgage. Where did you get so much money? Looks like your wealthy mother-in-law is also a sham.”

“Aurelia, you can’t escape fate. In order to compare yourself to others, you forced yourself into a situation like this. You’ve frightened us all,” Millie chimed in with a mocking tone.

The other colleagues exchanged glances, some revealing a hint of disdain in their eyes.

“Aurelia, we don’t care if you got a loan, but your actions are affecting our safety. Go outside to talk

this out.

“Yeah!”

The tattooed man refused to oblige and sat down on a chair.

“No way. I’m not leaving here until Aurelia pays me back.”

He knew that office women cared most about how others saw them, so Aurelia would be forced into returning the money.

Otherwise, she would be too embarrassed to stay in this company once her naked photos were exposed.

Instead of panicking, she opened her purse and poured everything out.

Apart from a pen and notebook, there was a small makeup pouch and a rather old wallet.

She opened the wallet and realized that her identification card was missing.

Leslie glanced at her and asked quietly, “Have you always kept the card here?”

“Yeah,” she said thoughtfully.

“I always have my purse with me. If I accidentally dropped it, I would’ve dropped my wallet as well. The fact that only my ID is missing means that...”

She didn’t continue and glanced at Leslie.

“Someone you know did this,” he said.

Both Aurelia and Leslie came to the same conclusion as to who did it and turned to look in the same

direction.

Chapter 263

Millie immediately hid behind her colleagues when she sensed their gaze on her.

Aurelia walked up to the tattooed man, extending her hand.

“Let me see the loan agreement. How do I know if you forged the ID?”

Loan sharks nowadays don’t need an office.

Transactions mostly occurred through online loans and debt collection agencies would then come knocking.

That’s why IDs became especially crucial as it provided a pretext for high-interest lenders to claim that the transaction was voluntary.

The tattooed man handed over a copy, and Aurelia examined it.

It indeed contained a scanned copy of her ID, making it difficult to argue as forgery.

“Let me see.”

Leslie took the agreement.

The tattooed man smirked.

“Do you get it now? It’s in black and white, with clear terms. There’s even your signature.”

“That’s not my signature. You don’t even bother to verify the actual person’s signature, so who are you to demand payment here? I have the right to sue you for forging signatures and fabricating debts,” Aurelia retorted.

“Miss, don’t play tricks with me. You young ladies think that denial can get you off the hook. We’re not fools. We also have those photos you took. Isn’t this guy your husband? I’m sure you wouldn’t want us to show those photos in public.”

As he spoke, Millie stood up.

“Aurelia, you better repay the money quickly. If you can’t, just sell your house. Don’t embarrass yourself here.”

Kimberly glanced at Leslie, who had rejected her before and caused her great embarrassment.

This was a perfect opportunity for payback.

“Leslie, you should be aware of this too, right? You wouldn’t be able to afford dining in high-end restaurants otherwise with your salary.”

“You two are quite interesting. The wife borrows money by taking naked photos of herself, and the husband spends it shamelessly. I always said a pretty face couldn’t be trusted. It’s a good thing that I didn’t fall for you back then.” Kimberly sneered.

Chanter 263

23

Leslie gave her a disdainful look.

“Of course, you fell for Mister Howard Carn Instead.”

“Why you...”

Before Kimberly could figure out how to respond, Zachary and the boss arrived.

Millie quickly stepped forward and complained.

“Boss, Mister Zeller, I just advised Aurelia to either repay the money or quickly resolve the issue. Using us as human shields is too much, isn’t it?”

Zachary frowned.

“Aurelia! Look at what you’ve done!”

The boss was also furious.

“What exactly is going on here?”

Millie immediately started playing the victim.

“I’m really sorry, boss. It’s all my fault. Aurelia became jealous of me, so she borrowed money and acted like her husband was wealthy. The emerald necklace she wore a few days ago was worth exactly 200 thousand according to the experts. It matches the amount she borrowed. What a coincidence, right?”

Kimberly chimed in, “Boss, Aurelia has changed recently. She’s become arrogant ever since she secured the contract from One Technology and today, she’s caused an even bigger mess.”

“Alright. I don’t care who changed. Aurelia now owes me and unless she pays, I’m not going anywhere,” the tattooed man said.

The boss had never seen such a scene and was trembling all over.

He pointed at Aurelia angrily.

“Get out! Get out right now!”

Kimberly and Millie both smiled triumphantly behind the boss.

Aurelia’s expression darkened, but she didn’t back down.

“I didn’t borrow any money and that’s not my signature. I can prove my innocence by providing my bank records.”

“You can just take others’ accounts as yours so that you can escape your responsibility,” Millie said.

Aurelia looked coldly at her.

“You seem familiar with this. Have you done it before?”

Millie pursed her lips and tensed, before gritting out, “Don’t shift the blame to me and think that you can get away.”

Aurelia could detect a hint of pleasure in Millie’s tone.

Just then, Leslie set the agreement down and said, “This agreement is not effective.”

Chapter 264

The tattooed man burst into laughter.

“Who do you think you are? Is it supposed to be ineffective just because you said so?”

“You illiterate fool, let me enlighten you. Your agreement has an interest rate several times higher than the national limit, which is against the law.”

“Furthermore, the company seal is obviously fake. A fake company with high-interest loans is

evidence of usury. In addition to what you’re doing here with the paint, we have a perfect case for criminal activity here.”

“You...”

The tattooed man hadn’t expected someone to read through so many clauses and found a loophole so quickly.

Seeing the situation turning against them, Millie stepped forward.

“Leslie, stop trying to argue. The money was obviously used by Aurelia to buy the emerald necklace.”

Leslie looked at Millie, his gaze piercing.

“I wasn’t going to bring the necklace up. But now that you’ve mentioned it, I’ll prove who bought this specific necklace.”

With that, he opened his phone and waved to Aurelia’s boss.

“Since the boss is so eager to know what happened, I think it’s necessary for you to see it with your own eyes.

The boss wanted to send Aurelia away at first.

However, he felt an indescribable sense of pressure from Leslie and involuntarily walked up to him.

“These are records from my mother at the auction. For a man with your status, I’m sure you can tell if this is forged.”

The boss glanced at the photos on the phone and gasped for breath.

Then, he looked at Leslie and examined the auction house’s signature.

Linda Miller.

“S..She’s your mother?” the boss asked.

“Yes. If needed, I can have her come and clarify things.”

“N...no need to trouble her. I understand, I understand now.”

The boss wiped the sweat from his forehead.

Aurelia was confused.

But Leslie put his phone down just as she tried to glance at it.

“Aurelia would never get a loan!” the boss declared.

How could the young lady of the Mulan Group be in need of a loan? She must be insane to do so.

“Boss, don’t you see what’s happening? Aurelia used her ID to borrow a loan,” Millie said angrily.

The boss shot her a look.

“Who are you to question what I saw? That emerald necklace was definitely purchased by Aurelia’s mother-in-law. Didn’t Aurelia mention that her ID went missing? The signature can be forged as

well.”

Kimberly looked at the boss in disbelief and said hastily, “Boss, this matter will affect our reputation. You can get fooled.”

“I know if I’m being fooled. What do you know?” The boss snapped.

Kimberly froze, while Millie started losing control over her choice of words.

“No way! Impossible! You’re all being fooled by her!”

Even the tattooed man frowned in confusion at the sight.

He waved his arm and said, “I don’t care what’s real here. I just want the money. Aurelia Simmons’ name is on the contract, so that’s who I’m going to target.”

Millie nodded.

“That’s right. Go to her! Target her! This has nothing to do with us!”

Aurelia looked at Millie with a cold expression.

Since Millie didn't care about their past friendship, she didn't need to hold back any longer.

Chapter 265

Aurelia stared at the tattooed man.

"And what if I don't pay you anything? What can you do to me? All evidence now proves that I didn't sign the contract. You can call the police if you want. Let's have the contract and the signature checked!"

The tattooed man didn't expect Aurelia to stand her ground and had his men bring out a pile of photos.

"Aurelia, since you won't cave, don't blame me for showing these photos to the entire office."

"Do whatever you want. Those aren't mine anyway."

Aurelia knew whose photos they were. They belonged to Millie.

She must have agreed to do such a thing to obtain more money.

Millie's face paled when she saw the photos.

Grabbing Aurelia's hand, she said, "Pay them back! You said your mother-in-law is rich, right? Pay them back. Aren't you embarrassed?"

Aurelia's wrist hurt, so she shook Millie off.

“Who exactly should be embarrassed here? Those are supposed to be photos of me naked, right? Why are you so scared?”

Millie gritted her teeth.

Aurelia ignored her and held out her hand at the tattooed man..

“You want to expose these photos, right? Come on, I’ll hand them out for you. Should I just give each person one copy?”

“You...”

The tattooed man was taken aback.

Aurelia tried to take advantage of his dazed state and grabbed the photos.

To her surprise, Millie frantically reached out to snatch the photos before she could.

However, she was obviously no match for the tattooed man.

The two engaged in a struggle, causing the photos to be thrown into the air.

Dozens of photos floated down, capturing everyone’s attention.

The person in the photos was completely naked, covering their chests with their arms and attaching their ID cards to their chests.

The ID card indeed belonged to Aurelia, but only half of her face was visible.

After a brief scan, everyone was stunned.

When they looked up again, their gaze fell on Millie instead.

Noticing everyone's attention on her, Millie crouched on the ground to gather the photos.

"Don't look! Don't look! No one is allowed to look!"

Everyone watched Millie pitifully grabbing her nude photos.

It had all been orchestrated by her.

Aurelia casually picked up a photo from the ground and then pointed to the person in it.

"This isn't me. It's her. I believe if you check the account that received the payment, you can confirm who actually got the money.

"What? Are you two playing games with me?"

The tattooed man angrily swung a fist toward Aurelia, but Leslie had him restrained from behind

before he could succeed.

"Illegal usury, nude loans, coupled with your ruthless methods of debt collection. I advise you not to mess around. If you need to collect money, go to the right person," Leslie said.

Leslie's warning didn't lose an ounce of its imposing presence even in the face of a group of big men.

The tattooed man's arm ached as if it would break the next second.

He realized he was no match for Leslie and simply nodded.

After releasing him, Leslie pushed him away from Aurelia.

The tattooed man was embarrassed and vented his anger on Millie, who was on the ground.

"You slut, how dare to deceive us?"

"No, no, it was Aurelia! It really was her!"

Millie realized the gravity of the situation and threw the photo in her hand onto the tattooed man's face.

She then pushed aside the boss and Zachary before running away.

The tattooed man glanced at his men and ran after her.

No one truly cared if they ended up catching up to Millie.

Just then, the boss walked up to Aurelia with concern.

"Aurelia, are you okay? You're done setting up the venue for One Technology's event, so you can rest until next Monday. Don't overexert yourself."

Aurelia was momentarily stunned.

The sudden concern from her boss made her feel a bit overwhelmed.

She quickly shook her head.

“No, no, I’m fine.”

“I knew I didn’t misjudge you. You’re the most outstanding member of our marketing department. Go home early and rest today,” the boss said with a smile.

Alright.” Aurelia didn’t refuse.

After all, she had another matter to attend to.

Aurelia glanced at Leslie and they prepared to leave.

However, Kimberly’s indignant voice sounded behind them.

“Boss, this whole thing is entirely caused by Aurelia. Why should we be frightened while she gets to leave early?”

The boss glared angrily at Kimberly as his patience for her ran thin.

“This is clearly a plot by Millie. I announce that Millie is officially fired. We must not let any employee suffer unjustly. Kimberly, be mindful of your words. Otherwise, you won’t like what happens next.”

Previously, he had turned a blind eye to her actions because of her uncle’s influence.

However, if she dared to cause trouble again, she would experience a similar fate to Millie.

The boss's words declared the end of Kimberly's special treatment and privilege.

The looks toward Kimberly changed.

It now contains disdain and mockery. Gloating over her current situation.

Kimberly felt utterly embarrassed.

She glared at Aurelia in disbelief.

Ignoring her, Aurelia walked directly toward the exit.

As Leslie passed by the boss, he cast a glance and conveyed a clear message to the boss.

Once Aurelia and Leslie left, the boss wiped his sweat and left the office.

Zachary followed him in confusion and asked, "Boss, why did you spare Aurelia? She's been getting out of hand and having someone like her around will only..."

"Shut up! You are supposed to be in the marketing department, yet you can't even tell which

employee is actually valuable. You almost got me killed, do you know that?"

Thinking back to the look in Leslie's eyes, the boss felt terrified.

"Boss, what do you mean? Why would Aurelia be valuable?" Zachary mocked.

“Zachary, do not pick on Aurelia ever again or I will make you pay!”

With that, the boss stormed off.

Zachary was baffled.

Kimberly, who was eavesdropping, dug her nails into the wall.

How could Aurelia possibly measure up to her?

212

As Aurelia and Leslie went downstairs, they ran into a janitor.

The janitor frowned.

“Aurelia, have you been having a hard time?”

Confused, Aurelia asked, “What’s wrong?”

“I ran into your friend, Millie, just now. She was hiding in one of the trash bins and when I asked her about it, she said that you got a loan and the creditors were coming after her as well,” the janitor said with resignation.

Aurelia’s expression darkened. “Did she really say that?”

The janitor nodded.

“Yeah. Don’t be reckless. Shark loans are terrifying.”

“It’s just a misunderstanding. I didn’t get a loan. Don’t worry,” Aurelia explained.

The janitor felt relieved and left, yet Aurelia remained frozen in place.

“What are you thinking about?” Leslie asked.

“Mr. Synder, can you send me to the police station?” she said with determination.

“What are you going to do?”

“Millie still has my ID and I don’t want her to do anything else with it.”

“Let’s go then,” he said.

Chapter 267

At the police station.

Aurelia requested for her stolen identity card be terminated and then sought to freeze Millie’s account.

Due to the substantial loan amount, the police were particularly efficient.

Soon, they informed her that they had traced the whereabouts of the money.

All the money was with Millie.

In a preparation of going abroad, she had even submitted a deposit of 14, thousand to the traveling

agency.

In pursuit of a better life overseas, she had taken a risky path by borrowing high-interest loans using Aurelia's name.

Thinking that no one could find her once she went abroad, she assumed that the debt would become Aurelia's problem.

With her bank account frozen, Millie would find it difficult to even have a meal.

The police promptly informed Aurelia that Millie seemed desperate for money,

Unable to use the money in her bank account, she started logging into illegal websites.

Fortunately, Aurelia's identity card was terminated, so she couldn't use it.

After everything was settled, Aurelia and Leslie left the police station.

As they got into the car, Aurelia received a text message confirming the case was officially accepted by the police.

She looked at the brief message that marked the end of a friendship and fell into deep thought.

After a moment, she noticed Leslie's probing gaze.

"What's wrong?"

"Why did you leave a way out for Millie?" Leslie looked at her as if he was trying to see through her.

Aurelia was different from all the women he encountered in the past.

The women around him had clear and specific goals, and they'd do almost anything to achieve them, regardless of right or wrong.

On the other hand, Aurelia appeared brave and decisive, but also hesitant at times.

It makes it hard to understand what she really wanted to do.

Feeling exposed, Aurelia shook her head.

"No, I didn't leave a way out for her."

"You reported the theft of your ID, but you didn't mention that Millie stole it. You said she borrowed high-interest loan, but you didn't mention that the creditor came to trouble you today."

"You begged the police to contact the bank to freeze Millie's bank card, not because you're afraid of taking on the debt yourself, but because you're afraid Millie will spend all the money. If that happens, she would have nothing left to pay her debt. Am I right?"

Aurelia wondered if Leslie had installed some kind of cavedropping device on her.

He truly saw through all her thoughts.

"Well... I wouldn't mind punishing Millie, but there's no need to trouble Millie's parents. If Millie squanders all that money, her parents will still have to repay it."

"They don't have high salaries, so how can they come up with 200 thousand? When my mother was sick, Millie's mother even brought me soup on a scorching day, saying I had lost too much weight and needed to take care of my health. I still remember that."

“Just soup?.”

Leslie, who grew up in a world of deceit, couldn't comprehend someone being grateful for just a bowl of soup.

Aurelia looked at him and saw the disbelief on his face.

She thought for a moment before speaking.

“Mr. Synder, I understand your point of view. You probably think I'm foolish for being so easily bought over.”

“But ordinary folks like us don't get involved in significant interests. Therefore, we value personal attachments. Personal attachments are about who has been kind to me. That's why I'm kind to them in return. That's essentially how human connections are formed, right?”

“Of course! I'm not stupid. I'm just repaying Millie's mother's kindness, I won't show any mercy to Millie. Don't worry. Millie won't get away with using my information for online loans. She'll pay for it. dearly.”

Aurelia smiled at him and Leslie couldn't help but return the smile.

She was slightly taken aback by his smile.

“Mr. Synder, you should smile more often. You look nice when you do.”

She raised her hand to touch the corner of his lips, only snapping out of it when she was about to come into contact with his skin.

What was she doing?

Why was she trying to touch Leslie?

He frowned.

“What’s wrong?”

“You have dirt on your face,” she said shyly.

“Is that so?” he replied.

“Yeah, it’s true.” She nodded.

“Alright.”

He leaned closer to her until their faces were inches away.

“What?”

She felt her throat running dry.

“You are wiping dirt off my face, right?” he asked.

“Yeah.”

She held her breath and raised her hand to wipe the corner of his mouth.

Watching him from up close, she couldn’t find a single flaw on his face.

Even the shadow cast by his eyelashes looked perfect.

Perhaps she was too focused as she stared at him, he suddenly grabbed her wrist.

Chapter 268

“Where are you wiping?”

“Huh?” Aurelia realized her fingers had landed on Leslie’s lips as she wiped them and felt embarrassed.

“Let’s go back first.”

Fortunately, Leslie didn’t press further and turned to start the car.

Aurelia nodded, but her fingers felt burning hot.

Back home, Aurelia had a video call with the caretaker.

Her mother was still unconscious, but her complexion seemed good.

The caretaker had discussed this with her family and signed a formal employment agreement with

Aurelia.

With her dedicated care for her mother, Aurelia wouldn’t have to go through so much trouble.

This was all thanks to Leslie.

If he hadn’t persuaded the caretaker, this matter wouldn’t have been resolved so quickly.

After the video call, Aurelia slumped onto the couch and stared blankly at the ceiling.

“So tired... When can I stop working?” she wondered.

Leslie happened to come out of his study and saw her lying on the couch.

He pursed his lips and wondered if it was truly necessary for her to be so upset over Mille.

Pouring himself a glass of water, Leslie walked past Aurelia, who didn't react at all.

He closed his study door with displeasure and sat gloomily at the desk.

She was so upset over a friend who framed her that she failed to notice him.

In the video call, Daniel spoke cautiously, “Mr. Synder, what's wrong with you now? Why do you look so jealous?”

“Nothing.” Leslie's gaze darkened.

“There's no use denying it,” Daniel said.

Leslie stayed silent.

“Seriously? Mr. Synder, did I really hit the nail on the head this time? What happened to Mrs. Synder that upset you?” Daniel asked gingerly.

“Daniel, what do you do when a woman is unhappy?”

“Buy her bags?” Daniel suggested.

“She doesn’t care for that,” Leslie denied the Iden outright.

She even thought that the emerald necklace was fake, so she probably didn’t have much need when it came to materialistic desires.

Daniel pondered for a bit.

“Food? Young girls like nice food.”

He then sent Leslie a few links and Leslie nodded, preparing to hang up.

“Mr. Synder, does your wife not know who you really are?” Daniel asked.

“Keep your mouth shut,” Leslie warned coldly.

“Sure, but you two are married. You can’t keep this from her forever.”

Leslie paused in response to Daniel’s words.

Shortly after, he said, “We’ll see how it goes.

After the call, he opened the links Daniel sent him and immediately placed an order.

Aurelia, who had rested on the couch for half an hour, was thinking what she should do to thank Leslie when she heard the doorbell.

Opening the door, she saw a delivery man who held out a beautiful cake and a cup of milk tea.

“Hello, your lovey–dovey set has arrived.”

“I didn’t order anything. Are you at the wrong address?” Aurelia asked in confusion.

“He didn’t.” Leslie stood behind her and cleared his throat. “I ordered it.”

Aurelia fell silent and thought, “Does he like this sort of thing? Lovey–dovey set?”

Chapter 269

Leslie took the food from the deliveryman.

He placed the items on the table.

“Dig in.”

“Okay.”

Aurelia was happy, realizing she didn’t have to cook.

She quickly sat down and opened the cake with the word ‘happy’ written on it.

It was a simple design, but with whipped cream, it looked absolutely delicious.

She handed the plate and cutlery to Leslie.

However, she soon noticed there was only one cup of milk tea.

“Did they forget to deliver the second one? Why is there only one cup of milk tea?” she asked.

“I don’t like it.”

Leslie gestured for her to drink it.

Aurelia nodded, said thank you, and started sipping.

It was sweet and delightful.

Meanwhile, Leslie cut a piece of cake for her.

She took a big bite and enjoyed the fruity, tangy flavor.

As she took a satisfying second bite, she noticed that Leslie hadn’t touched his portion.

“Aren’t you eating?”

“Are you feeling better now?”

They both spoke simultaneously and looked at each other in surprise.

Aurelia’s eyes widened as she realized that Leslie bought these for her.

She swallowed the cake and pursed her lips. “Mr. Synder, did you buy these for me?”

“No,” he said and took a bite of cake, before frowning in apparent discomfort.

Aurelia couldn’t contain her laughter and a bit of her milk tea sprayed out.

Leslie clicked his tongue and wiped the table with a tissue.

“You’re so messy,” he said but there was no disdain in his tone.

“Sorry,” Aurelia said. “Thank you, Mr. Synder, but... I wasn’t in a bad mood just now. I was just tired.”

Leslie narrowed his eyes.

Noticing Leslie’s reaction, Aurelia quickly added, “However, I do feel much better after having the cake and milk tea. Now I feel like I’m floating in the clouds.”

Leslie poured a glass of water for himself to cleanse the sweetness from his mouth.

“I didn’t expect you to be such a talented actress.”

“Maybe I’m a little gifted,” she said.

Leslie was silent, feeling unexpectedly relaxed.

Aurelia noticed the change in his expression and took another bite of cake, before standing up.

“If you’re not eating the cake, I’ll make you a simple dinner.”

“Wait.”

Leslie reached out, grabbing Aurelia and pulling her closer.

He misjudged the force, and Aurelia ended up right in front of him.

Their eyes met and they could feel each other's breathing.

It was a sweet and tender atmosphere.

Leslie's voice was deep and hoarse, "You have cream on your face."

"Oh, okay."

Aurelia hastily wiped her face a couple of times, her heart pounding.

She quickly retreated to her original position.

"I'll go see what's in the fridge."

With that, she ran into the kitchen.

Seeing that there were still leftovers in the fridge, she made two simple dishes and placed them on the table.

"Mr. Synder, food is ready."

"Okay." He took the plate in her hand.

One of them continued to eat cake, while the other had a proper meal.

It was a weird scene, but it looked somewhat harmonious.

So long as they had each other's happiness in mind, it wouldn't matter even if they were doing something completely different.

Leslie was worried that Aurelia was upset because of Millie, so he ordered milk tea and cake for her despite not liking them.

Aurelia knew that Leslie didn't enjoy cakes, so she made him dishes that he would like.

The table was filled with food that didn't go together, but it symbolized their concern for one another.

After the meal, Leslie cleaned up while Aurelia sat on the couch, scrolling through her phone.

Leslie said that he needed to take care of something and headed into his study.

Chapter 270

Aurelia decided to pour Leslie a cup of tea.

He just so happened to be on the phone when she opened the door.

He shot her a look, silently asking what she needed.

She pointed at the cup in her hand and mouthed the word "tea."

He nodded and she set the cup down carefully.

On her way out, she accidentally kicked the table.

Her eyes widened in pain and tears welled in her eyes.

After jumping in place for a few moments, she stumbled outside.

Leslie chuckled at the sight and the person he was talking to skipped a breath.

“Are you laughing?” the woman asked in disbelief.

“How is the handover going over there?” Leslie didn’t intend to answer her question.

“It’s done. Was there someone next to you?” the woman summoned the courage to ask.

“Yes.”

The woman fell silent and wanted to ask who it was when Leslie interrupted her impatiently, not giving her a chance to speak.

“Is there something else?”

“No, Mr. Synder.”

“Good.”

With that, the call ended.

Meanwhile, in the guest bedroom, Aurelia closed the door and jumped from the pain.

She was trying to play the caring wife in front of Leslie, only to end up embarrassing herself again.

Falling onto the bed helplessly, the scene of her being inches away from Leslie crossed her mind again and she covered her face with the blanket.

Just then, she received a text.

She picked up her phone and realized it was from the owner of the shoe repair shop.

“Miss, your shoes have been repaired and are ready for collection. However, it’s challenging to restore men’s leather shoes. At the moment, we can only repair them to this extent.”

The owner attached a photo below.

Aurelia’s shoes were ordinary and relatively easy to repair..

However, she didn’t expect Leslie’s shoes to be so challenging.

The traces of oil stains on the leather were still evident and there were also scratches. Upon closer inspection, some marks were still visible.

The owner’s craftsmanship was indeed excellent, but unfortunately, Leslie’s shoes were too severely damaged.

“Sir, is there really no way to salvage them?” Aurelia texted back.

“This type of leather is very expensive. Once it’s stained with dirt and oil, it’s easy to discolor. Even with careful restoration, there will still be color differences. Handcrafted shoes of the exact same style are hard to find. You can consider customizing a new pair. We know a foreign-trained expert for this.

After reading this, Aurelia was astonished.

Leather? Handcrafted?

Were they that precious?

“How much does customization cost?” she typed cautiously.

“If you want a pair of handmade leather shoes with a similar style, it will cost at least three thousand. We can also customize them based on your foot, ensuring a comfortable fit.”

Three thousand?

Aurelia knew men’s leather shoes might be more expensive, but she didn’t expect them to be this costly.

She couldn’t possibly afford it and typed.

“Is there anything cheaper?”

“To be honest, we don’t recommend ordinary people customizing such expensive shoes. These shoes are too precious. Some of them can’t even come into contact with water.”

“However, there are many skilled craftsmen in the country who focus on soft, comfortable, and durable leather. Getting a pair of shoes from them won’t cost much.”

Aurelia thought the suggestion was reasonable and continued to inquire.

“How much for those?”

“Less than three hundred. I can introduce you to someone I know for a discount, and I’ll earn a referral fee. But rest assured, the quality of the shoes are absolutely good.”

“Okay, but I might need some time before I can pay.”

“No problem. I’ll call you to pick up the shoes a week from now.”

“Thank you.

Putting down her phone, Aurelia began to run the math in her head.

Fortunately, the bonus from One Technology was substantial this time.

After that, she started scrolling on her phone and fell asleep watching videos.

The next morning, she went to the company feeling refreshed.

However, as soon as she entered the office, she was instantly overwhelmed by a suffocating atmosphere.