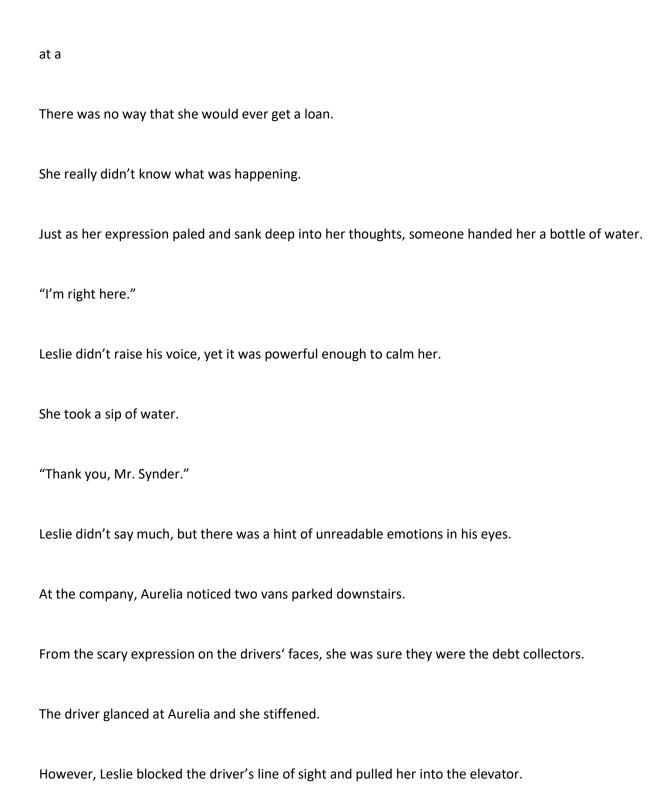
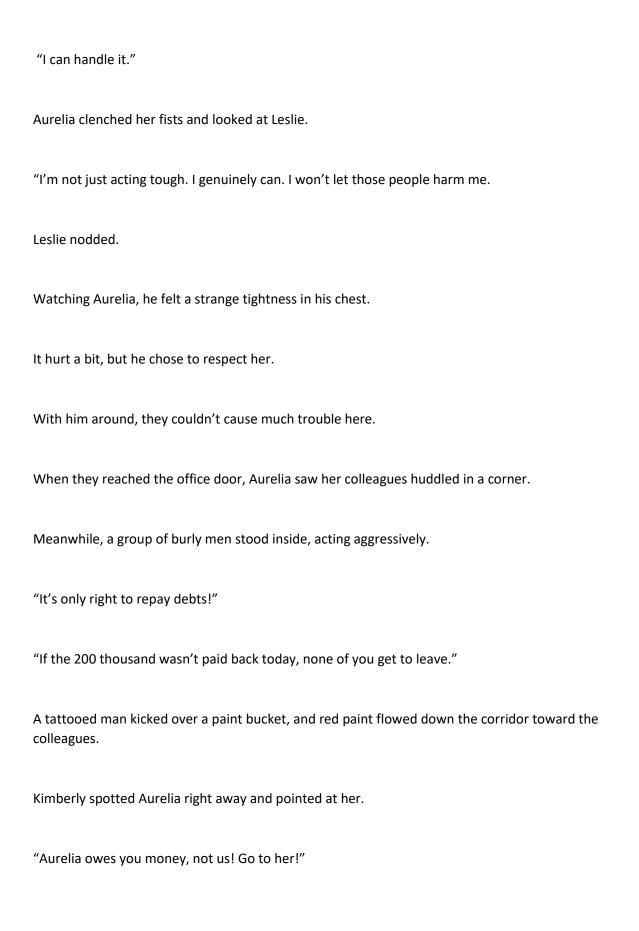
## In A Flash 261







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



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 1 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.
"Aurella, 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.

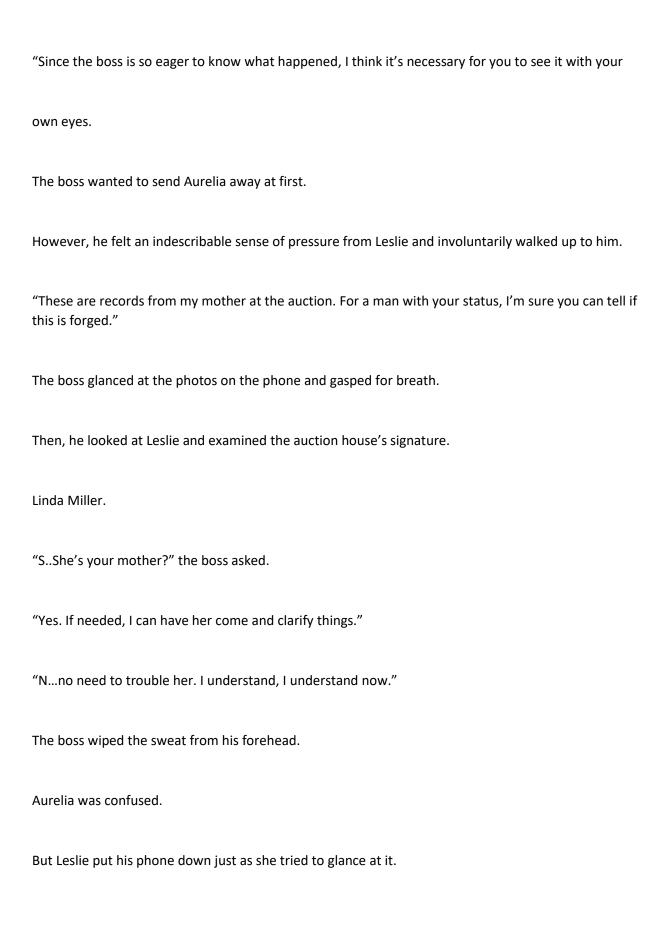
"Do you get it now? It's in black and white, with clear terms. There's even your signature."
"That's not my signature. You don't even bother to verify the actual person's signature, so who are you to demand payment here? I have the right to sue you for forging signatures and fabricating debts, "Aurelia 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.





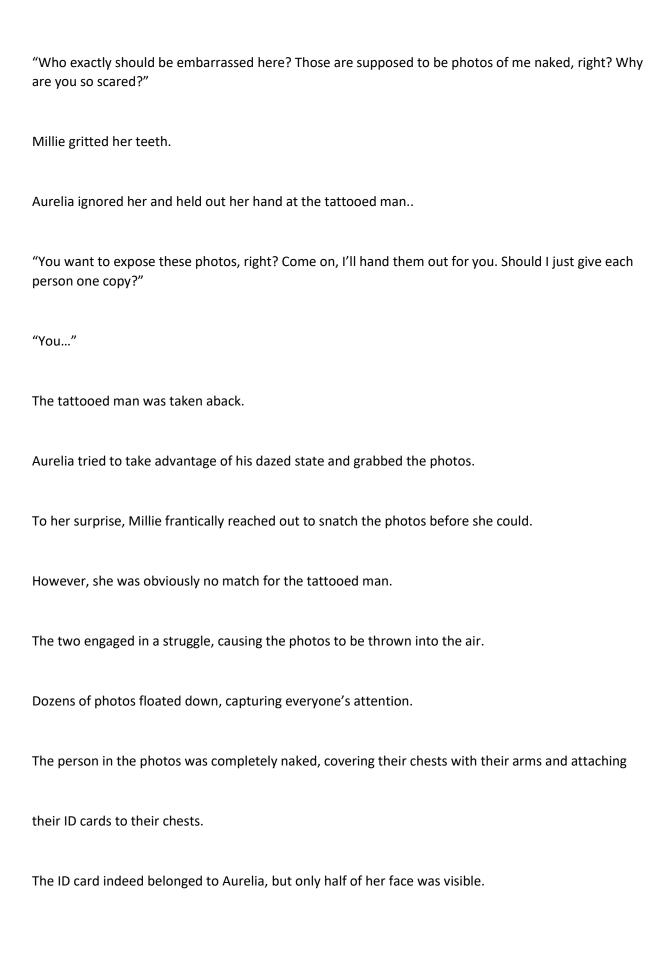
Chapter 26
------------

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.



"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? Aurella 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.
Mille'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.



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."



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.
"oss, what do you mean? Why would Aurella be valuable?" Zachary mocked.





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."

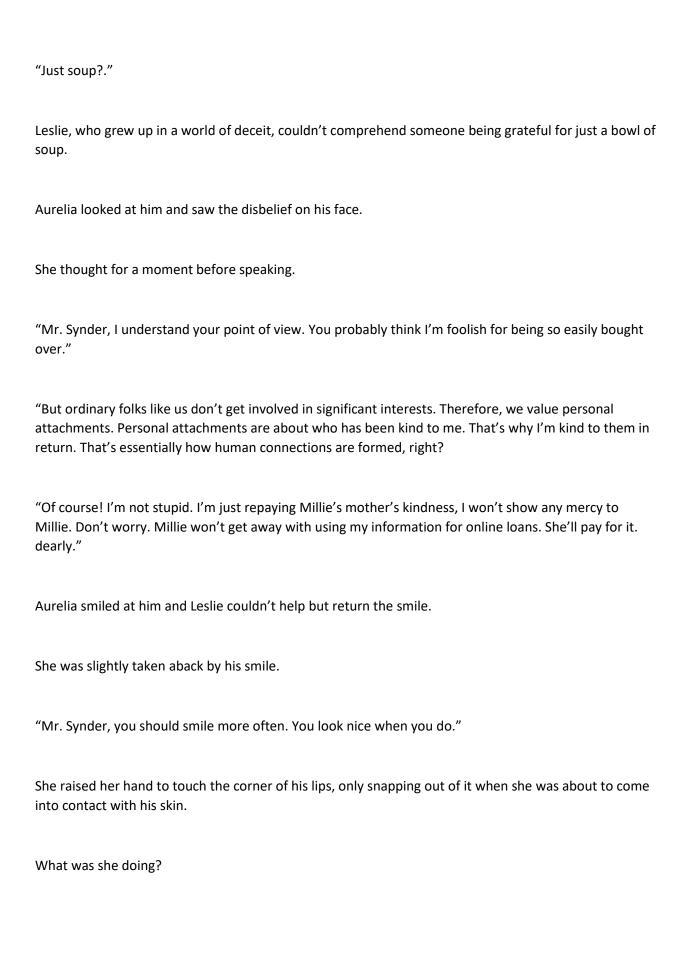
"You begged the police to contact the bank to freeze Millie's bank card, not because you're afraid of taking on the debt yourself, but because you're afraid Millie will spend all the money. If that happens, she would have nothing left to pay her debt. Am I right?"

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

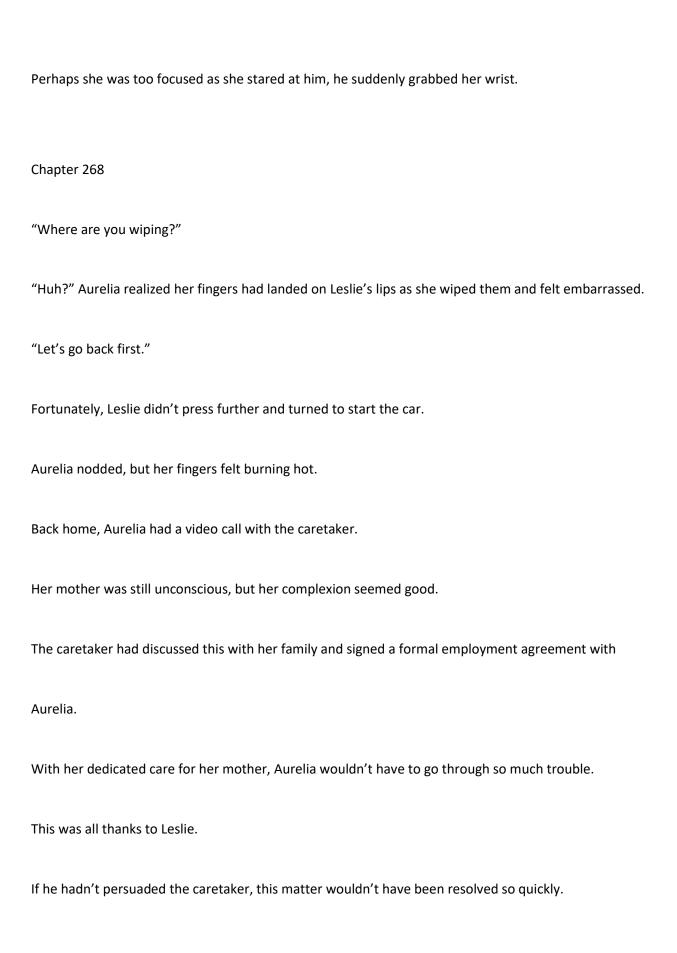
He truly saw through all her thoughts.

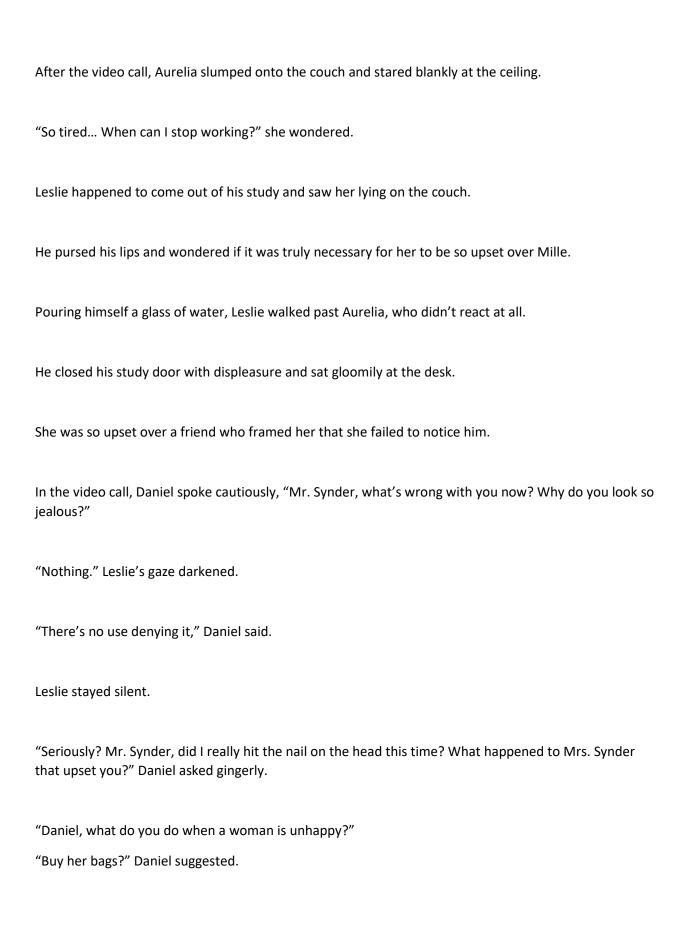
"Well... I wouldn't mind punishing Millie, but there's no need to trouble Millie's parents. If Millie squanders all that money, her parents will still have to repay it."

"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."



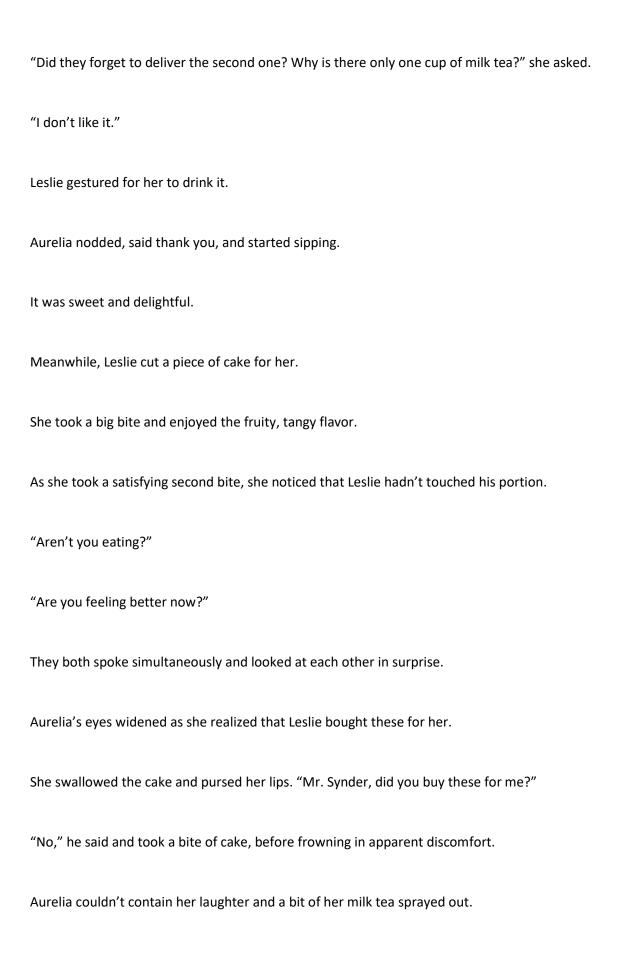






"She doesn't care for that," Leslie denied the Iden outright.
She even thought that the emerald necklace was fake, so she probably didn't have much need when it came to materialistic desires.
Daniel pondered for a bit.
"Food? Young girls like nice food."
He then sent Leslie a few links and Leslie nodded, 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.









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.



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.



"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.