

In A Flash 271

Chapter 271

The cause of the suffocating atmosphere? Millie.

She had been fired by the company and came by to gather her things.

Everyone avoided her, while she ignored them.

She continued to make noises on purpose as she packed and took out the makeup products in her drawer.

“I haven’t used this. Why don’t you take it?” Mille said with feigned generosity.

Her colleague knew that she got all her money from a loan and shook their head, worried that they would get dragged into the mess as well.

“No, it’s fine. I don’t wear makeup.”

“What’s that on your face, then? Drop the act. Take it!” It’s not like you’ve ever used anything nice!” Millie said arrogantly, as if she wasn’t the one packing her things after getting fired.

This angered her colleague and they pushed all the makeup products on her table into the trash bin.

“Oops, my bad. It’s fine, though. I don’t have a habit of going through the trash,” she said impatiently.

Millie’s lips twitched.

It seemed like everyone knew she hid in a trash can to get away from her creditors.

Taking a deep breath, she turned to grab the box on her table, before heading for the door.

Halfway there, she stopped and turned around to face everyone.

Revealing a radiant smile, she said, "Oh, I forgot to mention that it's been a while since I wanted to quit. Tomorrow, I'll be leaving the country with Jackson. We plan to settle abroad. Goodbye."

With that, she left grinning from ear to ear, expecting everyone to envy her.

Little did she know, everyone smirked and chuckled in disgust as soon as she turned around.

Aurelia shook her head.

Not interested in Millie, she sat down.

She was a bit curious and wondered if she could really leave the country with Jackson in her current situation.

Aurelia carried her curiosity into the next morning, which happened to be a weekend.

She indulged in a rare lazy morning.

Though married, and the cohabitation agreement explicitly stated that she would take care of the household, Leslie didn't require her to be a traditional housewife.

When they were busy with work, he would suggest takeout and even order food in advance.

On weekends, he insisted that Aurelia didn't need to wake up early or cook, claiming that he could take care of himself.

After all, for anyone who worked a full-time job, the weekend was reserved for doing nothing at all.

Aurelia turned over in bed when her phone vibrated several times.

Reaching for her phone, she opened the group chat with half-closed eyes.

"Quick, check this out!"

Intrigued, Aurelia opened the shared video in the group and sat up abruptly as she watched it.

Rubbing her eyes a few times, she finally believed that the woman causing a scene at the airport in the video was none other than Millie.

The person filming explained with a smile as they walked, "The world is full of wonders. Broke and without a ticket, this woman charged in. She claimed that she was looking for her boyfriend and they were leaving for England together.

"Someone asked her about it just now and apparently, her boyfriend's flight to England is today. She thought she could go too and even dragged her suitcase over."

"Initially, the airport staff thought it was a mistake when they scanned her ID, but then they found out she is currently wanted by the police. The police have been looking for her for quite some time."

The video was already trending on short video platforms.

"Another lovesick woman. How pitiful."

“She is wanted by the police. She shouldn’t be pitied.”

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The comments on the video continued.

“I wonder who her boyfriend is.”

“She is my colleague. She stole someone else’s ID to borrow an online loan. She’s hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt. Her creditors even came to the office to cause trouble, She used to be a rather cheerful girl, but all she thought of were designer brands ever since she met her boyfriend

“Wow! That’s crazy! What kind of man would put her under such a spell?”

“The son of the Morrisons, Jackson Morrison.”

Instantly, photos of Jackson taking Millie to shop surfaced on the internet.

The Morrison family was hardly considered a wealthy family in Seacester and nothing he did would have drawn so much attention.

However,

Millie’s action at the international airport caused the Morrison family to become the center

of attention.

Everything about them had been exposed, including photos of them selling potatoes in a wet market decades ago.

The netizens started calling Jackson “potato” because his family got rich by selling potatoes.

Jackson had gone overseas and wasn’t affected.

However, his parents were livid and had to come forward and clarify on social media that Jackson and Millie were just friends.

All Jackson had done was buy gifts for a friend and those gifts were not at all expensive.

They even claimed that they had never met Millie and didn’t know her.

It was Millie who had been plotting to marry into their family.

Within just an hour, the direction of discussion changed yet again.

Everyone condemned Millie for being greedy and all personal information about her had been exposed online, including the fact that her father was in the hospital.

Aurelia felt a bit concerned.

She immediately got up from the bed and grabbed her bag to leave.

At that moment, the study door opened.

Leslie walked out while buttoning his cuff.

He glanced at her.

“Let’s go.”

Aurelia hesitated.

“Where are we going?”

Leslie put on his shoes.

“You’re heading to the hospital, aren’t you? I saw the video too. Millie’s dad just had surgery, so he can’t withstand any disturbances. Her mom isn’t good at handling situations. If she gets tricked into saying the wrong thing. Millie’s name will be tainted forever.”

Aurelia looked at Leslie gratefully.

“Thank you.”

Through their time together, she realized that Leslie wasn’t as cold–hearted as his exterior suggested.

He just grunted in response and didn’t say much.

When they arrived at the hospital, there were already many online influencers around.

They came here to take advantage of the situation.

Poor Mrs. Parker doesn’t even use the internet, so she had no idea what was happening.

A group of strange people pointed fingers at her and cursed.

“Your daughter is so cheap! How much did you sell her for?”

“Did you teach her to do such vulgar things?”

Mrs. Parker felt at a loss because Millie indeed had done many wrong things.

“Madam, since you’re not saying anything, it must mean you’re agreeing.”

Eager for attention, a male influencer started creating controversy as soon as Mrs. Parker opened her mouth.

This man had experience in stirring up trouble.

Nowadays, people love taking things out of context on the internet.

Through editing, they would steer the narrative to generate traffic.

Many didn’t mind spreading false information just for a crumb of attention.

“No, I...

Mrs. Parker looked at the group of people in distress.

“Madam, all you need to do is nod,” the male influencer continued.

Mrs. Parker was completely at a loss.

Just as she was about to nod, Aurelia swiftly stepped forward and pulled her behind her.

“What are you doing? How is this any different from forcing a confession?”

“Who are you? Could you also be her daughter? Oh, look at what you are wearing. It seems like you’re also into luxury brands. How many daughters did your mom raise?”

He laughed and pointed his phone at Aurelia.

Aurelia shielded Mrs. Parker, sneering.

“Go ahead and record all you want. As a public figure, you attempted to manipulate an elderly person to answer your questions. Have you no shame? Oh, I guess you don’t. A grown man wearing such thick makeup must be doing it to cover his flaws.”

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“You!”

The man was furious.

“What? You’re a grown man here to trouble an elderly lady. What kind of man are you? If you have the guts, go ask the police whether it’s her family upbringing that caused her actions. Would you dare to

face!” do that? Your gut is as useless as the foundation on your

Aurelia had interacted with many clients.

Although she wouldn’t argue with them, she had acquired a diverse vocabulary.

Today, it came in handy to her surprise.

The man was left speechless, unable to utter a word.

After struggling for a while, he only managed to say one thing, "I'll expose you! You don't look like a good person anyway."

Saying this, several people took out their phones and started filming Aurelia.

Aurelia pointed to the entrance.

"Mr. Synder, have you been recording?"

Only then did these people realize that a tall man had been filming them with his phone.

He then made an OK gesture.

Startled, they rushed over to grab Leslie's phone.

Still, they were no match for Leslie, beating them all with just one hand.

They all ended up on the floor.

Leslie closed the door.

He looked down at the people on the ground, and said coldly, "This person in bed just had heart. If surgery and hasn't completely recovered. You disturbed the patient by coming in a big group. anything happens to the patient, you'll be held responsible. None of you will escape."

Hearing that, the group could no longer remain smug and all scrambled out of the ward.

Mrs. Parker wiped away her tears and sat on the chair, looking numb.

“How did it come to this? How did it come to this?”

“Mrs. Parker, it’s not your fault,” Aurelia consoled.

Tears flowed down as Mrs. Parker grabbed Aurelia’s hand.

“Aurelia, the police called. I’m really sorry. I didn’t know Millie would do such a thing.”

“Mrs. Parker...”

Before Aurelia could finish her sentence, Mrs. Parker suddenly knelt down.

Aurelia was startled and stood to the side to support Mrs. Parker.

“Aurelia! I’m begging you! Can you please not report Millie? We’ll repay the money. We’ll definitely repay it. We won’t get you involved. If you report her, she would be doomed.

Mrs. Parker even tried to bow her head.

Aurelia squatted down and held her hands firmly.

“Mrs. Parker, I’m sorry. I’ve warned Millie many times. She keeps challenging my boundaries. If she isn’t punished, she’ll continue to make mistakes.”

“Aurelia...”

Mrs. Parker tried to speak but remembered that Aurelia had just helped her get out of trouble.

She couldn't say anything else and could only sob.

Aurelia remained gentle with her and held her close.

At this moment, a call came from the police station.

Aurelia glanced at the number and stepped out of the ward before answering it.

"Ms. Simmons, we have Millie Parker here. Please come to the station and discuss how you want to proceed with the case."

"Sure. I'll be right over."

After hanging up, Aurelia realized that Leslie had come outside.

"I told her that we have something to do and we need to leave. She also needs time to think about what she wants to do."

Aurelia nodded.

"The police are asking me to head over to the station."

Sensing her hesitation, he asked, "What would you like to do?"

He assumed that Aurelia felt sorry and wanted to let Millie go.

After all, Aurelia looked extremely sympathetic when she was consoling Mrs. Parker.

Though Leslie was quite annoyed by this, he didn't interfere as empathy was a normal thing.

Aurelia was still inexperienced in stuff like this, so it was normal for her to waver.

Aurelia raised her fingers.

"Who's going to pay her debt if she goes to jail? She only has 180 thousand in her frozen bank account. and she spent everything else. Even though the law doesn't recognize shark loans, she still needs to

back what she borrowed. What would happen if they can't find her and come to the two of us pay instead?"

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"No way I'd let this happen. Millie has to pay off the debt herself. I don't want to be a scapegoat," Aurelia said and looked at Leslie seriously.

Leslie was genuinely amused and exasperated.

He raised his finger and playfully poked her forehead.

"Is this what you truly feel?"

"Well, that's how I see it. I don't want anyone bothering us," she replied earnestly.

"Us?"¹

"Us?" Leslie said with a smirk.

Caught off guard, Aurelia quickened her pace.

“Hurry up. Let’s resolve this matter as soon as possible.”

Leslie curved his lips.

What she said wasn’t that hard to swallow.

After all, debt collectors only cared about money, not people.

Even if the law confirmed that the debt was unrelated to Aurelia, they would come after her if they couldn’t collect the money.

At the police station, Aurelia met with the officer handling her case and he briefed her on the situation.

“There’s concrete evidence, but she refuses to admit it. She’s causing a scene demanding to see you. We want you both to resolve this matter quickly, so we called you in for cooperation.”

“I don’t mind seeing her,” Aurelia said.

“Her mental state isn’t that stable right now. Be careful. She injured two other officers when we brought her in,” the officer warned.

“Okay, thank you.” Aurelia nodded.

“I’ll go with you.” Leslie walked over.

“It’s fine.” Aurelia furrowed her brows. “You’re also one of the factors that upset her. It’s better if we handle this between the two of us.

Since Leslie treated Aurelia well and occasionally made people envious, Millie mistakenly believed Aurelia was constantly competing with her.

Going in with Leslie might make Millie feel that they were here to mock her as a couple and thus provoke her further.

Leslie didn’t insist.

After all, this was a police station and Mille wouldn’t dare to cross any lines.

With that, Aurelia entered the room.

Millie sat in the corner in a designer dress that was now torn and stained.

Her arms showed various degrees of abrasions, likely from the airport commotion.

Hearing footsteps, she lifted her head, revealing a disheveled face.

“You’ve finally come. I knew you wouldn’t miss this great show. Are you happy now? Satisfied? I’ve been abandoned!” Millie laughed bitterly.

“Jackson never cared for you. Your parents, on the other hand, raised you for over twenty years. Yet, over a man, you abandoned them before your dad’s surgery. Are you happy with yourself?” Aurelia asked.

“Don’t you try to guilt-trip me! Jackson would’ve never left the country if it weren’t for you. He

would've never left me and we would have gotten married. My parents would've lived a luxurious life,
"Millie said.

"Did Jackson or the Morrison family promise you that?"

Millie's expression paled.

"They never promised anything. Do you know how many women Jackson has toyed with so far according to the internet? If you don't accept the reality, I'll show it to you."

Aurelia took out her phone and showed all the scandals about Jackson, with most of them being written by Jackson's ex-girlfriends.

"Look at them!" Aurelia held the phone to Millie's face.

"No! It's all fake! They're lying!"

"Then, will you believe what Jackson's parents have said?"

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Aurelia showed Millie the video statement that Jackson's parents made.

They subtly implied that Millie had sold her body for the sake of money.

She repeatedly played it until Millie was trembling all over and covering her ears:

"Turn it off! Turn it off! I don't want to hear it! It's all false!"

Aurelia pulled Millie's hand away.

"Jackson is a wealthy second-generation idler. If he truly loved you, why did he run away? Why didn't he stay to fight his parents to be with you?"

While saying this, Aurelia received a WhatsApp message from Leslie,

When she opened it, she was shocked.

She held up her phone.

"This is Jackson's overseas social media account. He just announced he has a foreign girlfriend."

Millie snatched Aurelia's phone.

Tears started streaming down as she looked at the kissing couple in the photo.

"How could this happen? Haven't I been good to him? I gave him everything!"

"You've been accepting his gifts. From an outsider's view, it looks like you're exchanging favors with him. Your relationship was never pure from the beginning," Aurelia said calmly.

Millie cried while covering her face.

Aurelia thought that venting her emotions would calm Millie down, but to her surprise, Millie suddenly shoved her forcefully.

"Hypocrite! Who are you to lecture me in such a condescending tone? Is it because you have a handsome husband and a good mother-in-law? You're just as ordinary as I am."

“Why can you find happiness and I can’t? I don’t understand! I don’t understand it! I had a chance. If you hadn’t frozen my bank card, I would be in England with him!”

Seeing Millie’s stubbornness, Aurelia didn’t hold back.

She slapped her hard across the face, and blood immediately streamed down the corner of Millie’s mouth.

“Let me tell you what happens if you go there! Jackson will still get with other women. Once the storm settles, his family will arrange for him to marry a suitable woman, then give him a cushy job to settle down.”

“You, on the other hand, will have to rely on loans to get by. Once the money runs out, what will you do? Work odd jobs or rely on your parents for support? Do you really think life is good abroad?”

“Have you thought about your parents? Given your father’s current situation, finding work is nearly impossible. Your mother’s salary is barely enough for the two of them to make ends meet. You want to live carefreely abroad, while they have no choice but to pay the debt you owe.”

“You talk about enjoying life, but you’re just pushing your responsibilities onto them. You ignore those who love you and treasure those who mistreat you. You just can’t let go of your vanity.”

“Millie, the one you’ve wronged the most is your kneeling mother.”

Millie stared at Aurelia with reddened eye

“What did you say? Kneeling?”

“Your information has been exposed online and some people found out that you took naked photos to get a loan. Influencers went to harass your dad in the hospital.”

“If we didn’t arrive in time, your mom would have walked right into their trap. When that happens, your entire family would be condemned. Your mom begged for me to spare you.”

Aurelia sighed while looking at Millie.

She had said everything there was to say.

If Millie continued to delude herself, there was no point for her to continue.

Millie stood frozen in place.

After a few seconds, she snapped and burst into tears.

Aurelia felt slightly sad and turned to head toward the door.

Sobbing, Millie said, “I’m sorry, Aurelia. I’m sorry...”

Aurelia paused and took in a breath.

“I don’t accept verbal apology. I want you to issue a public apology and pay all your debt off. Also... take care of your parents. Don’t wait until you lose everything to know the value of what you have.”

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“I understand... I’ll do it.” Millie nodded,

Aurelia left the room and found Leslie leaning against the door frame.

He seemed to have been listening to their conversation all along

“Mr. Synder, have you been here the whole time?”

“I just happen to be here,” he said.

She knew he was lying because she saw cigarette buds on top of the trash can nearby

Feeling touched, she said, “It’s settled, Millie probably won’t cause any more trouble.

“Mm.”

He continued to appear calm, but the frown on his face eased slightly.

“I’ll go sign the police report first.”

Feeling like a burden had been lifted from her, she went to see the police.

Though she decided not pursue the case further, Millie did cause a scene at the airport and would be detained for a few days.

Thankfully, she didn’t damage anything at the airport or she would’ve had to compensate for it.

As for her debt, with the help of a lawyer, the interest rate was adjusted and she managed to use all the money in her account to pay it back.

Fortunately, she hid a few purses in the office and sold them all to return more of her debt.

Despite all that, 28 thousand debt still remained and she needed to pay it back herself.

Her father was ill and her mother worked a job that paid around a thousand each month.

It looks like her days after this wouldn't be easy.

It would serve as a punishment for what she had done.

After Aurelia sorted everything out, she rode back with Leslie.

Slumping into the passenger seat, she felt more exhausted than having worked a full day.

Along the way, she received a notification on her phone.

Opening it, she found an apology video posted by Mille online..

“First of all, I want to apologize to everyone, especially to Aurelia Simmons. I'm truly sorry I was blinded and hurt her.”

“Secondly, I want to warn all girls. Never be deceived by the appearance of some men. You may think.

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they cherish you when, in reality, they're just toying with you. Just like me and Jackson. We met when...”

This was the first time Millie publicly recounted the process of her involvement with Jackson.

Jackson gave the impression of a gentlemanly, generous wealthy second-generation figure.

“I was gradually deceived by his facade. I gradually lost myself and started to enjoy the feeling of being noticed, 50, when Jackson drugged me and assaulted me, I didn’t question him. Instead, I was sent off with a designer bag.”

“At that time, he told me he couldn’t control his urges because he loved me too much. Holding the bag in my hands, I thought I belonged to him and he loved me, so there shouldn’t be a problem.”

“When I walked into the office carrying that bag, I received praises from everyone and I completely lost myself. Thinking back to it now, he probably used the same tricks many times. He likes obedient girls because we didn’t know how to resist. And because we received his gifts, we also felt like we didn’t have the right to resist.

“Here, I hope all girls won’t be like me. Also, I want to expose someone by name, Kimberly Watson. It was her who introduced Jackson to me. All of this was probably her plan. She made Jackson approach me to deal with Aurelia, all so that she could be appointed as vice director...”

Millie not only apologized but also laid bare everything involving Kimberly, including the plagiarism incident during the competition for the vice director position.

Millie was well aware that she had already hit rock bottom, so she dragged Kimberly into the mud.

Unexpectedly, this stirred up a larger storm, and everything about Kimberly was dug up.

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Millie and Kimberly had finally gotten the attention they had been desperately looking for.

Millie’s sincere apology and her story about her involvement with Jackson gained a lot of attention, along with a lot of condemnation.

On the other hand, Kimberly’s situation was different.

From what Aurelia knew, Kimberly returned from studying overseas,

It was a hot topic among the office.

However, people online investigated and discovered that Kimberly's story was completely different from reality.

She didn't graduate from an overseas college.

Rather, she was kicked out for her wild behavior.

She had been involved with at least twenty married men, and half of them were clients of Young Advertising.

Now, Young Advertising was also dragged into the discussion as many questioned whether they got most of their business by having their female workers sell their bodies.

Alarmed, Young Advertising immediately released a statement to distance themselves from Kimberly.

"What are you looking at? Why are you smiling so much?"

After Leslie parked the car, he turned to ask

Aurelia raised her phone and pointed to the post on it..

"Kimberly has been exposed. This is the first time I've seen someone around me trend on the internet.

"Is that all?" Leslie asked.

Aurelia suppressed her laughter.

“Do you think I’m gloating?”

“I just didn’t expect you to be this happy,” he said.

“What else can I do? I can’t compete with Kimberly’s uncle. I could only swallow my pride in front of her. It’s satisfying to watch the drama unfold.”

She couldn’t help but laugh out loud.

Leslie didn’t interrupt her and simply got out of the car.

As Aurelia got out as well, she received a work email on her phone.

Surprisingly, it was an exquisitely designed e-Invitation.

“Dear Ms. Aurelia, we cordially invite you to attend the grand opening banquet on Monday, hosted by One Technology.”

“Mr. Synder!” she excitedly called out.

“Hmm?” Leslie looked at her with bafflement.

“Your company invited me to the opening banquet! Not as a staff member but as a guest!” Aurelia pointed to the invitation.

“Are you that happy about it?”

“Of course! I heard your boss will be there.” Aurelia blurted out.

Leslie's face darkened as he fell silent.

Noticing Leslie's expression, Aurelia immediately explained, "No, I'm just curious about what such a formidable figure looks like. Of course, you're also formidable."

Leslie entered the elevator, asking, "What do you think he looks like?"

Following him, Aurelia considered for a moment and said, "I heard he made a name for himself quite early on, so he should be relatively young. Maybe around his thirties. He should look quite dignified, and... probably a little bald."

Leslie choked.

"Bald?"

"I'm sure he must have a lot on his mind to be so successful at a young age. He also works in the tech industry, so it's normal for him to go bald. Everyone else in your office except for you has a receding hairline."

Aurelia had seen all the employees in One Technology.

Though they weren't really bald, their hair looked thin.

Leslie was speechless.

"It's no wonder that your boss likes you so much. You have the thickest set of hair. I'm sure he's worried that you would go bald as well. Haha..."

She stopped laughing when she sensed his eyes on her and swallowed hard.

"What's wrong? Keep going," he said.

"I'm done." Aurelia pursed her lips and didn't look at him.

The elevator door opened with a "ding" and Leslie said, "Everyone thinks our boss is a dull and cold person."

Aurelia shot him a surprised look as this was the first time Leslie gave such a straightforward comment about someone.

"I don't think so. The atmosphere in your company is nice, so your boss has to be quite approachable. Besides, he made so many interesting programs. How can he be dull? I'm sure people just think that because they don't know him."

Leslie's hand paused as he was about to open the door.

He turned to give Aurelia a conflicted look.

"Ah, did I say something wrong again?" she asked.

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Leslie remained expressionless.

"Nothing. The way you think is quite creative."

She smiled.

"I did some research on your company before. Your boss even worked on a children's game in the past, which proves that he has an inner child as well. I did try to play it, but never won once. They're so difficult. I wonder if children really understand how to play it?"

Leslie opened the door and changed out of his shoes, before glancing at her.

“Didn’t you look at the ranking? Those are games for gifted children. You never won at all?”

...Yeah.” Aurelia’s smile froze.

Leslie smiled.

“Are you mocking me for not being as smart as children?”

“No,” he said and entered the apartment.

Aurelia bit her lip and scoffed, deciding that she would give the game one star rating for being discriminative against adults.

Aurelia made a few simple dishes for dinner and Leslie went to wash the dishes afterward.

She sat on the couch to keep browsing on the internet when she saw a new topic pop up.

“The young master of Synder Corporation is back!”

A towering figure was captured in a video as he strode forward.

You could only see his back, but there were already girls on the internet fawning over him.

Aurelia glanced at the post without paying much attention.

She scrolled down, only to find it was another post about him.

“The scion of the Synder family, the pride of the heavens, Leon Synder.”

Leon revealed his undeniably handsome side profile, but his eyes betrayed a sense of disdain for all beings.

“He is so handsome. Doesn’t he look like the domineering CEO in novels?”

“As expected of the young master of a prestigious family. He looks extraordinary.”

Aurelia rolled her eyes at these comments.

Why do CEOs have such condescending gazes?

Could they not look at people normally?

She believed that talented individuals could be superior, but it was unreasonable for them to look down on others.

With that in mind, Aurelia clicked on the video and selected “Not Interested.”

“Not interested?”

At some point, Leslie had finished washing the dishes and sat beside her,

Aurelia nodded.

“Yeah, he doesn’t look as good as you...”

Leslie turned his head to look at her as though he was trying to decide if she was telling the truth.

Aurelia felt embarrassed and stood up,

“I’ll go see what I should wear tomorrow. I’ll head back to my room first.”

Leslie watched her leave in a hurry, then turned his gaze back to the news on his phone.

Leon.

Now that everyone has gathered, he can finally make his move.

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After much consideration, Aurelia decided to wear the red dress she had worn to the restaurant with

Leslie.

It was her most expensive outfit and a gift from Linda.

It looked elegant and fitting for the joyful occasion of a grand opening.

She prepared breakfast and a packed lunch when Leslie came out of his room.

He wore a black pinstripe suit.

Aurelia was momentarily stunned, before quickly inviting him to sit down.

“I have to leave now. We have an early meeting today. It’s probably about the afternoon banquet.”

“Yeah. I’ll come pick you up in the afternoon,” Leslie said.

“Will it be too troublesome for you to do that?”

“No.”

“Okay.”

Her dress was really expensive, so taking the subway was definitely not practical.

As she spoke, Leslie’s phone on the table flashed and a message nonned up.

“Pit be waiting for you.”

“Who was waiting for him?” Aurella wondered,

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When Aurelia tried to get a closer look at the name on the phone, Leslie put it away.

She didn’t dare to ask further, so she got up and left for the company.

The atmosphere in the office remained heavy, especially around Kimberly.

But even so, Kimberly was still not fired.

Aurelia even started thinking that Kimberly’s uncle had saved the boss’ life, which would be the only reasonable explanation as to why the boss was defending her.

Nevertheless, even if Kimberly wasn’t fired, judging from her mental state, she probably wouldn’t be able to endure staying for much longer.

Although Kimberly still wore exquisite makeup and branded clothes from head to toe, she looked like someone who was going through severe mental trauma. She seemed on edge, as if the slightest disturbance would set her off.

Once Aurelia took her seat, her colleagues turned toward her.

“We all saw Millie’s apology video yesterday. I never expected Kimberly to be the one who introduced Jackson to Millie. Kimberly has really gone too far. She dragged Millie down with her and almost harmed you too.”

“Forget it. It’s all in the past,” Aurelia said calmly.

“I heard from someone in administration that the boss didn’t fire Kimberly because the boss and Kimberly’s uncle still have some unfinished collaboration. The boss plans to keep Kimberly this way until she resigns.”

“I see,” Aurelia said indifferently and nodded.

Seeing her lack of interest in Kimberly, her colleagues shifted the conversation to her dress.

“Aurelia, your dress is really beautiful. It must be expensive, right?”

As soon as the words were spoken, everyone around them turned their heads and focused on Aurelia.

“Yeah, I was just thinking that. That dress looks amazing.”

“Of course it’s stunning. That’s the new design from Mulan. Even Kimberly couldn’t buy it before,” someone deliberately remarked, targeting Kimberly.

Upon hearing this, Kimberly glanced at Aurelia resentfully.

Aurelia pursed her lips, not expecting Kimberly to become the target of ridicule one day. She felt like she would be the next Kimberly, pushed into the spotlight until she lost herself in the praises.

She quickly regained her composure and said, "It's a second-hand dress. I can't afford a new one."

Her colleagues, who were about to praise her, paused at her words.

One of them said awkwardly, "Second-hand dresses aren't bad."

Aurelia smiled and said, "It's cheap."

After hearing this, everyone lost interest in an instant.

Aurelia knew that they weren't really praising her sincerely and were merely using her to get to Kimberly.

They didn't want to cross anyone, but neither did she. So, it was best to make them give up as soon as possible.

Silence returned to the office.

That morning, Aurelia received three clients who came looking for her. The negotiations went well, and all that was left was to sign the contracts.

"Ms. Simmons, your reputation doesn't do you justice."

"Thank you for the compliment," Aurelia said, smiling.

She had worked extremely hard and deserved such compliments.

Her colleagues all looked at her enviously when they saw her talking to clients all morning.

See? It was possible to make others envious just with one's own ability.

As lunch approached, her colleagues noticed that it was too hot outside and all ordered takeout. Meanwhile, Aurelia took out her lunchbox and prepared to eat.

But before she could open it, a man stormed in.

He was dressed in a suit and looked to be around 1.7 meters tall. He was wearing large gold chains and a gold watch.

He moved around the office rudely as he yelled, "Kimberly, come home with me now!"

What?

Aurelia turned to look at Kimberly, who was cowering under her desk.

The man looked around the office, and a colleague hinted to him where Kimberly was hiding.

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The man walked over and dragged Kimberly out.

"Do you think I can't find you if you hide? We're married, and you are my wife. Where can you hide?"
"No, I'm not. We haven't gotten married yet," Kimberly shouted.

"You accepted my dowry of 150 thousand dollars, and now you tell me that you're not my wife? Are you trying to trick me? I have the transaction records right here!"

The man took out his phone, but Kimberly slapped it away.

Furious, he slapped her across the cheek. "How dare you go against me?"

Kimberly's cheek turned crimson, but she didn't dare to argue.

The man grabbed her. "Haven't you been embarrassed enough? Who else would want you now?"

"Come home with me. What's a woman doing working in an office? There are plenty of chores for you to do at home."

"No, I'm not going!" Kimberly screamed and reached out her hand to her colleagues, but everyone ignored her.

Even Zachary closed the blinds on his window after giving her a glance.

Everyone knew that Kimberly was useless now.

Aurelia pursed her lips and continued to sit down with her colleagues.

Seeing this, Kimberly fell into despair as she was dragged away by the man.

Aurelia wasn't affected by Kimberly and continued eating.

Kimberly was the one who had accepted the dowry by using marriage as bait, so the outcome was no one else's business.

After the lunch break, Aurelia overheard the others gossiping about Kimberly as she drank a glass of

water.

It turned out that Kimberly's uncle had frozen her card. But because she was too accustomed to luxury, Kimberly couldn't get used to a frugal lifestyle.

So, she had hooked up with a nouveau riche. Initially, she had thought that an uneducated nouveau-riche man would be easy to fool.

Little did she know that he was quite shrewd. He had transferred the money to her, explicitly labeling it as the dowry for their marriage.

Kimberly, however, only cared about receiving the money and didn't bother to check the payment notes at all. Now, she found herself in a predicament as she was forced to get married.

Rumor had it that even her uncle wouldn't help her this time. It seemed that she had no choice but to get married.

That was good. She deserved it.

Her skills in seducing men had backfired, and now she found herself at the mercy of a man.

At two in the afternoon, Aurelia went to the restroom to touch up her makeup, then went downstairs to wait for Leslie.

Meanwhile, at the airport, Leslie stood at the exit and watched as a woman approached him.

She wore an elegant white dress, her curls falling over her shoulders beautifully. Her every movement drew the attention of every man around her.

However, her gaze was fixed on Leslie as she walked briskly and confidently toward him.

“Leslie, it’s been a while.”

“Cynthia, long time no see.” Leslie nodded politely but frowned when he glanced at his phone. You’re half an hour late.”

“I went to the restroom to change my clothes for the event later so that I won’t embarrass the company,” Cynthia said with a smile.

“Let’s go.”

Leslie’s eyes didn’t linger on her. He simply turned around and walked out of the airport.

Cynthia was slightly taken aback when she realized that Leslie had been subconsciously checking the time. He seemed to be in a hurry.

This reminded her of the woman’s voice on the phone the other day. She had heard the same voice twice now. It was definitely not a coincidence.

She had worked by Leslie’s side for many years and had been subtly revealing her own feelings for him.

Although he maintained a clear boundary between work and personal life and never responded to her advances, everyone knew that she was special because she was the only woman who still remained working alongside Leslie.

She refused to believe that anyone could replace her.