

## In A Flash 51

### Chapter 51

chat. He

“Aurelia, you didn’t know? I remember that it was you who added him to the group had even used your name, insisting on treating the sales team upstairs to discuss a collaboration. At that time, you didn’t say anything, so everyone thought that you had also agreed to it.

You know that we usually have collaborations with the team upstairs, so they had no choice but to agree to cooperate with Seth. Later, when you left the group, they complained. I noticed that you didn’t say anything either when there was talk about you and Seth getting married, Millie recalled.

“I didn’t...” Aurelia paused.

When she first joined the group, she had complained to Seth about it being too noisy. But everyone in the office was in the group, so she didn’t want to leave it immediately.

Back then, Seth had said that he wanted to take a look, so she had given him her phone. It must have been then that he had added himself to the group. Later, she couldn’t bear it and left the group, unaware that he was still in it.

Besides, he had actually used her name to discuss business with others? It was fine if the negotiations went well, but if it didn’t, wouldn’t it all be her fault?

Aurelia gritted her teeth. “What did Seth say in the group?”

Millie scrolled on her phone and read Seth’s reply word for word.

“He said, “I know you’re talking about Aurelia. Don’t blame her. I really love her. It’s my fault for not being able to give her happiness. Everyone, please help me persuade her. It breaks my heart to see her living like that. As long as she’s willing to be with me, I’m still willing to accept her.””

“Damn! If I hadn’t seen his mother’s true colors with my own eyes

I might have believed him. He’s acting like he’s Mother Teresa and pretending to be all philanthropic,” Millie remarked with disdain.

Aurelia took the phone and glanced over Seth’s words. Just then, Kimberly’s response quickly followed.

“Seth, actually, I’m sure Aurelia hasn’t forgotten you. Otherwise, she wouldn’t still be using the things you’d given her even after three years. But you’re being too humble. Is it worth it?”

Seth replied, “If Aurelia comes back to me, I’m willing to give her as many gifts as she wants.”

Three years? Gifts? Aurelia felt like laughing

Seth would never give her a gift unless he had to. Even if he did, it would completely lack sincerity.

She used to believe that just the thought was enough, but now she had seen through Seth’s tricks. Wasn’t he just trying to play the pitiful victim in front of everyone?

Sure enough, everyone started praising Seth and speaking up for him.

“Seth, you’re not so bad yourself. There’s really no need for you to be so accommodating.”

someone commented.

“If she divorces, it’ll be her second marriage. Don’t joke about your own happiness,” another added.

“I don’t think Aurelia deserves someone like you. She broke up with you because of money and married someone else out of anger. She should suffer the consequences.”

Seeing everyone belittling herself on Seth's behalf, Aurelia's face burned, as if she had been slapped multiple times.

She wasn't acquainted with these people. How could they criticize her?

She had pretended not to know earlier, but now that it had come to this, she felt compelled to say something.

She asked, "Millie, can I say a few words?"

Millie nodded, "Go ahead. I can't stand seeing them speak up for Seth. You've been through so much because of him. There's no reason for others to slander you!"

"Thank you."

Aurelia took a deep breath as she held the phone. Then, she pressed the voice message button.

"Since everyone seems so interested in the matter between me and Seth, I might as well clarify it here. We're completely over, and we'll never get back together.

"Seth, stop pretending to be sentimental. Before you proposed to me, you had already paid at membership fee of 30 thousand dollars for the Golf Dating Club. What does that make me?

"Forcing me to get divorced and reconcile now is nothing more than the fact that you had been exposed for giving a female member a fake watch and subsequently gotten kicked out of the club. You just can't find another woman who's easier to deceive than me."

A minute after Aurelia's message was sent, Seth was seething with anger.

"Aurelia, what nonsense are you spouting?"

“Nonsense? Well, let me provide you with the evidence.”

Aurelia sent screenshots of her conversations with Seth’s colleagues to Millie’s phone, and then shared them to the group chat using Millie’s account.

Of course, she had already blurred out the names and profile pictures of Seth’s colleagues.

With such irrefutable evidence, Seth remained silent for a long while.

Aurelia continued, “Let me clarify further. My married life is good, and I don’t need anyone’s concern. Thank you.”

Seth couldn’t hold back any longer and retorted sharply, “Good? Aurelia, I know you very well. You’re the best at putting up a strong front. There’s no shame in admitting that things aren’t going well. There’s no need to lie. Could everyone possibly have misunderstood?”

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At that moment, the troublemaker Kimberly once again made an appearance.

You two, stop arguing. Aurelia, we genuinely feel sorry for you. We didn’t mean to make you upset. If you want Seth to give up, why not ask your husband to send you to the company tomorrow?”

Aurelia paused. There was a fleeting moment where it seemed like she might say something, but ultimately, she refrained. She turned around and returned the phone to Millie.

Millie said, “Aurelia, why didn’t you agree? Otherwise, everyone will think that you were really just putting up a strong front and lying, and then Seth will be insufferable.”

Aurelia frowned. “It’s not necessary. I don’t live for them.”

The crucial point was that Leslie would disagree with it.

Aurelia walked into the office. Everyone looked up at her, presumably because they were aware of the conversation between her and Seth.

Curiosity, sympathy, disdain, and gazes filled with various other emotions fell upon her.

Kimberly stood up and said with a troubled expression, "Aurelia, Seth said that he'll come over early tomorrow morning. I tried to advise him against it and mentioned that it was a crucial moment for you to get a promotion, but he wouldn't listen. He even said that he wouldn't leave unless he saw your husband. Well... I guess you'll just have to agree to it. Everyone's worried about you."

Aurelia looked at Kimberly and frowned.

Sure enough, the mother-son duo from the Martinez family continued to entangle her and Kimberly, making things complicated.

Since Seth's promotion had been blocked, he wouldn't let Aurelia get promoted so smoothly either.

What an annoying person!

Aurelia was on the verge of rejecting Kimberly's unsolicited suggestion when Zachary walked out of his office.

He frowned and looked at Aurelia. "Aurelia, let's have a talk in my office."

"Alright."

In the end, Aurelia wasn't able to voice her rejection. She quickly walked into Zachary's office.

achary stood with hands on hips, a hint of impatience in his furrowed brows.

Are you married?”

Yes.”

urelia was somewhat surprised. She hadn't expected such a trivial matter to bother Zachary,

achary's brow furrowed even further, and his tone became a little more impatient.

Since you're married, just behave yourself! This is a company, not a place for you to handle

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your personal affairs.

“Why did your ex-boyfriend's mother cause a scene at the company? If the security hadn't stopped her, she would have gone upstairs. How would the other companies view us then?”

“It's the same today. You caused such a fuss in the office early in the morning. Everyone in the whole building knows about your affairs now.”

Hearing this, Aurelia turned pale, but she steadied her emotions to explain, “Zachary, this morning was because of Kimberly...”

“What's wrong with Kimberly? She has connections, but you don't. She knows the boss of One Technology, but you don't. Isn't that right?”

“You have nothing, so you have to learn to be perceptive! The company only wants results. No one cares who is right or wrong,” Zachary interrupted, displeased.

"I... I understand."

Aurelia pursed her lips, knowing that Zachary wouldn't listen, no matter what she said.

However, Zachary was right about one thing.

She had nothing. She was just an ordinary employee.

Zachary pointed at Aurelia, gritted his teeth and said, "If you let your personal affairs affect work again, don't say I didn't warn you!"

Aurelia could only nod. "I understand."

Zachary didn't say anything else and waved his hand, wordlessly telling her to leave.

Aurelia turned around and left the office.

Soon after that, Zachary also called Kimberly into his office.

However, when she came out, she had a smile on her face, and she exuded an air of confidence. Obviously, Zachary favored her more.

Aurelia and Kimberly locked eyes for a moment and then immediately lowered their heads to resume their work.

Aurelia couldn't afford any more distractions. She had to get the promotion and salary increase.

At the end of the workday, Millie, who was usually the most punctual when it came to leaving work on time, remained seated, engrossed in her phone.

Aurelia tidied up her desk while reminding her, "What are you looking at? You're so absorbed in it. It's time to get off work."

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Millie shot up from her seat and rushed to where Aurelia was.

"Aurelia, look at this! Seth is really too much! He actually said that you were mentally unstable due to the stress and worry about your mom's illness and that you were just talking nonsense earlier. I think it's him who's actually mentally unstable and talking nonsense."

Seth's colleagues must have spread the news about him pestering her throughout the company.

He cared too much about his reputation and couldn't stand being gossiped about by his colleagues, so it had caused him to exaggerate the situation.

But Aurelia hadn't anticipated Seth's words in the group chat, so the situation had become even more complicated.

Zachary already had a word with her. If she couldn't resolve this quickly, her promotion would undoubtedly be affected.

"Aurelia, aren't you angry too? You should just ask your husband to send you to work

tomorrow. Even if he's not handsome, doing that can at least shut Seth up and prevent him from going crazy in the group chat."



Millie's words woke Aurelia up. If Leslie's appearance could dispel Seth's harassment, it might not be a bad idea.

"I'll think about it."

"Alright. Ugh, I can't stand him. I'd rather marry a cow than ever marry Seth," Millie said angrily.

"Let's go."

Aurelia pulled Millie downstairs. Everyone around them stared as they walked by.

Aurelia didn't care. Her mind was focused on how to secure the major deal with One Technology.

Aurelia and Millie parted ways after entering the subway, but they coincidentally ended up taking the same train.

"Aurelia, why are you going this way? You're not going to the hospital today?"

"I need to make some adjustments to One Technology's proposal. I've already told the caregiver that I won't be going there today. My mother is going to have an operation soon, so I need to finish the work at hand quickly."

Millie nodded and pointed at the sign above their heads. "Then, where will you be getting off?"

Aurelia pointed at the middle section. "Crystal Creek Avenue."

Hearing this, Millie looked at her in surprise.

"Crystal Creek Avenue? Does your husband live there? The houses there are very expensive. Even the lowest priced ones cost at least four million dollars!"

"We took onst a loan, and we're still paying it off." Aurelia mplaind

"Oh, I see Then, you must be under a het of premere

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It was more reassuring for Aurelia to earn her own money.

Ten minutes later, Millie waved and got off the train, joining the crowd of people who were also getting off work for the day.

She lived in an old residential area surrounded by factories, so the station was always crowded after work.

Millie had complained numerous times about almost getting squeezed onto the train again right after just getting off.

Aurelia had the foresight to stand in a corner to avoid being crushed by the people entering

the door.

However, there were too many people, and collisions were inevitable.

No matter how careful she was, she was still scratched by a woman's bag. She stepped back to avoid it and accidentally stepped on the foot of the man next to her.

"Sorry, are you okay?"

"I'm fine." The man smiled and said nothing more, glancing down at his shoes.

Aurelia didn't inquire further and continued to huddle in the corner.

When she was about to take out her phone to listen to some music, she noticed the man's foot inching closer to hers again.

How strange. After being stepped on, shouldn't he retract his foot?

Aurelia wondered if the man just had a peculiar way of standing.

In order to prevent herself from accidentally stepping on his foot again, Aurelia moved to increase the space between them.

However, whenever she moved, the man would also follow suit.

Even the seemingly naive Aurelia realized that there was a problem.

When she lowered her head to check, the man immediately retracted his feet.

At that moment, a thought flashed through her mind—upskirt photography.

Stories online often mentioned that some sleazy men would hide cameras in their shoes to take photos up a person's skirt.

Aurelia was wearing a white dress that day. Due to the crowded train, she had sweated a little. The damp dress stuck tightly to her body, outlining her figure, and it had apparently attracted the attention of a perverted man.

Those kinds of cameras could supposedly be detected with a flash.

Aurelia didn't want to alert the man just yet. It was crucial to gather evidence first in order to silence him.

With that in mind, she took out her phone. She activated the camera's flash and pointed it at

his shoes.

"Click!"

Aurelia was startled by the sound of the camera shutter. She was so nervous that she had forgotten to turn off the sound, but she noticed the red dot in the photo.

The man really had a camera hidden in his shoe!

Just when she was about to call someone for help, the man covered her mouth with one hand and tried to grab her phone with the other hand.

She fis

She fiercely protected her phone and struggled to get away.

However, her location in the corner made it challenging. Most of the people around her were wearing headphones and were immersed in their phones, so they didn't notice her struggle at all.

Aurelia glared at the man and bit him hard when he least expected it.

The man suppressed his urge to shout but was thoroughly infuriated.

He raised his hand to strike Aurelia, but the next moment, someone grabbed his wrist tightly from behind.

"What do you think you're doing?"

Aurelia looked up in astonishment to see Leslie, who stood out from the crowd.

Why was he here?

Before Aurelia could speak, the subway doors suddenly opened.

"We have arrived at Crystal Creek Avenue. Please exit the train in an orderly manner."

The man and Aurelia were standing close to the doors. Taking advantage of the crowd entering and exiting the train, he forcefully pushed Leslie aside and ran out.

Aurelia chased after him, not bothering to stop and explain.

"Stop! Catch him! He's a pervert! Stop him!" Aurelia shouted.

The people around heard the commotion, but with the crowded platform, they didn't know who she was talking about.

Seeing that the man was about to run up the stairs, Aurelia quickly took off her high heels and chased after him.

“Stop him!”

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At that moment, a figure swiftly ran past Aurelia, effortlessly jumping over the railing with one hand, and then kicking the man to the ground.

Everything happened so fast that she couldn't even react in time.

It wasn't until she reached them that she realized the agile person was actually Leslie. Even after all that, he was calm and composed, whereas Aurelia was gasping for breath.

She glanced at his legs. They were long and sturdy, and they captivated her gaze.

The man on the ground coughed violently. Realizing that he couldn't escape, he quickly begged for mercy,

“I was wrong. This is my first time doing this. I won't do it again, so please let me go! I'll give you money! Whatever you want! Just let me go.”

With that, the man took out his wallet and phone.

Aurelia considered for a moment before reaching for them.

Leslie, who was standing next to her, wore a cold expression. He found it unbelievable that a woman who had just been secretly photographed was now accepting money from the perpetrator. Just how short of money was she?

He thought that she had a sense of justice when he saw her urgency earlier.

Aurelia weighed the phone in her hand. "What's the password? I'll transfer the money myself to avoid any deception."

Thinking that Aurelia had agreed to settle the matter with money, the man promptly disclosed the password to her.

"001998."

"Okay."

Aurelia unlocked his phone and held it up, signaling to the approaching security personnel.

"The evidence is all here. He's been caught red-handed. Please arrest him."

The auxiliary police quickly apprehended the man.

The man erupted into a string of curses and yelled, "How dare you deceive me!"

Aurelia handed the phone to the officer and said coldly, "You're a nasty person. It's only fair that I have some tricks up my sleeves too!"

The man was left speechless.

Aurelia then handed the wallet to the officer and told him, "His ID is inside."

The officer smiled and said, "Miss, you've truly been a great help, but dealing with such people is dangerous. You shouldn't act so impulsively in the future. Fortunately, this

gentleman was here to help you today."

Aurelia nodded, "Alright, but... can you delete my photos? It's embarrassing."

The officer explained, "After collecting the evidence, we'll delete them. They won't be circulated."

"Thank you." Aurelia sighed in relief.

After the officer handed the man over to his colleagues, he turned to Aurelia and Leslie to get their statements.

"What's the relationship between the two of you?"

"We're..."

Husband and wife?

Aurelia hesitated, unsure if she should reveal it. Just when she was about to ask Leslie, a clear voice sounded from beside her.

"We're husband and wife," Leslie declared.

The officer glanced at them and said with a smile, "No wonder the gentleman was so anxious just now. He even jumped over two turnstiles."

Leslie neither confirmed nor denied his comment.



Aurelia was momentarily stunned. She looked at Leslie in surprise.

Was he worried about her?

Before she could figure it out, the officer began questioning her. Aurelia recounted the details of the incident carefully.

After signing some documents, she watched as the officer escorted the man away.

“Mr. Synder, thank you for your help. You...” Aurelia turned around and found Leslie looking at her with an odd expression. “What’s wrong?”

“Did you trick him into handing over his phone and wallet?” Leslie asked.

“Yes, I saw the auxiliary police running over and was worried that the two of us wouldn’t be able to handle him, so I tried to hold him back. He seemed very familiar with this place. He specifically picked such a crowded station to carry out his immoral acts.

“He even threw away his shoes when he got off the train. What if he denied everything when he got caught?” Aurelia explained.

Leslie frowned slightly, realizing that he had been so focused on catching the man that he hadn’t noticed that the man’s shoes were gone.

Aurelia continued, “You need to gather all the evidence first with someone like that. Otherwise, he’ll argue and give all kinds of excuses when the time comes.”

Leslie’s eyes flickered as he looked at her sweaty face.

He blurted out, “Weren’t you afraid that he would hurt you?”

“Of course I was afraid.” Aurelia pursed her lips and continued, “But if I didn’t stop him, he’d become even more unscrupulous in the future. When I checked his phone earlier, I saw so

many other photos, even those of little girls. If we hadn’t turned him in, he’d only continue causing more harm.”

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Leslie fell silent and looked at Aurelia. He only shifted his gaze when he realized that he’d been staring at her for too long

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“Let’s go.”

“Okay... ouch!”

Aurelia lowered her head to inspect her foot and was surprised to find a scrape on her ankle. Fortunately, the wound wasn’t deep.

She gritted her teeth, put on her shoes, and limped alongside Leslie.

As she stood on the escalator, someone bumped into her. When she exerted force on her foot

to regain her balance, a sharp pain shot through her ankle, making her sway for a moment.

Leslie helped to steady her.

“Stand closer,” Leslie said gruffly.

“Alright, thank you.”

Aurelia took a small step closer to him, but it was so small that it seemed as if she hadn't moved at all.

Leslie glanced at her. Without hesitation, he pulled her into his embrace.

She stiffened, and she quickly lowered her head.

He couldn't see her expression clearly, but he could clearly see the tips of her ears turning red.

She was surprisingly shy.

Aurelia always gave him a contradictory feeling. Which side of her was the real one?

The atmosphere felt awkward, so Aurelia randomly brought up a topic.

“Mr. Synder, why did you take the train today?”

“A colleague borrowed my car. It'll only be returned tomorrow morning.”

Actually, it was one of his subordinates who had needed a car so that he could take his parents back to their hometown, but he didn't dare to use Leslie's luxury cars for fear of attracting

attention.

Aurelia nodded and did not pursue the topic further.

After exiting the subway station, Aurelia slightly increased the distance between the two of them.

To her surprise, she found that Leslie seemed to have no intention of doing the same. He even accommodated her with smaller steps.

She glanced at Leslie cautiously. His face was as handsome as ever, but it lacked its usual cold demeanor.

“Watch your step.”

Leslie suddenly lowered his head to meet her eyes.

Surprised, Aurelia quickened her pace, forgetting about her injured foot.

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“Ouch, ouch...” Aurelia hissed in pain.

Leslie was inexplicably amused by the series of hissing sounds she made, but he didn't show it. Aurelia noticed her tone and immediately shut her mouth. She hoped Leslie would let go of her. Instead, he helped her sit on a bench outside a nearby store.

“Wait here.”

“Where are you going?”

As soon as Aurelia finished speaking, Leslie entered the neighboring store.

Confused, she looked up at the store's sign and immediately understood what Leslie wanted to do.

It was a pharmacy.

Aurelia felt an inexplicable warmth in her chest as she looked at the store.

It had been a long time since someone else had taken care of her, not since her mother had been hospitalized.

Ten minutes later, Leslie returned with a bag in his hand.

Aurelia immediately stretched out her hand and said, "I can do it myself."

This wasn't a drama. No one would have a pair of flawless and attractive feet at all times of the day.

In reality, people who had spent an entire day in high heels would be aware that even if their feet didn't stink, they'd still be sweaty, and there would be red imprints from being stuffed into such shoes for so many hours. It could end up looking as ugly as it sounded.

Aurelia, despite not being pretentious, still valued her dignity. She felt embarrassed to expose her feet that were undeniably in such a state to Leslie.

However, Leslie didn't give her the bag. Instead, he pulled over a plastic stool that was outside the store and sat down calmly.

While unpacking the medicine, he said, "Give me your foot."

Aurelia hesitated.

Leslie paused and said, "Do you need me to send you an invitation?"

Aurelia quickly shook her head, curling her toes and lifting her foot.

Leslie pointed to his knee. "Put it here. How else will I be able to apply the ointment?" Aurelia was momentarily stunned. Did she really have to put her foot on his knee?

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Aurelia could tell that Leslie's suit was very expensive. What if a drop of blood stained it?

"Aurelia, how long do you plan on keeping your foot raised like that?" Leslie urged.

"Hold on."

Aurelia quickly opened her bag and took out three tissues. She folded them together before placing them on Leslie's knee.

Leslie was surprised by her actions and said, "It's just a pair of pants."

Aurelia lowered her eyes and said casually, "Mr. Synder, it'd be such a waste if those pants were ruined. You look so good in them. I just... don't want to get them dirty."

After saying that, she lowered her head.

What was she saying?

After hearing that, Leslie's finger accidentally grazed Aurelia's ankle, causing the both of them to fall silent.

An indescribable atmosphere surrounded them.

Aurelia discreetly lifted her gaze and observed Leslie calmly tending to her wound.

She felt relieved.

Leslie looked at the wound. Although it wasn't deep, it was quite long, extending from the ankle to the calf. The fair skin looked alluring against the blood drops.

But there was another matter... with that foot.

Aurelia sensed Leslie's gaze and wiggled her toes, attempting to pull her foot back.

"Don't look at my..."

Foot..

"The wound is quite long. A regular adhesive bandage won't cover it completely. I'll wrap it with gauze to prevent an infection," Leslie calmly interrupted, continuing to clean Aurelia's wound with iodine.

"Thank you." Aurelia was not only grateful to Leslie for treating her wound, but also for interrupting her and preserving a bit of her dignity.

Although she had always felt that her capabilities mattered more than her appearance, the fact was that she wasn't very confident in how she looked, especially after she had to listen to all of

Seth's comments.

"Your waist is too thick. My friend's girlfriend's waist is only as wide as one of his palms, but it's okay. I like you the way you are."

"You have freckles on your face. It doesn't make you look good, but I don't mind. No matter how bad you look, you're still my precious darling."

“It’d be better if your thighs were a little slimmer. You shouldn’t wear pants anymore in the future since you don’t look good in them. Just wear dresses so that your thighs can be covered.

up.”

Aurelia recalled Seth’s words, feeling a little self-conscious.

Seth’s comments had all been said carelessly, but they had affected her a lot back then.

Since she struggled with doubts about her appearance, she tried to make up for it by improving her skills. But deep down, she still felt a little inferior because of his words.

Seeing Leslie’s reaction now, she realized that a true man wouldn’t demonstrate his generosity by belittling someone.

The more Aurelia thought about it, the more nauseous she felt.

2/2

Seth was her first love, so she had cherished that relationship. However, she had unexpectedly fallen prey to Seth’s manipulation.

Looking at Leslie, whose personality differed from his cold appearance, Aurelia’s thoughts took an unexpected turn.

What if she asked Leslie to accompany her to the company tomorrow? He would probably agree, right?

She simply wanted to sever ties with Seth as soon as possible. She really didn’t have the energy to deal with him now.



Thinking about it, she opened her mouth but hesitated. In the end, she decided not to say anything.

What if Seth went to make trouble for Leslie? Seth was undoubtedly capable of such actions if it benefited himself.

One Technology was now one of the most famous companies in the Seacester business district.

If the company deemed that Leslie's personal affairs were affecting its reputation and chose to terminate him, wouldn't that be Aurelia's fault?

She should just forget it. She should deal with her own problems herself.

"Does it hurt? What's with that expression?" Leslie frowned..

"It doesn't hurt. I was just... thinking about what would happen to that man earlier."

Aurelia told a little lie, not wanting to get Leslie involved.

Leslie's brows furrowed as he said, "You're injured. How can you still think about others?"

Aurelia pursed her lips and looked down at her injury, just in time to see the mixture of blood and iodine almost dripping onto her high heels.

Bloodstains were difficult to clean. She didn't want any of that to get on the shoes her parents. had given her.

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The next second, disregarding the pain in her foot, she stepped directly onto the ground and reached out to cover the shoe's surface.

Because of the exertion, the previously well-treated wound began to ooze blood again.

She straightened up, intending to find a cotton swab to wipe it, but she noticed Leslie's cold expression as he stared at her shoes.

"Are those shoes so important to you?" He said expressionlessly.

"Well, it's because..."

Aurelia smiled at the thought of her parents.

But in Leslie's eyes, it felt particularly glaring.

Was she really that attached to her ex-boyfriend?

He interrupted, "You don't need to tell me. Let's take care of your wound first. It's getting dark."

He wasn't interested in hearing about her love story with her ex-boyfriend.

She glanced at the sky and nodded. "Yeal."

Leslie quickly bandaged her wound. When she got up to express her thanks, she found that he had already turned around and walked away silently.

She hurried to catch up.

"Mr. Synder, it's a little late today. Can we just have a simple meal tonight?"

“No, let’s just buy something and eat it at home,” Leslie said solemnly.

“Alright.”

Aurelia didn’t insist.

She didn’t know if she had stomped on the ground too hard earlier, but her heel and the wound on her ankle hurt.

She was planning to work on refining the plan for One Technology that night, so she also felt reluctant to cook.

Leslie didn’t seem like someone who could cook, so buying something was the best option.

On the way back home, Leslie was silent as he carried their takeaway from the restaurant.

When she arrived at the apartment, Aurelia took off her high heels and found that they were stained with dust. She quickly took out a cleaning cloth and wiped them clean.

When she stood up again, she saw that Leslie had been watching her emotionlessly. “I’m not hungry yet. You should go ahead and eat first. I’ll be in the study,” he said.

“But it won’t taste good when it’s cold.”

Leslie remained silent and just placed the food on the table before heading to the study.

What was going on? Why was he always so unpredictable?

Aurelia felt a little confused, but she didn’t dwell on it.

After all, this was Leslie's home. He could do as he pleased, and she had no right to interfere..

She went to the kitchen to grab some plates and cutlery, only to find something new in the corner.

Was that an electric fan?

Did Leslie buy it?

Why?

Aurelia's mind was filled with questions, and she suddenly remembered something. She had, casually mentioned in the morning that the kitchen got too hot while she was cooking.

So, did Leslie buy a fan because of that?

Aurelia stood there in astonishment but quickly regained her composure.

She wasn't the only one who used the kitchen. Maybe Leslie had bought it because it got too hot while he was washing the dishes.

She wasn't self-centered enough to think that Leslie had bought the fan especially for her. However, she still smiled with satisfaction at the thought of being able to use the fan in the future.

Walking back to the dining table, Aurelia first divided the food and plated them.

Leslie was a very particular person and probably wouldn't want to eat leftovers.

After preparing the food, Aurelia finally sat down to eat, multitasking between eating and working on the proposal. She didn't want to waste any more time.

Zachary's partiality toward Kimberly made her realize that she had to work even harder to win this competition.

After finishing her meal, she got up and went to the kitchen to wash the dishes.

Leslie had bought the meal that day, so it was only right for her to do the dishes.

She couldn't just take advantage of the situation and do nothing.

Returning to the dining table, she wiped her hands and continued working.

As time passed, Aurelia yawned a few times. She was so tired that her eyes started to hurt as she stared at the computer screen.

Rubbing her eyes, she rested her head on the table, planning to take a ten-minute break to alleviate the fatigue.

However, she ended up falling asleep unintentionally.

## Chapter 59

In the study, Leslie pinched the corners of his eyes.

He closed the latest research and development report from the Synder Corporation. It was a complete mess.

Despite the outward brilliance of the Synder Corporation, it was actually rotten on the inside. There was no hurry. The game had just begun.

Leslie set aside the report, picked up the glass of water, and brought it to his lips, only to realize that there was no more water in it.

He got up and walked out of the study. He saw that the lights in the dining room were still on. Aurelia was sleeping on the table, surrounded by documents.

Leslie lightened his footsteps. He didn't want to wake her up.

However, he unintentionally saw the computer screen, and two words caught his eye—One Technology.

Aurelia was actually staying up late to work on a proposal for his company.

This piqued Leslie's curiosity.

Did Aurelia, who had said so many impressive things when they had met at the tech expo, really mean what she had said?

With that in mind, he glanced at the project proposal on Aurelia's computer.

Since it would be delivered to him in a couple of days anyway, it didn't matter if he looked at it now.

He scrolled through the document, and his eyes lit up.

Finally, there was someone who actually understood what he wanted,

Acting on impulse, Leslie looked at Aurelia.

Strands of hair were scattered around her face, swaying with her breath.

Her face, imprinted with marks from the table, appeared less stern and seemed more intriguing than usual.

He unconsciously reached out to brush her hair aside.

Just as his hand was about to touch her, a notification sounded on the computer, jolting him back to reality.

He withdrew his hand abruptly.

He rubbed his forehead. He was probably too tired. Otherwise, he wouldn't have made such an inappropriate move.

As he turned away, Leslie noticed a name in the notifications—Seth, Aurelia's ex-boyfriend.

"Aurelia, are you still busy? Why aren't you replying to my messages?"

Aurelia, you must bring your husband here tomorrow and show Seth!"

Leslie's brows furrowed. The screen's glow accentuated his icy expression.

After a few seconds, he ignored it, poured a glass of water, and returned to the study.

Not receiving any replies, Millie continued to send more messages.

Hearing the noise, Aurelia woke up abruptly. She took a few seconds to clear her head and then replied to Millie while stretching lazily.

“Why haven’t you slept yet?”

“Aurelia, I’ve been watching the community chat. They’re starting to place bets, saying that you definitely won’t dare to bring your husband tomorrow and that you’ll embarrass yourself.

“Ignore them. They’re just bored.”

“Aurelia! I’m genuinely worried for you! What if it causes trouble with the boss and you end up in a tight spot? Won’t you be giving Kimberly an advantage then?”

Aurelia rested her head on her hands, looking troubled. She was torn between her career advancement and Leslie’s job.

With conflicting thoughts, her mind became more chaotic.

“Let’s talk about it later.”

“Aurelia, your husband can’t even protect you. Why do you bother to keep such a useless man around?”

“Millie!”

Aurelia was surprised at Millie’s comments.

“It’s the truth. Why are all of Kimberly’s pursuers handsome and wealthy? Why do we always end up with these flawed choices? Are you really willing to let her step all over you?”

“Millie, my husband is not useless. Are you really suggesting that I bring him along tomorrow to help me, or do you just want to enjoy the gossip and undermine Kimberly?”



“Aurelia, I don’t mean anything else. I just can’t stand her arrogant attitude.”

“It’s late. You should get some rest.

Aurelia didn’t want to continue the conversation. She thought that Millie was just blabbering out of anxiety.

After turning off her computer, she looked at the study and sighed. Then, she turned to pick up the untouched meal before putting it in the refrigerator.

She would just eat that for lunch tomorrow. It would be a waste to throw it away.

After tidying up, she took a shower and went to bed, falling asleep quickly.

The next morning, it was already 8:00 am when she opened her eyes.

It almost caused her to fall out of bed in shock.

She quickly washed up, and then she rushed to the door.

ever.

## Chapter 60

As Aurelia looked at him, a thought crossed her mind.

Leslie had a car, and getting him to send her to work would be faster than using the subway. Not only would she not be late, but she could also use Leslie to shut Seth and the other people up.

Was this a stroke of luck from the heavens?

Standing in the foyer, Aurelia hesitated but eventually voiced her request.

“Mr. Synder, could you drop me off at the office? I can’t afford to be late again this month.” Leslie, who was currently adjusting his tie, paused in his actions.

His expression darkened.

So, had Aurelia really decided to use him to provoke her ex-boyfriend?

He looked at her and happened to see the pair of high heels next to her feet.

“Fine,” he said indifferently.

He was curious to see how this drama would unfold.

“Thank you,” Aurelia thanked him and quickly put on her shoes.

Leslie drove fast, and they were almost at her workplace in what felt like the blink of an eye.

However, Aurelia couldn’t shake off the increasing nervousness as they got closer to the company.

Inadvertently, she clutched her bag tightly.

Leslie was kindly giving her a ride to work, but there she was, taking advantage of him. What was the difference between her behavior and Seth’s?

Unable to bear the guilt, Aurelia exclaimed, "Please pull over!"

She didn't need to drag Leslie into her mess just to spite Seth. He was a piece of shit, and he didn't deserve anything!

Leslie frowned and parked the car at the side of the road.

"What's wrong? We're almost at your office."

Wasn't this what Aurelia had wanted?

"I'd like to buy you breakfast. There's a bakery nearby, and the croissants there are delicious. I'll be back real quick."

Aurelia hurriedly left the car, bought two croissants and two cups of coffee, and returned to the car.

"Mr. Synder, since we're almost at the office, you don't need to drop me off there. I can manage it from here. I'll leave your breakfast in the passenger seat, so make sure to take it later."

Leslie glanced at the food, turned off the ignition, and leaned lazily against the car door.

The sunlight streaming in through the windows were reflected in his eyes, making them look like a pool of cold spring water.

"Aurelia, do you think I would believe that? Explain clearly."

Aurelia hesitated, sighed, and then got into the car.

“Actually... my ex-boyfriend is waiting for me up ahead. He doesn't believe that I could get married so quickly, and he insists on getting back together with me. He's been bothering me for days.

“Since I woke up late today, I originally thought that you could drop me off, and I'd just go along with it and make him give up. But I know that there are a lot of people waiting to watch the drama that'll unfold, and you won't like that.

“Mr. Synder, I'm really sorry. I almost got you involved in this mess.”

Hearing this, the coldness in Leslie's eyes softened slightly, replaced by a more scrutinizing and questioning gaze.

“You don't want to get back together with him?”

“No.”

“Not at all?” Leslie's voice deepened, carrying an intimidating tone.

“Not at all.” Aurelia shook her head.

“Fasten your seatbelt,” Leslie said calmly as he started the car.

Aurelia hesitated, “Are you really going to send me there?”

Leslie said lightly, “If not? Should I let my wife continue to get harassed by her ex-boyfriend?”

His wife?

Aurelia blushed, feeling a little embarrassed. But her rationality prompted her to reach out and gently hold Leslie's hand.

As soon as she touched his warm skin, she immediately withdrew her hand and shifted her body.

“There’s no need for that.”

“What did you say?”

Leslie’s voice was terrifyingly cold. Could it be that she enjoyed being pursued by her ex- boyfriend?