

In A Flash 61

Chapter 61

“Your appearance will definitely humiliate Seth in front of everyone, but he’s so concerned about his image that he’ll definitely take revenge on you!

“I heard that although One Technology is a new company, it’s difficult to get into. It probably wasn’t easy for you to get a job there. It’s not worth it to have Seth bothering you.

“Also, the people persuading me to make you come here today aren’t genuinely trying to help me. They just want to watch the show. Even if you did show up, they’ll find faults with you. There’s no need for you to compete with Seth.”

Aurelia looked earnestly at Leslie, her bright eyes shining.

Leslie’s hand on the steering wheel tightened slightly.

Although he didn’t say anything, his expression relaxed.

Thinking that Leslie was angry, and rightfully so, Aurelia tactfully got out of the car. As she stood outside the car, she waved and said, “Mr. Synder, drive safely. Goodbye.”

After saying that, she walked toward the company.

When Leslie came to his senses, Aurelia had already walked away, leaving only a slender silhouette of her back.

After contemplating for a moment, he stepped on the accelerator.

As soon as Aurelia entered the lobby of the building, the crowd gathered there immediately looked at her.

Usually, everyone would be in a rush at this hour, but they were very relaxed that day.

She sighed inwardly and headed straight for the elevator. Just then, she noticed Millie gesturing at her for her to leave..

For a moment, Aurelia didn't understand. Was Millie trying to tell her that she wasn't allowed to work if she didn't bring her husband?

At this moment, Aurelia heard Kimberly's voice from behind her.

"Aurelia, good morning. You're finally here. Seth has been waiting for you for a long time."

Aurelia groaned inwardly in frustration, not wanting to deal with them. She walked quickly toward the elevator.

Seth shouted, "Aurelia! Aurelia!"

Each word felt like a curse. If he continued shouting, the crowd would just grow larger.

Aurelia turned around angrily.

"Seth, have you had enough?"

Seth walked over slowly. He looked respectable in his designer suit, but Aurelia couldn't tell whether it was authentic.

However, such an appearance gave the illusion of a successful career. Two young ladies nearby couldn't take their eyes off him.

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“Aurelia, I knew you were lying to me. The marriage certificate is fake, right? Your

temperament hasn't changed at all. When you marry me, don't embarrass me like that in the future. Don't let so many people laugh at us.”

There was a smile on Seth's face, and his tone was indulgent. But the look he gave Aurelia was full of reprimand.

Did he think that he was being very charming, acting like that?

After seeing through Seth's selfishness and hypocrisy, Aurelia found his tactics ridiculous.

She took a step back and kept her distance from him, momentarily causing Seth's smile to falter.

“Seth, why would I bother lying to someone like you?”

Seth gritted his teeth. “You...”

“Seth, let me say it again. I'm married. I hope you'll show some self-respect! It's really shameful of you to cling to an ex-girlfriend like this! Also, don't use me to maintain your public image anymore!”

Aurelia knew that Seth was sensitive about his reputation and couldn't bear public humiliation.

As expected, Seth was livid, and his cheeks swelled with anger.

However, instead of walking away, he approached Aurelia step by step.

He gritted his teeth and said, “Aurelia, you had my colleagues spread rumors about me,

making me unable to get promoted. Don't expect me to let you have it easy!"

Aurelia sneered, "Spread rumors? Isn't what I said the truth? Also, whether you get promoted

or not is a matter of your capability. What does it have to do with me?"

Upon hearing this, Seth's eyes flash in anger, and his hands clenched into fists.

But he held back and even looked at the others with a smile..

"Everyone, sorry for this mess. Aurelia's been mentally unstable because I couldn't afford to treat my mother-in-law's illness. She often talks nonsense. I hope you can understand."

As he spoke, he didn't forget to raise his eyebrows provocatively at Aurelia.

Aurelia felt an immediate sense of alarm. He was trying to drag her down with him!

"Seth! I'm perfectly normal! And we're not married, so you have no right to call my mom your mother-in-law!"

"Look, she's at it again," Seth said and sighed affectionately.

His expression was filled with emotion as he said, "Who here doesn't know that we've been in love with each other for three years and are about to get married? Who here isn't aware that you've been holding on to the things I gave you for three years, refusing to even change them?"

The crowd scrutinized Aurelia, casting accusatory glances her way.

“Aurelia, you’re being too ungrateful. Seth has tried to reconcile with you multiple times, yet you insist on spouting nonsense.”

“I’m concerned about her mental state. Why is her company still willing to let her work? Aren’t they afraid of serious issues arising?”

“Enough’s enough, Aurelia. Just reconcile with Seth. We’re all tired of your constant drama. We’re only looking out for your well-being. Where else can you find such a good husband like Seth? Instead of making such a fuss, why not just accept him? Apart from him, who else would want you?”

Aurelia took a deep breath and raised her voice, “Since you all think Seth is so great, why don’t you just hurry up and grab him if you are unmarried? Even for those who are married, you can introduce him to your friends and family!”

The crowd fell silent.

In truth, everyone could tell that Seth’s words were only half-truths. They were feigning ignorance just to witness Aurelia’s humiliation.

Undeterred, Aurelia continued, “Let me clarify once again. I am married! My husband and I are happy, and we’re not getting divorced!”

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Chapter 62

Seth’s face was tense. He didn’t expect Aurelia’s attitude to be so resolute.

Kimberly stepped forward and fueled the fire. “Alright, stop arguing. Aurelia, since you’re married, where’s your husband? You should let Seth meet him.”

Aurelia retorted, "He has already left. He's my husband, not Seth's. Why should I make him come over just because Seth wants to see him? Is Seth some kind of big shot?"

Seth relaxed and smiled after hearing this.

"Aurelia, stop lying. If you really have a husband and he didn't even dare to meet me when he was already here, he's worthless!!

Kimberly smiled slyly and pretended to comfort Aurelia, "Aurelia, don't lose your temper. Seth genuinely loves you. Moving forward, we'll all be rooting for you guys."

Seth and his mother didn't seem like good people. If Aurelia were to marry Seth, her future will definitely be far from joyful.

Kimberly wanted to laugh just thinking about it. She hadn't done anything wrong. She just couldn't bear to see such a devoted man end up alone.

She joined Seth in persuading Aurelia, and the others began to think that Aurelia was lying-

Aurelia frowned. It was the first time she had encountered such a difficult conversation. And she had to deal with so many people too!

Just when she was about to lose her temper, a serious voice came from the side, "Who's Seth?"

The place fell silent, and everyone turned to look at the person who had spoken.

It was a police officer!

Even Seth was surprised.

Aurelia pointed to Seth and said, "That's him."

No matter what Seth had done, it was better to just have him taken away now. He was a pain in the neck!

Seth glanced at Aurelia, then looked at the police officer with a smile on his face.

“Hello, I’m Seth. How can I help you?”

“Mr. Synder reported that you’ve been harassing his wife for an extended period. We need to take you in for questioning. Additionally...”

“Mr. Synder? That’s impossible! Aurelia must have made it up! She’s just trying to frame me!”

When he realized that the situation was getting serious, Seth immediately started shifting the blame.

Just a moment ago, he was passionately expressing his love for Aurelia. But now, as soon as he heard that he was about to be taken away, he completely dropped his facade.

Even Kimberly didn’t know how to speak for him. She retreated into the crowd to avoid getting involved.

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“What do you mean? We have verified their marriage registration records in our system. It’s clear that you’re unwilling to let go of her and have been harassing her. Stop talking and come with us.”

“No, it’s impossible,” Seth loudly protested.

“By the way, our system shows that there’s another case related to you. Did you accept branded clothing, pants, and shoes from someone but gave them a fake watch in return? The other party has already filed a report. You need to return the money promptly, or you’ll be charged with fraud due to the substantial amount involved.”

Seth was dumbfounded.

The onlookers were equally stunned, eyeing Seth's flashy designer outfit with disdain.

Aurelia had to think of sad things to refrain from laughing. She didn't know about this, but Seth showing up here dressed in someone else's designer clothing was completely embarrassing.

Under the gaze of everyone, Seth's face turned paler. He turned around and ran toward the exit. However, he didn't see the glass doors and ran into them.

The police officer rushed up and detained him. "Why are you running? Are you feeling guilty?" Seth kept his head down and remained silent as he was taken away by the police officer.

Aurelia was finally free from Seth. Millie walked over and patted her on the shoulder.

"Aurelia, your solution to this whole thing is quite impressive. No one would dare to question the words of a police officer."

"But I didn't call the police."

"Could it have been your husband?"

Aurelia was about to nod when her phone vibrated. It was a message from Leslie.

"I'm leaving."

Leaving?

She immediately raised her head and looked outside the building. She saw Leslie leaning against the front of his car, flicking off cigarette ashes with his fingertips, giving off an air of nobility.

He waved to her through the glass doors. Her heart skipped a beat, and she nodded back at him.

“Aurelia, what are you looking at?” Millie asked.

Aurelia was about to answer, but she suddenly remembered Millie’s knack for gossip and decided against it.

“Nothing, I was just...”

Just as she was about to say something, the people nearby started talking excitedly.

“Look outside! He’s so handsome! Who is he?”

At that moment, Kimberly proudly raised her hand and waved.

The others excitedly asked, “Kimberly, do you know him?”

Kimberly smiled. “He’s just a suitor.”

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A suitor?

Aurelia looked at Kimberly, confused. When did her husband become Kimberly’s suitor?

Coincidentally, just after Kimberly waved her hand, Leslie threw away his cigarette and left in his car.

Kimberly nonchalantly put her hand down. There was a wave of envy from the people around her.

“Kimberly, who is he? I mean, compared to your previous suitors, he’s more handsome than any of them. He looks even better than any celebrity I’ve ever laid eyes on! You’re incredible! So, did you say yes to him?”

Those words completely satisfied Kimberly’s vanity.

Despite the wealth of some of her previous suitors, they had all been twisted and unattractive. They couldn’t match up to Kimberly’s beauty. The more she thought about it, the more irritated she became.

But this man was a complete heartthrob.

Tall, handsome, and flawless. Even his side profile was impeccable.

However, she didn’t know him at all.

She simply didn’t want everyone’s attention to be on Aurelia.

But, she was the most beautiful person here. Who else could this man be waving to, if not her? Kimberly played it off casually. “Okay, okay, stop asking. It’s a secret.”

She didn’t reveal anything and left the others to speculate.

Some people couldn't stand it. "What's the secret? This guy only drives a Volkswagen. No matter how handsome he is, how can he compare to the CEO of One Technology? Kimberly wouldn't be the least bit interested in him!"

"Absolutely. Besides, people working in the tech industry tend to lose their hair young. Just picturing Kimberly standing next to a bald guy is downright hilarious."

Kimberly's face darkened. She retorted, "The CEO of One Technology isn't bald. I've seen pictures of him online."

"He might not be bald now, but he's bound to go bald in the future. Anyway, even if he does, he can always wear a wig. Kimberly, just watch out. If the two of you were to eat in public and his wig fell into the food, that would be pretty awkward."

"Ha!"

Aurelia and Millie couldn't help but laugh when they imagined that scene.

Kimberly glared at them and proudly stated, "You've all got it wrong. My relationship with the CEO of One Technology is strictly professional. As for the good-looking guy from earlier, he's actually..."

At that crucial moment, she hesitated and didn't finish her sentence.

"What's he to you? Kimberly, could he actually be the son of some CEO who has been sent out to experience regular life?"

"That's a good guess," Kimberly said, pursing her lips, but she didn't clarify further.

A few people immediately looked dreamy-eyed.

"Rich people sure know how to have fun. Kimberly, you've hit the jackpot this time."

“Oh, not really. Let’s not talk about this anymore. Let’s get back to work.”

Kimberly changed the subject when she noticed that everyone was admiring her like usual.

As she walked past Aurelia and Millie, she couldn’t help but make a sarcastic remark.

“Aurelia, you should be more discerning when choosing men. Oh, sorry, my mistake. You’re married now. There are no more chances for you.’

“Kimberly!”

Millie approached her in anger but almost tripped over her heels. Fortunately, Aurelia was there to steady her.

It was then that everyone noticed the brand new pair of Louboutin heels on Millie’s feet. Kimberly covered her mouth and chuckled, “Millie, you should stop wearing knockoffs. They can make your feet smell bad.”

Feeling embarrassed and indignant, Millie said, “These are real! I just bought them!”

Kimberly pretended to apologize, “Sorry, it seems that they are real. Maybe it’s because you’re the one wearing them that they seem fake.”

The onlookers sneered,

“You...” Millie’s face turned red.

Aurelia immediately stood up for Millie and retorted, “Millie is free to spend her money on anything she likes. There’s nothing wrong with that.”

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Chapter 64

Kimberly waved her hand and said, “Aurelia, please don’t misunderstand. We didn’t mean to pressure you. We were just concerned that Millie might have been deceived. Let’s head upstairs

now.

“Oh, it seems like the elevator can’t fit all of us. You can take the next one.”

With that, Kimberly and her group entered the elevator and closed the doors. Millie stomped her foot and gritted her teeth, “One day, I’ll surpass her!”

Hearing this, Aurelia frowned and looked at Millie’s swollen feet.

Millie usually wore sneakers, so her feet hadn’t been exposed to the sun in a long time and were very pale. However, her feet were quite wide, making them unsuitable for wearing such stiff high heels. With the five-inch pointed heels practically forcing her to walk on tiptoes, her pale flesh became even more prominent.

Her feet were now swollen, and it didn’t look good at all. As she was wearing a floral skirt, it also looked quite mismatched.

Aurelia sighed softly and took out some adhesive bandages and iodine swabs from her bag, handing them to Millie.

“Your feet are all chafed. You should take care of them immediately.”

“Ouch...” Millie tiptoed, leaning on Aurelia’s shoulder. “Why are these heels so difficult to walk in? It felt like I was stepping on nails when I was in the subway.”

“Millie, the people who usually wear this brand of shoes don’t need to walk or squeeze into subways. If something doesn’t suit you, there’s no need to force it,” Aurelia advised.

“Why not? I’m probably just not used to it. If Kimberly can walk in them, I can too. I’ll just put on some band-aids, and I’ll be fine.”

“Millie...”

“Okay, okay, I get it. We’ll be late if we don’t hurry. Let’s go.”

“Alright.”

Aurelia knew that Millie wouldn’t listen, so it was useless to persuade her.

When they arrived upstairs, Aurelia had just taken a seat and hadn’t even had time to eat her breakfast when she saw Kimberly coming out of Zachary’s office. Soon after, Zachary followed her out angrily and gave Aurelia a displeased glare.

“Aurelia, come into my office.”

“Alright.”

As soon as Aurelia walked into Zachary’s office, she was taken aback by his sudden accusations. “Aurelia! Do you even take the company seriously? I’ve already warned you not to bring personal matters into the office!

“With your continuous arrogance and disregard for others, how do you plan to compete for

the position of deputy director? Your behavior will become a subject of ridicule!

“Look at Kimberly. She’s highly educated and incredibly capable. She’s never done anything like what you’ve done.

“I think you’re unsuitable for the position of deputy director. It’s better if you stepped down. Alright, that’s all. You may leave now.”

Zachary didn’t even give Aurelia a chance to explain.

Kimberly must have said something to him.

“Why are you still here? Do I need to escort you out?” Zachary said impatiently.

“If that’s the reason, I won’t accept it.”

“What did you say?” Zachary looked at Aurelia in surprise.

“It’s not my fault that my ex-boyfriend came here. In fact, if he hadn’t been influenced by Kimberly’s words, he wouldn’t even have appeared here. If I have to withdraw from the deputy director elections because of this, then Kimberly, who had been inciting public opinion throughout the building, should also have to withdraw.”

“You... Do you have any evidence?” Zachary asked angrily.

“I do.”

Kimberly probably didn’t expect Aurelia to have already taken screenshots of the

conversations in the group chat. The group had already been disbanded, so she wasn't worried.

Aurelia took her phone out and sent all the screenshots of the messages from the group chat to Zachary.

"Mr. Zeller, is this evidence enough?"

Zachary fell silent.

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Zachary looked at the contents of the messages. He frowned, unsure of what to say.

"Mr. Zeller, if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave now," Aurelia said, not wanting to get into an argument with him.

"Wait a minute," Zachary called out coldly. "How's the progress on the proposal?"

"It's almost done," Aurelia replied truthfully. She didn't want to give Zachary any more leverage over her.

For quite some time now, Zachary had shown that he obviously favored Kimberly more.

When Kimberly struggled with major deals, he would personally give her guidance and support. Their professional relationship was intertwined with personal connections, and he naturally hoped that she would become the deputy director.

In the corporate world, while competency and capability was emphasized on the surface, personal connections played a more significant role.

After finding no more room for criticism, Zachary waved his hand at her and said, "Get back to work."

Aurelia nodded politely and said, "Alright."

After Aurelia exited the office, Kimberly looked toward Zachary's office but didn't see him coming out to announce Aurelia's withdrawal from the elections. She clenched her teeth and gave Aurelia a resentful glance.

Aurelia ignored Kimberly and returned to her desk to continue working on her proposal.

Not long after, Millie turned around and looked at Aurelia with a displeased expression.

"What is it now?" Aurelia stared at the computer and asked casually.

"I'm so angry! Now everyone in the group chat is sharing pictures of Kimberly's suitor, praising him for being handsome and rich, a perfect Prince Charming. They're even saying that Kimberly will be marrying into a rich family."

Millie frowned, her expression filled with anger.

Aurelia glanced at Millie's phone. The handsome man in the photos was none other than Leslie.

If Kimberly hadn't hidden in the trunk of Leslie's car, Aurelia was certain that they wouldn't even have had the chance to know each other.

She shrugged nonchalantly and said nothing.

It wasn't that she didn't want to explain, but Kimberly enjoyed causing trouble for her. If she continued to intervene, Kimberly would likely target her even more. With the competition for the deputy director position approaching, it was better to keep a low profile.

Millie pointed at her phone and said, “Look at how arrogant Kimberly is! Even when a good looking and rich guy is chasing after her, she’s still so full of herself! I wonder who she’s trying to impress!”

Aurelia glanced at the phone screen. It was filled with Kimberly’s bragging.

“He’s just a suitor. I’m still considering it. He’s not as great as everyone thinks.”

“Kimberly, when will you introduce him to us? Let us meet him. We’ll give you some advice.” “No, we aren’t at that stage yet.”

“When someone is pursuing you, shouldn’t they get our approval? Don’t worry, we won’t bite.

Everyone in the group was chattering about wanting to meet Leslie, pressuring Kimberly until she went silent.

Kimberly was probably in a difficult situation. After all, she didn’t actually know Leslie. And even if she did know him, Leslie wouldn’t agree to show off like that.

So, where could she find Leslie to introduce him to everyone?

She had probably just wanted to show off her suitors like before, but she hadn’t expected Leslie’s stunning looks to create such a sensation that everyone insisted on seeing him. It served her right. She deserved to experience what it was like to be pressured by others. After a while, Kimberly’s messages appeared.

“I just asked him. He said he’s going on a business trip abroad soon.”

”

“He’s just going on a business trip, not immigrating. Just arrange a time to meet him so that you won’t miss the opportunity.”

“Yeah, we’re really concerned that you might end up like someone else, being mistreated by the in-laws and not even getting to enjoy a decent meal.”

Aurelia was momentarily stunned. Unsurprisingly, the comments were most likely about her. Even after seeing Seth’s true nature, these people were still finding ways to trouble her. Fortunately, Leslie hadn’t entered. Otherwise, they might have criticized even his Volkswagen as a piece of junk.

Among the many comments, Aurelia noticed one particularly strange message.

“This guy looks a little like the big shot who met privately with our boss last time. I heard he’s very powerful, but unfortunately, I only saw his side profile back then. But it really looks like him.”

Big shot? It probably wasn’t Leslie.

Since everyone was focused on the gossip between Kimberly and Leslie, this comment quickly sank into obscurity. Aurelia didn’t pay much attention to it either.

Kimberly wasn’t stupid. How could she casually promise something without thinking it through?

She sent an apologetic emoji and replied, “He’s in a meeting right now. After all, there are hundreds of people counting on him. I’ll let everyone know once he’s free.”

“Hundreds of people? Isn’t he really wealthy then?”

Chapter 66

A series of envious emojis began flooding the chat.

“Well, that’s it for now. Let’s get back to work.”

Her strategy was clever. She could make everyone envy her and, at the same ti

them from prying further. After all, she had a powerful backer supporting her.

time, discourage

In this chat group, various topics came and went quickly. What people discussed eagerly in the morning might be forgotten by the afternoon. Kimberly was waiting for everyone to move on and forget about this topic.

However, Millie was suspicious and said, "It's strange. First, it was the CEO of One Technology, and now it's a handsome and wealthy man.

"If it were in the past, Kimberly would want everyone to pry into her affairs. Why is she now trying to avoid it? There must be something fishy, and I have to find out."

Aurelia looked at Millie. "Millie, as a friend, I have to remind you that you're paying too much attention to others. With this time and energy, you could suggest a few more proposals yourself."

"Aren't you curious? What if I can find some dirt on Kimberly?"

"I'm not curious. Even if you find something, what can you do with it?"

"Well... seeing her in trouble would make me happy anyway."

Aurelia did not respond and continued to focus on her computer. At that moment, a shadow cast over her desk. Kimberly, who had claimed she was heading to work earlier, stood beside her.

"Aurelia, is the proposal not finished yet?"

Aurelia closed her laptop and nodded. "Mm."

"Why did you close your laptop? I'm not checking out your screen. I finished my work a while ago," Kimberly said with a smirk. "I have to thank the CEO of One Technology for his guidance; otherwise, I couldn't have done it so quickly."

Aurelia pursed her lips, looking at Kimberly, not quite understanding what she was trying to convey. Their colleagues in the surrounding area had already started gossiping.

"Kimberly, what did the CEO of One Technology say?"

"You'll find out soon," Kimberly replied with a confident smirk.

Aurelia hesitated for a moment. Kimberly rarely discussed proposals in public, so what was she up to today?

The next moment, Kimberly exclaimed, "Aurelia, why do you have such heavy dark circles under your eyes? How many nights have you stayed up? You're working way too hard."

Before Aurelia could respond, their colleagues chimed in.

"Aurelia doesn't have someone guiding her, so she has to work hard."

"Aurelia, aren't you married? You have a husband to support you. Why are you working so hard?" Kimberly asked.

"Kimberly, have you forgotten how Aurelia's in-laws treat her? Don't bring it up; it's quite sad."

Kimberly immediately covered her mouth and apologized, "Sorry, Aurelia. I didn't mean to bring up something painful."

Aurelia furrowed her brows, realizing that Kimberly had set a trap.

“It’s okay. My in-laws treat me well.”

“Alright, alright, whatever you say. I can’t imagine finding a bad set of in-laws in my lifetime,

Kimberly commented.

“Usually, handsome and wealthy men have a high level of education. The in-laws are likely to be well-mannered as well. Kimberly, you’re lucky,” another jealous colleague said. Kimberly smiled but didn’t respond. Aurelia couldn’t be bothered to play along with her and pushed her away from leaning on the table.

“Kimberly, are you done talking? If you have, I need to get back to work.”

Kimberly gave Aurelia a disdainful look and decided to return to her workstation.

After all, now everyone knew she had a handsome and wealthy admirer, while Aurelia could only eat humble meals with her in-laws. It couldn’t be more satisfying for her.

On the other side, his mother rang him as Leslie drove to the office. He reached out and tapped the car screen.

“What’s up?”

“Of course, I’m calling to ask how you’re getting along with Aurelia.”

“Average.” Leslie then added, “But I think she’s not doing well at the company.”

“What do you mean? Is someone picking on her?” Linda raised her voice.

“Probably just that she’s not enjoying her time there,” Leslie said nonchalantly.

“Heh, what do they know?” Linda retorted, feeling displeased.

But she soon sensed something odd and exclaimed, “Leslie, are you intentionally sharing this with me? Since when were you interested in gossip?”

“I’m not.”

“Since you’ve mentioned it, as a mother, how could I not empathize? Just wait!”

Chapter 67

At noon, because Millie had a sore foot, Aurelia accompanied her to the office and ordered takeout for lunch.

After lunch, as usual, she made a video call to Sophia.

“Ms. Simmons, your mother is doing well, so you can relax. The doctor also mentioned that she’s currently in stable condition and should improve after the surgery.”

“Okay, Ms. Elliot, please take good care of her. I’ve been really busy with work lately,” Aurelia explained.

“That’s completely understandable. You’re working hard to support your mother. I admire your devotion.”

“Thank you.” Aurelia glanced at Sophia’s boxed meal, which was still unfinished, and urged, “Ms. Elliot, please go ahead and eat. I’ll hang up for now. If there’s anything, do let me know.” “Sure.”

After ending the video call, Millie approached Aurelia.

“Your mom is having surgery?”

“Yes, the day after tomorrow,” Aurelia replied worriedly.

Millie patted her shoulder. “Aurelia, don’t fret. Your mother has already conquered a life-threatening situation. She’ll recover just fine after the surgery.”

Aurelia nodded. That’s all she could hope for.

Seeing the dark circles under Aurelia’s eyes, Millie urged, “You should get some rest. You still have work in the afternoon.”

Aurelia nodded and picked up a cushion from her chair, lying her head on the desk. She was about to close her eyes when someone knocked on the office door.

“Aurelia, someone is looking for you. She said she’s your mother-in-law. Should I let her in?”

“Mother-in-law?”

Could it be Rosa again?

This was really bad luck.

Aurelia shook her head. “I don’t want to see her.”

Kimberly immediately turned to her and spoke with a hint of condescension, “Aurelia, your husband called the police and got someone’s son arrested. Maybe she’s here to apologize?”

“It’s a good idea to meet her so she doesn’t start crying and making a scene. It wouldn’t look good at all.”

While saying this, Kimberly was actually smiling. She wished for Rosa to cry and cause a scene, making everyone tired of Aurelia. Especially since Aurelia was competing with her for the position of vice director.

As long as Rosa caused a scene, Zachary could remove Aurelia from the competition.

Aurelia ignored Kimberly’s remarks. As she was about to refuse, she heard a familiar voice from outside.

“Aurelia, don’t you want to see me?”

Upon hearing the voice, Aurelia froze in her place. Wasn’t this Linda?

The next moment, Linda appeared at the office door. Although she was over fifty, she had taken good care of herself. Describing her as fair-skinned and elegant would not be an exaggeration.

She wore a silk embroidered dress that draped gracefully over her slender figure. With a slight curve of her red lips, she exuded an air of elegance and refinement.

Except for the faint laugh lines at the corners of her eyes, there was hardly a trace of the passage of time on her.

“Mom?”

“Mom?!” Kimberly repeated in shock.

She looked at the middle-aged woman Absolutely impossible!

in front of her in disbelief. It couldn't be true!

Aurelia's mother-in-law should be the kind of rural elderly woman with sharp features, slanted eyes, wearing shabby clothes, and using foul language, right? How did she turn into such an elegant lady?

Compared to the mass-produced designer labels, the mid-aged woman's orchid dress was obviously hand-embroidered, with exquisite craftsmanship and a subtle sheen running through it.

An outfit in th

couldn't be affordable for an average civilian, not to mention she even had a matching purse; the price was even harder to estimate.

Go

hapter 68

uld it be that Aurelia's in-laws have some influence?

'en if they weren't from a wealthy family, they maintained themselves so well at this age. It ould definitely place them in the upper middle class.

an instant, jealousy flickered in Kimberly's eyes. Why should Aurelia, after breaking up with th, be able to marry into a good family?

e narrowed her eyes and greeted Linda with a smile.

un...

Don't, don't call me that," Linda interrupted Kimberly coldly, beating her to the punch. "I n't handle it. How can I compete with someone so much older than me? In your thirties, ght? Are you married? Do you have a boyfriend?"

Auntie! I'm only 26! People who see me think I'm in my early twenties," Kimberly exploded

on hearing someone say she was in her thirties.

Who are these people? Are they nearsighted? I'm sorry, I'm quite straightforward; many

ung people praise me for being candid. You must feel the same way, right?" Linda retorted. arelia and a few colleagues suppressed their laughter. This was probably what beating meone at their own game looked like.

ormally, Kimberly took advantage of her overseas education and claimed that foreigners ere straightforward. Hence, she could be straightforward too. She didn't spare others her ircasm and taunts.

ow, she was being retorted in the same manner by an elder; she was probably infuriated.

imberly stood there dumbfounded, her face flushed red. It seemed like she had been slapped vice.

inda rolled her eyes, bypassed Kimberly, and walked up to Aurelia. She affectionately held. urelia's hand.

Mom, why are you here?" Aurelia asked curiously.

I was just shopping nearby and realized that it's currently your lunch break, so I came to see ou. I also brought some delicious treats for you."

fter speaking, Linda placed a beautifully packaged box on the table.

illie craned her neck to take a look and exclaimed, "It's a gift box from EmeraldLeaf Bistro!"

Linda glanced at her and smiled, "You really know your stuff. I happened to pass by and ordered two boxes."

Willie smiled and said, "Ms. Linda, it's at least an hour away from here to EmeraldLeaf Bistro. You must have bought it specifically for Aurelia, didn't you?"

Oh, you understood my intention. I noticed Aurelia has been working hard these days, so I

ordered them specifically."

Mom, it's so far. You've gone through so much trouble," Aurelia felt a little guilty.

"It's not trouble at all as long as you like it. Look at you. You've lost weight. Sit down and have some."

Linda opened the gift box and invited the people nearby, "Would you like to try some too?"

The gift box from EmeraldLeaf Bistro contained famous pastries in Seacester, and they were expensive, costing at least 500 dollars for such a small box.

Even if people in the office were craving them, they would usually split the cost. No one was willing to spend so much money on snacks all at once.

When they heard someone was treating the office, everyone came over to take some pastries, except for Kimberly, who stood there pretending to be proud.

She watched Aurelia and Linda chatting and laughing like friends, with no trace of abuse whatsoever.

She had mocked Aurelia for being mistreated by her in-laws in the morning, but now she was being proven wrong right in front of their colleagues.

How would others view her now?

Thinking about it, Kimberly formulated a plan in her mind, her lips curved with cunning calculation.

“Auntie, you are really thoughtful. Aurelia must be very happy to have a mother-in-law like you. Unlike her ex-boyfriend’s mother, who came to our company causing a scene, saying that Aurelia broke up with her son for just a hundred thousand.”

Suddenly, the entire office fell silent.

Kimberly pretended to be surprised, covering her mouth. “Aurelia, you didn’t tell your mother. -in-law, did you? She’s been so good to you. How could you hide something like this from her?”

Aurelia couldn’t even swallow or speak, caught off guard.

“Aurelia!” Linda’s face darkened. Her brows furrowed deeply as she swiftly walked to Aurelia and raised her hand.

“Auntie, Aurelia definitely didn’t do it on purpose! Please don’t...” Kimberly wore a gloating expression.

But before she could finish her sentence, she was stunned by Linda’s next move.

Chapter 69

“Aurelia! You silly child! Why didn’t you tell me such an important thing?”

Linda didn't hit Aurelia. Instead, she embraced her tightly and whispered, "How was that for acting?"

At a loss, Aurelia almost choked on the pastry in her mouth.

'Aurelia, you're not hurt, are you? If you feel uncomfortable, I will take you to the hospital for a comprehensive check-up. Don't keep it to yourself.'" Linda doted.

"Mom, I'm fine," Aurelia laughed.

Now, Kimberly couldn't sit still any longer.

"Auntie, did you misunderstand? Aurelia lied to you!"

"I already knew." Linda shrugged indifferently at Kimberly.

"I'm relieved that Aurelia stayed away from men from such families. She's so sensible to marry my son; it's our family's good fortune. I'm more concerned about her than anything else. Why would I blame her?"

She continued, "As for you, as Aurelia's colleague, you don't seem happy for her. Instead, you mentioned her ex-boyfriend in front of me, her mother-in-law. What are you trying to imply?"

"Oh, I see. Are you secretly in love with Aurelia's ex-boyfriend? Some people are a perfect match for each other."

Linda's counterattacks left Kimberly's eyes almost popping out of her head.

Panicking, Kimberly said, "Auntie, even if you knew about Aurelia's ex-boyfriend, did you know that she deliberately eats vegetarian dishes in the office to make people think yo

mistreat her?"

Aurelia immediately retorted, "I eat vegetarian dishes because I like them. When you're dieting, don't you eat vegetable salads? Does that mean you're being mistreated? Also, when did I ever say that my in-laws mistreated me?"

"Kimberly, how you speak can sow discord, but I trust you wouldn't do that. So, who told you this? Point them out, and my mom and I will confront them!"

Linda chimed in, "That's right, don't believe in rumors, and don't spread them. This kind of thing seriously affects the harmony of my family. Reporting it to the police wouldn't be too much. Miss, please quickly identify the source."

Left speechless, Kimberly's expression shifted.

She certainly didn't dare to accuse anyone unless she wanted to be drowned in a torrent of spit from others. Even those who usually adored her were now keeping their distance.

People usually acted this way. When it doesn't concern them, they distance themselves.

Kimberly could only change her tune and say, "So it was a misunderstanding. Misunderstandings happen, and we're all so happy it's resolved."

"Yeah. Let's all eat. We don't have much time for lunch break left," Aurelia intervened,

exchanging a knowing look with Linda. They were close friends, and their understanding was evident.

Linda glanced at Kimberly and approached her with a plate of pastries. "Have a piece. Your complexion doesn't look too good."

Kimberly's mood worsened, but she gritted her teeth and said, "No, thanks. I'm on a diet and am tired of their food anyway"

Linda maintained a polite smile and gave Kimberly a once-over before nodding thoughtful I see. You should definitely lose some weight. Your stomach bulge is starting to show in your dress.”

What happened next almost made Aurelia burst out laughing, Kimberly suddenly sucked in her stomach. The sight was genuinely amusing In truth, Kimberly wasn't overweight, at most, she could be considered curvy

Linda offered her the pastry to maintain appearances. But since Kimberly wanted to act superior, blame Linda for her sharp tongue

She shouldn't

Linda awkwardly said, “Since this young lady is on a diet, I'll call the coffee shop and ask them to make one less coffee to avoid wasting ”

Aurelia immediately interjected, “Mom, no need to spend money. We have a coffee machine in our office.”

Linda mused, “I heard you young people like that coffee called what was it?”

Millie swallowed her pastry and cautiously said, “Auntie, could it be the Beanless Brews coffee shop where people wait in line for over three hours? The owner is a handsome blond guy, and The coffee is just like him, authentic.”

Linda nodded at Millie, “Oh, you really know your stuff. Yes, that's the one. I have a friend who knows the owner of that place, and I had him make 20 cups of coffee for me. I'll treat you all to afternoon tea today. But this young lady on a diet has saved me some money.

Hearing that it was the famous Beamless Brews coffee shop with the owner personally making the coffee other colleagues immediately chimed in.

“Auntie, I'll have some. I'm not on a diet, and I've wanted to try it for a long time.”

“Thanks, Auntie.”

“Thanks, Aurelia, you’ve blessed us.”

“Hehe, you’re welcome,” Aurelia replied with a shallow smile. These same people had been waiting to see her fail in the morning, but now, they had changed their tune.

Indeed, the workplace was ever-changing.

Chapter 70

Seeing Kimberly’s sour expression, Aurelia felt a strange sense of satisfaction.

Just a couple of days ago, Kimberly had been complaining that even with money, she couldn’t buy coffee from the Beanless Brews coffee shop. Today, she had unintentionally thwarted herself, which deprived her of an opportunity to flaunt it on social media.

What was even more unexpected was that the person delivering the coffee was the owner of Beanless Brews coffee shop. With his blond hair and tall stature, he immediately caught everyone’s attention upon entering.

“Ms. M-” the handsome man started to call out in a friendly manner, but he quickly changed his tone after Linda shot him a meaningful glance. “Ms. Miller, your coffee has arrived.”

“Okay, just leave it there,” Linda replied casually.

Everyone eagerly approached to take their coffee and took photos with the handsome coffee shop owner to share on their social media.

On the sidelines, Kimberly considered getting up a few times, but Aurelia watched her with a knowing smile. She could only sit back down, her regret evident on her face. It was quite comical.

As lunchtime approached its end, Linda announced that she wouldn't disturb their work any longer and prepared to leave. Aurelia escorted her downstairs and immediately took out her phone.

“Mom, how much did you spend today? I'll transfer the money to you right away.”

“Why are you talking nonsense? I treated you to some food, and you want to give me money? Linda replied, displeased.

“But there were so many things, which must have been expensive.”

“I said it's okay, don't make a fuss. Do you still see me as your mother-in-law if you keep refusing?” Linda asked.

“Alright, then. I'll treat you to something delicious next time.”

“Sure, let's go to that restaurant we often visit. I've been craving their snacks these past few days.”

“Okay. But, Mom, thank you.”

Linda probably had no idea how much she had helped Aurelia today. She could finally break free from the center of attention.

Linda pursed her lips and smiled. “Why are you thanking me? Thank your husband. He's the one who asked me to come.”

Aurelia's mind blanked for a moment, and she hesitated. “Mr. Synder?”

Linda rolled her eyes. "You keep everything to yourself even when you're facing issues. I would have come earlier if I knew these people were treating you like this. I'd make them envy you to death."