

In A Flash 71

Chapter 71

“Come clean, is your husband one of those trust fund kids?” Millie asked.

“No, he’s not,” Aurelia replied.

“No way! Your mother-in-law’s status and appearance clearly scream rich and classy!” Millie emphasized, gesturing with her hands.

The colleagues around them nodded in agreement.

Aurelia had initially thought of giving a simple explanation. But suddenly, Kimberly’s sarcastic voice rang out.

“Aurelia, you’ve been hiding it well. No wonder you refused to get back together with Seth. If I had chosen a family like your mother-in-law’s, I’d be set for life.”

Kimberly was clearly insinuating that Aurelia had dumped Seth to pursue wealth. The hundred thousand dollars was just an excuse.

At that moment, Aurelia felt there was no need to explain herself anymore. It might play right into Kimberly’s hands if she mentioned that Linda had been in business before.

Besides, she didn’t want to have anything to do with Seth anymore.

She changed the subject, asking. “You’d choose a family like my mother-in-law’s? Don’t you want a handsome and wealthy man?”

Kimberly’s expression changed, and she replied, “That’s not what I meant.”

One colleague who couldn't stand Kimberly's attitude chimed in loudly, "Having a handsome and wealthy man is nice. But don't you know that rich mothers-in-law are usually quite picky? "In my opinion, Aurelia's mother-in-law is great. She is considerate, elegant, and willing to

spend money on her, we such a mother-in-law, she probably saves so much trouble at home.

Millie, who disliked Kimberly, immediately stepped forward, saying, "You guys aren't aware of this. Aurelia's mother-in-law bought her and her husband a house on Crystal Creek Avenue. That area is considered one of the most expensive in our district."

After hearing the first sentence, Aurelia wanted to stop Millie, but she was a step too late. The people began to surround her even closer.

"I'm so envious! When my husband and I married, our whole family could only afford an old, rundown house on Skyflower Road. Whenever it rained, it was miserable."

"Where can you find such a good mother-in-law? I'll have to learn from Aurelia when I look for a boyfriend in the future."

Aurelia felt increasingly embarrassed as she listened to the comments and shook her head repeatedly.

"It's not that extravagant. We bought the house with a loan," Aurelia responded.

"Who doesn't buy a house with a loan these days? At least your husband could come up with a down payment of over a million, which is pretty good."

Aurelia smiled but said nothing. She cast a reproachful look at Millie for bringing up the topic again.

Millie pouted and gestured that she wouldn't do it again.

Aurelia thought the conversation might end there. But to her surprise, Kimberly suddenly smiled.

“Aurcia, you’re saying your husband’s family’s house is considered pre-marital property. So. it can’t be counted as your property, right?”

Aurelia didn’t think much of it and was about to nod when Millie once again joined the conversation.

“At least Aurelia’s mother-in-law treats her well. As for your ‘handsome and wealthy’ boyfriend’s mom, that’s hard to say. Everyone knows that rich people are most sensitive about discussing property matters.

“When you get married and immediately have your in-laws buy you a million-dollar house, it’s not exactly honorable.”

Kimberly’s expression turned sour.

Worried the conversation would get out of hand, Aurelia quickly said, “It’s work hours. Let’s stop chatting and get back to our seats.”

Everyone dispersed, and Aurelia continued refining the proposal for One Technology. Kimberly had already finished her work, so Aurelia needed to catch up.

Suddenly, her phone notifications went off.

“Aurelia, everyone in the office chat group is talking about your mother-in-law. They’re so jealous,” Millie messaged with a smiley face.

Aurelia frowned. “How did they find out?”

A minute later, Millie replied, “I noticed Kimberly kept bragging in the group about her handsome and wealthy admirer. I couldn’t resist mentioning your mother-in-law’s situation. Unexpectedly, everyone envied you. Kimberly was so furious she couldn’t even respond, hahaha.”

“Millie, please don’t mention my private matters in the group in the future.”

In the chat group, there were still people like Seth. She did not want them to think she was intentionally showing off. Seth would become a nuisance again.

“Why not? It’s not like it’s a big secret, and it’s fun to see Kimberly and Seth get angry!” Millie replied.

“I just don’t like being gossiped about,” Aurelia responded helplessly.

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“Got it,” Aurelia received a simple two–word message, which clearly conveyed Millie’s displeasure.

What was there for Millie to be unhappy about? She wasn’t the one being gossiped about. Millie really needed to change her gossip personality, which seemed to attract trouble wherever she went.

Aurelia sighed and continued to work, but she couldn’t help but feel a cold, piercing gaze on her. When she glanced around, there was nothing there. Perhaps she was just feeling uneasy due to all the attention she had received.

On the other side, just before Aurelia looked up, Kimberly withdrew her gaze. She then stared at her phone, where the screen reflected the envy and admiration directed at Aurelia.

Did Aurelia even deserve to stand on her level? A woman with no money or looks trying to compete with her for work and attention? Only in her wildest dreams!

As Kimberly contemplated ways to eliminate Aurelia from the competition, Zachary walked out of his office.

“Aurelia, Kimberly. Casey is sick today, but she has a 2:30 PM briefing with some foreign guests. You two need to attend and handle it.”

“Okay,” Aurelia nodded.

Kimberly’s eyes lit up. Foreign guests? Wasn’t this a perfect opportunity for her to shine?

While Aurelia could speak Normish, she couldn’t possibly match Kimberly’s fluency. If she could expand her network with some foreign clients during this event, the top position as Vice Director would be hers.

“No problem, Mr. Zeller.” Kimberly’s voice sounded unusually cheerful as if something good had happened. Aurelia was somewhat curious but didn’t dwell on it.

On the way to the networking event, Kimberly was in a good mood. She hummed to herself while doing her makeup in a small mirror. There was no sign of the anger she had shown at lunch.

As soon as they got out of the car, Kimberly adjusted her fitted skirt, even lowering the straps of her outfit by a notch. With a sway of her hips, she walked ahead.

Aurelia couldn’t help but curl her lips. It seemed like Kimberly was reverting to her old ways. But Aurelia had no intention of getting involved and entered the hotel alone.

Held at the luxurious five–star Crystal Hotel in Seacester, the attendees of the networking event were considered high–end clientele.

Upon entering, Kimberly made a beeline for the foreign guests outside the banquet hall, laughing and flirting.

On the other hand, Aurelia turned and found a sales manager she knew.

“Aurelia, you’re here. Why did you bring Kimberly, that attention–seeker? She’s so annoying.

As soon as she enters, she's all over everyone, as if we were abroad."

"Maybe there are more foreign guests today," Aurelia awkwardly explained.

"Alright, let's not chat anymore. I'm quite busy today. Same as before, I'll give you an extra hour for the event. When you're done, come find me to sign the contract and go to the finance department for a refund of the entrance fee."

"Thank you. But what are you busy with today? I don't see many people in the lobby."

"We have an important figure coming to discuss an acquisition. Our entire sales department is here to accompany them. This hotel is going to change hands in the future."

"An acquisition? Such a big hotel, and they're talking about an acquisition? Who's behind all this?"

"The owner of One Technology, have you heard of him?"

"Him again?" Aurelia was slightly surprised.

"You know him too? I've been saying, who in the business world doesn't know him? He's a rising star, incredibly influential! Originally, the powerful Synder Corporation from Seacester was discussing the acquisition with us. But suddenly, One Technology appeared out of nowhere."

Aurelia was even more shocked to hear this..

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The Synder Corporation? The Synder Corporation was a legendary powerhouse in Seacester.

Although she was just an ordinary businesswoman, Aurelia had seen plenty of news about the Synder Corporation online. Especially the family's extravagant wedding of three days. The corporation had booked the most expensive exhibition center in Seacester.

It was said that the entire city of Seacester had been gridlocked, with fireworks filling the sky. Over a decade had passed, but the Synder family's love story was still legendary in Seacester. The fact that the owner of One Technology could snatch business away from the Synder Corporation was quite impressive.

"Aurelia, I can't talk anymore. Our supervisor is urging us to go to the meeting room on the second floor. You go ahead," the manager said before hastily entering the elevator.

"Alright," Aurelia nodded with a shrug.

A powerhouse? An acquisition? What did it have to do with her? Even if the entire business changed hands, it wouldn't affect her meager salary.

Aurelia walked to the banquet hall, where she saw Kimberly had already started mingling with the guests. She held a wine glass as she moved gracefully through the crowd. Naturally skilled at this, she was always the quickest to make herself comfortable.

On the other hand, Aurelia kept a lower profile. She politely greeted people and paid close attention to the event's proceedings.

Amid the mingling crowd, Kimberly confidently approached one of the most important foreign guests, David. He was the vice president of a biotech company in Seacester who just returned from an overseas vacation in his seaside villa.

As she looked at the man, Kimberly could even imagine herself lying on a private beach in a bikini, sipping cocktails.

She stopped in front of David and raised her glass slowly. Her every move exuded charm and enthusiasm. No man could resist her.

“Cheers, I hope you enjoy today’s event.”

“Thank you, cheers.”

He glanced at Kimberly calmly and shifted his gaze elsewhere.

Kimberly’s smile froze as she followed his gaze, only to find Aurelia standing on the sidelines! It was Aurelia again!

Did he prefer Aurelia, a dull and uninteresting woman, over a beauty like her?

Kimberly tried to block David’s view and approached him with a bright smile. “I’ve also spent time abroad and often go sunbathing by the seaside. I love getting a tan. I hope to have the chance to sunbathe by the beach again.”

David looked at Kimberly, immediately understanding her intention. As he chuckled, the smell of alcohol wafted toward Kimberly.

He candidly said, “I’m sorry, even though you’re very beautiful, I don’t like your type. I prefer gentle women with black hair and fair skin.”

Kimberly was infuriated. He might as well say he liked women like Aurelia.

Fine, if that’s how it was, she would play along and give them her blessings.

Kimberly put on a gracious smile and said, “You misunderstood me; I was just reminiscing.”

Then, she turned and pointed at Aurelia. “The person you described does sound a lot like my colleague. She’s in a tough spot, facing financial difficulties due to family issues.

“She said she’d do anything for anyone who would give her money. She even recently broke up with her muscular boyfriend.”

“Is that so?” David’s expression turned complicated.

“Yes,” Kimberly sighed and continued, “Excuse me. I’ll need to check on other guests.”

She tactfully made her exit, but from the corner of her eye, she saw David approaching Aurelia.

Heh, Aurelia, you won’t be as lucky as Mr. Lynch this time.

Aurelia remained standing on the side, feeling like someone was watching her. She turned her head to glance and saw Kimberly chatting with a tall foreign man.

Was it just her imagination?

Aurelia didn’t dwell on it and shifted her gaze elsewhere. When she gazed back before her, the foreign man who chatted with Kimberly earlier stood there.

“Hello, Miss,” the man said, his speech slurred from drinking.

“Hello. Is there something you need?” Aurelia asked in fluent Normish.

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“Nothing, I noticed you as soon as you walked in. Care to drink with me?” the man said, handing her a glass of red wine.

Aurelia glanced at the wine glass and smiled politely, "I'm sorry, but I'm working right now and can't drink."

People who frequently organized events like her often found themselves expected to drink, especially when clients came over with glasses for a toast. They relied on their clients for their salary and usually wouldn't refuse.

Yet, they also had their experience and would avoid drinking any alcohol offered by others. Not out of suspicion but as a means of self-preservation.

"Then how come your colleagues can drink? Aren't you disrespecting the guests?" In an arrogant tone, he pointed toward Kimberly, who resembled a delicate butterfly.

Aurelia pursed her lips, realizing she couldn't afford to offend him. It seemed like she would have to take this glass of wine, but she noticed a passing waiter out of the corner of her eye.

She reached out and stopped the waiter, taking a glass of champagne with a smile. "I appreciate your offer, but I don't really drink red wine. Cheers."

The man's expression stiffened, and he had no choice but to clink glasses and drink. After finishing the drink, Aurelia put down her glass and said, "Excuse me."

She turned and walked away, but the man's gaze didn't leave her.

Aurelia couldn't understand why he wasn't more interested in a beautiful woman like Kimberly. Why was he staring at her? She was wearing her work uniform today. Could it be that he was too drunk to see clearly?

She didn't think too much about it and continued to patrol the venue, checking the

microphones and making sure the gifts from the event organizers were properly arranged. In no time, she had forgotten about the foreign man.

As the event neared toward the end, she felt the urge to use the restroom. She headed to the restroom on the first floor.

Since it wasn't too crowded today, she did not need to wait in line. She quickly finished and walked out of the restroom, only to be blocked by a figur

"Little bunny."

"Huh? Sir, you've got the wrong person,"

Aurelia felt a chill down her spine at the sight of the person blocking her path. He was the same foreigner who had invited her for a drink earlier. She immediately took a step back, trying to walk away.

However, the foreign man grabbed her arm, speaking in a greasy tone, "David, call me David." Aurelia ga
gave him an annoyed look.

"Please let go of me. You're drunk."

Aurelia tried to defuse the situation and protect their mutual dignity. However, he didn't stop; instead, he continued to be presumptuous.

"Little bunny, no need to play games. I know you're after money, and I have plenty of it. I've got a thing for women like you, with that jet-black hair and that fair skin."

"I need money? Who told you that?" Aurelia had a bad feeling about this.

"That's not important. After finishing this drink, we can head upstairs and relax.

Aurelia finally realized that the man was holding another glass of red wine in his other hand. It resembled blood and had clearly been tampered with.

She started to struggle. "Let go of me.

Despite wearing a suit, the man was significantly larger than her. No matter how hard she struggled, she couldn't break free. Instead, she felt her wrist bones ache.

Realizing that she couldn't escape, she began shouting for help. "Help... Ah!"

The man forcefully pulled Aurelia closer and started trying to force-feed her the red wine. While intoxicated, he was incredibly strong and seemed to be driven by madness.

"I heard you're into tough guys. Do I look tough enough for you?"

"Mmm-mm-mmm!"

Aurelia widened her eyes and tightly closed her lips, determined not to let him pour the wine into her mouth. She desperately wondered who this person could be.

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Just then, Aurelia saw a figure hiding behind the potted plants. The figure was none other than Kimberly. It seemed she had led this drunken man astray.

Even if something happened later, he can always blame it on being too drunk. Only they knew what they had discussed, and the man would not be foolish enough to reveal it in public.

However, the surveillance cameras had captured the sight of Aurelia accepting the man's invitation to drink. It will be hard for her to explain later.

Aurelia's anger surged, and since she couldn't match his strength, she had to rely on her wits. She suddenly called out, "Kimberly, you're here! Please save me!"

This shout startled Kimberly, causing her to retract behind the potted plants. It also made the man pause for a moment.

Taking advantage of the situation, Aurelia delivered a swift kick to the man's groin, the most vulnerable spot for men.

The man winced in pain, dropping the glass of red wine he held, and grimaced at Aurelia. Seizing the opportunity, Aurelia quickly ran. But in her panic, she headed in the wrong direction, away from the banquet hall and into a less populated area.

Fortunately, an elevator was nearby. Aurelia rushed inside, closing the door as the man tried to follow her.

Her trembling hand pressed the elevator buttons frantically. The elevator reached the second floor, and Aurelia rushed out as soon as the doors opened.

Her remaining sense of reason prevented her from screaming. There were two main reasons for this.

Firstly, the foreign man dressed well in expensive clothes. She couldn't afford to offend him. He could blame his actions on being drunk, but she had just offended a VIP guest.

The company would likely reprimand her for overreacting, causing difficulties with the client. For someone like her, who wanted to climb the corporate ladder, she had to be cautious every step of the way.

Thus, unless it was absolutely necessary, she didn't want to make this incident public and harm her career.

The second reason was the discussion of the hotel's acquisition on the second floor. She shouldn't have been here in the first place. Interfering with the acquisition would only lead to trouble with the hotel and One/Technology.

She couldn't afford the consequences of such actions, so she decided to hide for the time being. As Aurelia searched for a hiding place, the elevator door behind her opened. To her surprise, the man had followed her.

In her state of panic, she pushed open one of the doors and hid inside. Taking a deep breath she realized she had entered a utility room filled with brooms, mops, and cleaning supplies. Aurelia had thought she was safe. But to her dismay, she noticed through a crack in the door that the man was methodically checking each door along the hallway. The utility room she was

in didn't even have a window, so there was no way she could hide for long.

Aurelia bit her lip in frustration and decided to make a run for it. She darted out of the utility room and sprinted down the corridor. Still under the influence of alcohol, the man stumbled after her.

From the expression on his face, he was actually enjoying this chase.

Although briefly taken aback, Aurelia quickened her pace. As she turned her head, she caught a glimpse of a face passing by the partially open door of a meeting room.

Was that Leslie?

Lost in thought for a moment, Aurelia stumbled and fell onto the carpet. Although it didn't hurt, she felt completely drained. Yet the man chasing her was getting closer with every step.

Aurelia attempted to get up, but she was too exhausted.

Frustrated, she could only shout, "Mr. Synder!"

There was no response from the meeting room. Instead, the man had already caught up to Aurelia.

Aurelia's face turned pale. Had she made a mistake? Maybe that wasn't Leslie after all! "Why aren't you running anymore? I thought you had more stamina than this," the man taunted as he reached for Aurelia.

On the other hand, the discussion continued in the meeting room.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we have explained everything that needs to be said about our hotel. While the past two years have been challenging, there has been a recent improvement in the last six months. Otherwise, even Synder Corporation wouldn't be eager to acquire us. I don't know if you..."

The hotel's general manager gave a faint smile as he addressed the handsome and cold man at the head of the table, implying that the acquisition offer was too low.

Leslie raised his gaze, his expression indifferent as he scanned the representatives from the hotel. His overwhelming presence was like an ominous cloud engulfing the meeting room, instantly silencing everyone.

"Can the Synder family provide you with this much money upfront?"

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The hotel's general manager turned pale.

"Full acquisition, the price stays the same. If you say no, I'll find someone else. It doesn't really affect me, but can your son afford to wait?"

The general manager's son had lost ten billion on a cruise ship. If he failed to come up

ne up with the money to ransom him by the end of the month, his son would be fed to the fish in the open sea, his body never to be found again.

Even for wealthy individuals, gathering ten billion in cash was impossible in such a short time. Hence, he had no choice but to sell the Crystal Hotel.

The general manager was immediately drenched in cold sweat, realizing the man before him had come well-prepared.

Leslie, however, remained calm and continued to play three. One, two..."

"Alright, deal," the general manager relented.

With the pen in his hand. "I'll count to

Immediately, a contract for the acquisition was handed over to be signed by both parties after legal checks.

When Leslie finished the last signature, a voice from outside the door called, "Mr. Synder." But, it quickly faded.

In foreign countries, most people referred to him by his English name. Locally, there were many people with the last name Synder. Some didn't even know his full name. But there was only one person who addressed him as "Mr. Synder"-Aurelia.

As everyone was about to celebrate the successful completion of the acquisition, Leslie suddenly stood up and rushed outside. With a loud bang as the door opened, Aurelia and the man in front of her were startled.

In the next moment, Aurelia saw Leslie walking out of the meeting room, his gaze cold as he looked at her and the man.

She immediately got up from the ground and ran to Leslie. She clung to his suit as if grasping a lifesaver.

“Mr. Synder,” her voice quivered. If Leslie hadn’t come out, she didn’t dare to think further. “What’s going on?” Leslie’s voice was slightly cold. He glanced at her reddened fingertips and stepped in front of her to shield her completely.

Aurelia’s heart skipped a beat, and she trembled as she spoke, “He’s a guest of my client. He pressured me to drink red wine, which I suspect was drugged. I tried to avoid him, but he chased after me.”

Upon hearing that, Leslie’s gaze towards the foreign man grew even colder. Unaccustomed to such a piercing stare, he pointed at Leslie and arrogantly questioned in Normish, “Who are you? How dare you interfere in my affairs?”

Leslie raised an eyebrow indifferently. “So what?”

Although the foreign man was muscular, Leslie was taller and exuded an even stronger presence.

Feeling a blow to his pride, the foreign man twitched his face. He waved his massive hand, roughly the size of two of Aurelia’s fists combined, and swung it at Leslie. “Fuck off, idiot!” “Mr. Synder, be careful!” Aurelia couldn’t explain where she found the courage. She squeezed out from behind Leslie and stepped in front of him. This was her problem, and if it ended up getting Leslie injured, she would feel utterly guilty.

She closed her eyes, preparing for the impending blow. Instead, she felt her waist tighten as she was lifted, followed by the sound of a heavy object hitting the ground.

“You’re fine now.”

Leslie’s cold voice echoed softly in Aurelia’s ears. Aurelia cautiously opened her eyes to find the foreign man lying on the ground, grimacing in pain. Meanwhile, Leslie casually patted his

trousers.

At the same time, upon hearing the noise, people poured out of the conference room. Shocked to see a woman in Leslie's arms., their expressions ranged from astonishment to horror. Aurelia finally realized the situation and quickly freed herself from Leslie's embrace. She thanked him, "Thank you for your help."

Leslie did not respond. He narrowed his eyes, wondering why she was pretending not to know him.

Was he a virus or a plague? How many times had this happened?

Aurelia lowered her head, silently hoping she wouldn't cause any trouble for Leslie, who was likely representing One Technology. But why would a programmer be involved in an acquisition? The people around her looked at her with expressions of disbelief.

"Boss..." a hesitant voice spoke.

Boss?

Who now?

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Aurelia lifted her head in confusion upon hearing the voice. Behind her, Leslie coldly scanned the crowd.

Leslie's assistant, Daniel quickly responded, "Mr. Synder... Mr. Synder, we should celebrate. After all, this acquisition went so smoothly."

Daniel breathed a sigh of relief internally, managing to salvage the situation.

Who was this woman? And why was Leslie, who disliked women, protecting her like this?

Feeling embarrassed under the gaze of the onlookers, Aurelia realized she had misunderstood the situation. But before she could apologize, the foreign man on the floor suddenly got up. Seething with anger, he charged at Leslie.

“Mr. Synder!” Aurelia rushed toward them.

“I’m going to kill you! I won’t get in trouble for it anyway!” The foreign man was extremely arrogant. Clenching his fist, he attempted to strike Leslie.

Leslie glanced at Aurelia, running toward him. How could there be such a foolish person? The next moment, he blocked the foreign man’s fist, using an elbow to pin the man’s neck. “Idiot? You want to kill me? Try it then.”

“Ahh! Ahh!” The foreign man appeared strong, but in reality, he was all talk. It was all one-sided from beginning to end. Eventually, two security guards came to hold him down.

By now, his face was bruised and swollen, but his insolent insults did not stop. “Hahaha, idiot, I’ll be just fine! This woman will not only apologize but will also personally beg me for forgiveness. The hotel will have to compensate me! You people are all the same!” Upon hearing this, Aurelia’s blood boiled. It was no longer just about her being insulted; she felt that everyone present had been insulted by this man.

Without thinking, she stepped forward and punched the foreign man in the nose, landing a perfect hit that sent a stream of blood gushing out.

After seeing blood, Aurelia realized her emotions had clouded her judgment, and she had used excessive force. But since she had already thrown the punch, there was no turning back.

She retorted, “Shut up! Do you really think being a foreigner makes you some kind of king here? There are security cameras above us, capturing your disgusting behavior.

“If your behavior from earlier were to be spread online, how do you think everyone would react? How would the domestic companies here treat you?”

“Don’t you dare!” The foreign man glared menacingly at Aurelia.

Leslie glanced at Daniel, seizing the opportunity.

Daniel stepped forward solemnly and said, “Sir, this hotel now belongs to my boss. Your behavior is not excusable. We absolutely cannot allow this to escalate. So, if necessary, we will release the surveillance footage on both domestic and international websites.”

The foreign man’s voice weakened, “You’re violating my privacy rights!”

Daniel remained composed, “This is a public area.”

“You... you...” The foreign man was left speechless.

Other hotel staff also approached indignantly.

“Are you a guest from the downstairs event? If you coerced this lady into drinking, our hotel must report it as harassment to the authorities.”

“Just so you know, we’re all locals and eyewitnesses here. Whose testimony do you think people would trust more?”

With everyone backing her up, Aurelia no longer had any reservations. She raised her fist toward the foreign man and said, “We’re not pushovers, especially not women!”

Faced with the encirclement of the crowd, the foreign man lost all confidence. He wiped his nosebleed in pain and said, “Let’s go.”

“Not so fast,” Leslie stepped forward, showing a hint of disdain as he wiped his hands with a handkerchief. He said calmly, “No apology? Or would you prefer to resolve it in another way?” The foreign man, fearing Leslie, shrank back and turned to look at Aurelia. “I’m sorry, ma’am.

“Yes. But your apology shouldn’t be just to me. You should also apologize to Mr. Synder. What gives you the right to be rude toward others? He also has dignity!” Aurelia pointed at Leslie. Leslie, who hadn’t expected her to consider his feelings, looked at her in silence.

The foreign man could only say, “I’m sorry, sir.”

Leslie uttered coolly, “Get lost.”

The security personnel then escorted him away.

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As Aurelia patted her chest with lingering fear, she noticed everyone’s gaze shifted between her and Leslie.

Could they be getting suspicious?

sorry

Aurelia quickly distanced herself from Leslie and politely said, “Thank you, Mr. Synder, for saving me in our brief encounter. I also want to thank everyone. Additionally, I’m for disturbing your work; this was entirely my fault. It has nothing to do with anyone else.” She and Leslie had only crossed paths a few times, right?

That was right.

Leslie’s expression grew even darker. She couldn’t even acknowledge him in public?

Daniel nearly burst into laughter, wondering where Leslie had met this woman. Faced with everyone’s doubts, she not only avoided cozying up to Leslie, but she also distanced herself. from him.

Everyone had questioning looks, but they dared not ask any further. Instead, they continued smiling.

Leslie signaled to Daniel with his eyes, and Daniel walked up to Aurelia.

“Miss, we still have some business to discuss. But since you seem slightly shaken, would you like to take a break in a private room nearby?”

Aurelia did feel a bit weak in the knees. She didn’t know how to face the foreign man if she went downstairs right now. However, she didn’t want to be rude by agreeing too quickly, especially after interrupting their meeting.

So, she could only look at Leslie, silently asking if he wanted her to leave now.

“Go ahead,” Leslie said.

“Alright,” Aurelia nodded.

With that confirmation, Leslie and his team returned to the meeting room, leaving Daniel and Aurelia in the hallway.

“Miss, please follow me,” Daniel said, pointing to the room beside them.

Aurelia thanked Daniel and followed him.

After walking a few steps, she inexplicably felt she had seen Daniel’s back somewhere before. Yet she couldn’t recall it at the moment. Perhaps she was just feeling affectionate toward anyone after surviving the ordeal.

Kimberly had planned to follow David and Aurelia. She intended to take a picture of them being intimate and share it in their work group chat. She wanted to see how Aurelia would explain herself.

However, when she had just exited the elevator, she saw David being escorted by security guards, his face bruised and swollen.

“David, what happened to you?”

“Hmph.”

David coldly snorted and entered the elevator.

Puzzled, Kimberly followed along the corridor, spotting Aurelia walking with a man.

This man... was the CEO of One Technology!

She couldn't be mistaken! She had seen this man get off a Maybach and walk into the tech exhibition amidst the crowd's admiration.

Although she was squeezed so tightly in the crowd that she could hardly catch her breath, she managed to take a picture with him. Worried that Aurelia might recognize him, she

intentionally took a picture of their backs. It would give an implication that looked mysterious and intimate.

Initially, she thought this photo would result in Aurelia's withdrawal from competing for the vice director position. But she didn't expect Aurelia to recognize him as well!

This meant that Aurelia might have known about her tricks from the beginning. She had even pretended in front of her! Kimberly was furious, and her chest was heaving with heavy breaths. She thought, Aurelia, are you playing games with me? Well, get ready to face the consequences of messing with me!

With that in mind, Kimberly retreated to the elevator and took out another phone from her bag. She had so many admirers; how could she have only one phone?

After unlocking the phone, she found an unfamiliar number, and a smile spread across her face.

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After a few rings, a woman's impatient voice came through the phone.

"Who is this!"

"Mrs. Martinez, I'm a friend of Seth and Aurelia. I heard from Aurelia that Seth had been arrested. Is it true?"

"Don't bring up her name to me. Every time I hear her name, it infuriates me. My son is so unlucky to have her as his girlfriend!" Rosa gritted her teeth.

"Mrs. Martinez, please calm down. I've tried to advise her to be lenient. Not only she doesn't care about Seth, but she also spreads negative rumors about him everywhere. How is Seth going to face the world in the future?"

"What?!" Rosa suddenly cried out in despair. "That bitch! I hope she dies a miserable death! If something happens to my son, I'll make sure she pays for it."

"Mrs. Martinez, getting angry won't help. The most important thing now is to get Seth out as soon as possible."

"What can I do? Our family is all alone here. It's all Aurelia's fault! What kind of upbringing did she receive? She doesn't even listen to her man!"

"She even dared to marry someone else. It's clear she's not a good woman. Back in the day, folks would've thrown her in jail for sure!"

Rosa's voice contained rage and a desire to see Aurelia suffer.

Kimberly listened with a sense of vindication.

"Mrs. Martinez, there's actually a way to get Seth out immediately."

"What way? Tell me, and I'll thank you on behalf of Seth."

"Don't mention it. We're all friends. But please don't say it was me who told you. After all, Aurelia is currently in a favorable position, and I don't want to provoke her."

"Don't worry, I won't say anything. Once Seth is out, I'll make sure that bitch can't live in peace!"

"Here's a simple way. Have Aurelia go to the police station to sign a settlement agreement."

"That bitch would never agree to a settlement. How is that possible?"

"She'll have no choice but to agree if..."

After finishing the call, Kimberly hung up and blocked Rosa's number. She was genuinely thankful Rosa had registered her name and phone number with the building's security guard when she came to see Aurelia that day.

Once Aurelia and Seth reconcile, how will her husband react when he finds out?

Aurelia, what makes you think you have the right to show off in front of me?

After instructing someone to bring tea for Aurelia, Daniel left the private room. Aurelia slowly

walked in.

Aurelia put down her cup, feeling somewhat apologetic. “Mr. Synder, is your work going smoothly?”

Leslie sat on the sofa. “Yes.”

She poured him a cup of tea and sincerely apologized, “I’m really sorry for disturbing your work today. I didn’t mean to.”

“Hm,” Leslie replied, taking a sip of tea, but his gaze remained fixed on Aurelia. He looked at her with a mix of trust and suspicion. “Why didn’t you call for help downstairs?”

The restroom was just around the corner at the end of the corridor from the banquet hall. If she had yelled, someone in the banquet hall would have heard. There was no need to run to the second floor, where there were fewer people unless it was intentional.

Leslie wasn’t deliberately speculating about Aurelia’s intentions.

He had heard from the hotel sales team during the meeting that they had informed Aurelia about the hotel’s negotiations with One Technology on the second floor. Given her reputation for materialism and her timely appearance, it was natural for people to have their doubts.

Aurelia hesitated for a moment before letting out a sigh. “I didn’t dare to.”

“What?” Leslie was somewhat surprised by her response.

“Mr. Synder, do you know how demanding the workplace is for women? When a man misbehaves, it’s called excessive drinking. But when a woman misbehaves, it’s called sexual exploitation. I’ve been in this industry for over three years, and I’ve worked diligently to achieve what I have now.

“If I offend a client, do you think the company will appease a client worth tens of millions or someone like me who earns just over ten thousand in salary?”

Aurelia looked at Leslie earnestly.

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Leslie rarely interacted with female employees, so he didn't pay much attention to these matters. Moreover, in his company, competence was the primary criterion, and gender was never a consideration. However, it might not be the same in other companies.

Aurelia continued, "I'm just a regular employee trying to earn a living. In our field, news spreads quickly. If I upset a client, there's no shot at landing another job with a different company. This world doesn't stop for my problems, not even for a moment."

Leslie pondered this for a moment.

It's true.

Aurelia sighed softly. She poured a little more tea for Leslie and smiled, "Luckily, I distanced myself from you a while back. If anything were to happen to me, it wouldn't impact you."

Leslie raised an eyebrow, realizing that Aurelia's distant behavior in front of others was to avoid causing trouble for him.

She checked her watch, realizing the networking event was about to end.

"Mr. Synder, I still have work to do. I'll head downstairs now."

Watching her retreating figure, Leslie furrowed his brows and asked, "Why did you stand in front of me just now?"

"Have you forgotten? We're married now. You even fought that foreigner for my sake. I couldn't just let you get hurt. Good thing you've got some skills."

“Alright, I really need to go now.”

Aurelia hurriedly opened the door and left.

Leslie snapped back to reality, gazing at the steaming tea before him, lost in thought.

A moment later, Daniel knocked on the door and entered.

“Mr. Synder, the acquisition is settled.”

“Good.” Leslie took a sip of tea and said coldly, “About the foreigner from earlier...”

“I’ve found out his details. How should we handle it?”

“I don’t want to see him again.” Leslie slammed his teacup down, shattering it into two pieces, with tea splashing everywhere.

“Understood.”

After consoling herself, Aurelia entered the networking event hall. Unexpectedly, she crossed paths with Kimberly, who walked over with a smirk.

“Aurelia, you’re quite busy, huh? The networking event has already wrapped up, and now you. decide to show up.”

“When it comes to being busy, who can keep up with you? Not only do you come up with plans within the company, but you also provide advice to others outside of it.” Aurelia retorted sarcastically.

Kimberly's smile froze momentarily, and she countered, "What nonsense are you spouting? Do you have any evidence to support your claim that I've caused you harm?"

"Did I mention that you harmed me? Are you so eager to confess?" Aurelia sneered.

"You..." Kimberly gritted her teeth. "You have time to nitpick with me, but you better think about how to explain things to the company. Mr. David had an unpleasant altercation with the organizers when he left. Do you think the company will let it slide? He's a foreign guest!" "Kimberly, do you lack confidence in yourself so much that you seek to tear others down?" Aurelia retorted.

"What do you mean by that?" Kimberly said in frustration.

"Exactly what I said. If you continue your tricks, I

won't spare you either!"

"Heh, what can you do about it?" Kimberly raised her head arrogantly and chuckled. "Whether you'll still be with the company tomorrow is still unknown!!

"Do you know the term 'mutual destruction'?" Aurelia retorted. "Mrs. Lynch still has the flirtatious messages you sent to Mr. Lynch. If I forward these messages to everyone around you, do you think you still have a chance to marry into a wealthy family?"

"You!" Kimberly's eyes nearly popped out.

"I'm going to check out and sign the event summary. You're so capable, so handle the rest yourself."

Without giving Kimberly a chance to respond, Aurelia picked up some documents and walked away.

Kimberly seethed with anger, stomping her foot. "Aurelia, you'll see what happens when you return to the company!"