

Chapter 26 - A Moment in Destiny

"Er! I'll look for Mr. Brooks for the business plan!" Sherry smiled. But she was wondering how could Alice know so much that she knew the confidential details.

"Dearest Sherry, where are you going?" She met Liam before she reached his office.

"Mr. Brooks, it's regarding the business plan with AVL. Mr. Rowland isn't in and Ms. Gill is rushing me for it. Can you please have a look?" Sherry explained.

"Okay! Come in." Liam opened the door and walked in. Although he browsed the documents quickly, he was very focused and was entirely different from his typical casual attitude.

"Okay. I've seen it." Liam raised his head. "Sherry, how much will the fashion show cost?"

Sherry was stunned. She didn't know! "I don't know! I haven't calculated!"

"Your business plan is not bad. You actually selected the open-air Golden Plaza which is new but you didn't calculate the costs. That is your main error. Mr. Rowland will tear you if he found out that you didn't calculate the cost!" Liam laughed as he said, "but I'm a kind person and will not squeal on you!"

Sherry broke out in cold sweat, "Mr. Brooks, is a cost of five million US dollars too much?"

"Sherry, you should know that fashion shows are the lifeblood of all fashion clothing companies. If you want to stand out from the millions of fashion shows each year, the cost of five million US dollars is nothing but not every company can afford this. To calculate how much is acceptable, you have to figure out what are the returns!"

Liam didn't refute her but raised a complex question. Sherry now understands that he was rigorous towards his work and far from his usual devil-may-care attitude.

She had a new appreciation of Liam, "I will research into the cost of fashion shows in the country and work out a suitable budget. Thanks a lot, Mr. Brooks.'

At least today she had learned something, to raise a question to the subordinate but not provide the answer. It really looked like it took skills to be a manager, Liam was an genius.

William hadn't come to work for three days and Sherry didn't need to make coffee for him but she felt uneasy after shouting at Mr. Rowland last night.

She thought that the entire situation was unnecessary. It was just a 9.90 yuan condom and she could easily make the money. She had been too brash!

Because William wasn't present, the task of receiving the important customers fell upon Liam.

Sherry accompanied Liam to the company's reception room. A regional sales manager saw Liam and quickly walked over. Liam found this person very familiar and must be some important manager but he just couldn't recall who he was. He quickly turned towards Sherry and whispered, "Do you know who he is?"

"When the appointment was made over the phone, it was stated that he is the sales manager for the northern region, Ben Lowe!"

Liam stride across quickly and extended his right hand and firmly shook Ben's hand and pat his shoulder with his left hand. He enthusiastically welcomed, "Mr. Lowe, how are you doing?"

When Ben saw that the Rowland Group General Manager Liam remembered him, he was overjoyed, laughed radiantly, and hurriedly replied, "Mr. Brooks, I'm the same as before!"

Sherry looked amused at one side but didn't dare to reveal her thoughts. She simply smiled quietly as she witnessed Liam's performance of pretending to know Ben for years.

After Ben left, Liam turned around and looked at Sherry, "Did you see it? That's how you should receive someone even if you don't know him well! How? Is the purchase order settled?"

Sherry nodded in admiration.

"Let's go, I'll treat you to dinner, okay?"

"Thanks, Mr. Brooks, but I have something on tonight" Sherry smiled as she turned him down. She had to pick up Dan and thereafter get some goods to sell. She didn't have the time for dinner!

"Okay. Then what about tomorrow?" Liam asked again without giving up.

"Mr. Brooks, I don't have the time at night"

"Then how about lunch tomorrow?"

"Er..." Sherry saw that he was serious and heaved a sigh, "Mr. Brooks, I have something on, I'll leave first.

"Sherry, what's the big deal about having a meal together? It's not getting you to cross oceans or climb mountains.' Liam didn't understand why his usual tactics of chasing women weren't effective on Sherry.

"Sherry, Mr. Rowland said that his flight is arriving at six thirty and asked you to pick him up personally and brief him on the developments of the cooperation project!" Ms. Hines told Sherry just as she was about to leave the office.

Sherry frowned and looked at the watch. It was already five fifty which meant that she only had forty minutes to get to the airport. She quickly called Celia and left after taking her bag.

Alice pondered as she looked at Sherry's back view and mumbled, "Ms. Hines, why do I feel that... Mr. Rowland specially wanted Sherry to pick him up at the airport. Is there something going on between them?"

"Impossible!" Lara retorted, "Mr. Rowland brought Lisa on the business trip. How can Mr. Rowland like someone who is so unpresentable like Sherry?"

Sherry didn't go to the airport to receive him because no one was able to pick up Dan as Celia had gone overseas. How could Sherry bear to leave Dan at the kindergarten to pick up Mr. Rowland at the airport? She wouldn't do that even if it meant losing her job.

She didn't receive a call on her way home so Sherry thought that it wasn't a big deal.

"Mommy, do you have something on?" Dan raised his head and asked.

"Why do you ask?"

"You had been looking at your watch for so many times! Do you have a date?"

"Mommy doesn't have a date!" Sherry shook her head. "Dan, mommy made some significant sales yesterday. Shall we eat outside tonight?"

"But aren't we suppose to tighten our belts and repay Celia her money?" Dan said thoughtfully.

Sherry's heart ached. Dan had been with her for five years and had always been so obedient and thoughtful. He did not throw tantrums and she couldn't bear that he suffered with her, "Dan, mommy will bring you to eat what you like!"

"Then let's go and get some goods first and then we'll sell them after dinner!" Dan thought that it was the weekend and didn't need to go to school the next day.

"Dan, Mom sells products for adults! It's inconvenient for kids to be around" Sherry shook her head.

"Mom, aren't they condoms?" Dan raised his eyebrows like a young man, "My classmate Mason has condoms in his bag and gave us to blow them up like balloons!"

"What?" Sherry was stunned. Since when did condoms become so common that it made their way into kindergartens?

"Mommy, don't be shocked. I know that this can only be used after a man and woman get married. Rest assured that I will not use it!"

"What?" She was shocked.

"Mommy, I'll go with you to buy the goods. I'll behave myself!"

"But..."

"Mommy, why you are so indecisive!" Daniel pouted, "Let's go and get the goods, and then we'll set up our stall after dinner!"

Sherry couldn't convince Dan and she brought him for dinner before buying the goods. Because it was the weekend, she decided to buy more and bought a big box of condoms.

Sherry bought the goods from an adult store in the city. This adult store was also a wholesaler. After Sherry took the goods, she remembered that she had forgotten about a new product which was recently launched. This new product was actually sought by some customers who wanted to buy it.

"Dan, stay here and look after the box and do not go anywhere. Mommy is going to get some more goods. Remember not to go anywhere. This box of goods cost five thousand yuan! If we sell it all we can make almost half the amount!"

"Understand! Go ahead, Mommy!" Dan patted his chest and said confidently, "I will be right here!"

Sherry was satisfied and went to get what she needed leaving Dan by himself to look after the box.

William drove with Lisa towards the adult store and saw a little boy standing beside a huge box. He stepped on the accelerator and glided past. William frowned slightly, that boy...

That little boy was bathed in the golden sunset and looked very much like a little angel. He was about the same age as Sammy. He couldn't help but grinned and said to Lisa, "Didn't you need to get something here? I'll wait for you over here"

"Okay!" Lisa went bashfully. She found out that this was the largest adult store in the city and suggested that William brought her here. She wanted to give William a surprise tonight.

Lisa got out of the car and walked towards that shop and William also got out. He continued to look at Dan. It was inexplicable that the kid continued to attract his attention. William lit a cigarette and walked towards Dan.

"Uncle, do you need a condom?" Dan saw that a man approached him and thought that he should try to make a sale.

William was startled and looked towards the box.

Dan eagerly explained, "Uncle, they are the latest condoms. They are like mini candies, you can use it when you go out with a lady"

God! William was shocked by what he said. He looked as Dan opened the box and he could see that the box was filled with condoms of all types and sizes! William was stunned! He looked at Dan again and it made him think of that woman who didn't receive him at the airport.

Was it a thing to sell condoms along the streets now?

Daniel looked at the speechless William and raised his puzzled little head and then shouted, "Mr. Big Dick, we meet again!"

"What? It's you?" William also recognized him. This was the kid who rushed for the toilet ahead of him in the airplane. The kid was very adorable and intelligent.

"Uncle, don't you want a condom? The quality is very good!" Daniel continued to pester.

"Who made you sell these?" William didn't believe that the child's parents would be so cruel.

"Uncle, are you going to buy some? These are very good. Those who used it all say that they are very good!" Dan thought about the sales pitch that he saw on television and continued to recommend them to William. "Wow, this is a pink one, all girls like them!"

William was dumbfounded as he looked at this natural businessman and wondered who could have given birth to such a talented child?

"Did your parents make you sell these here?"

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"Uncle, it's very tough on my mommy. My mommy needs to sell these before she can go home and I love my mommy and I want to help her sell these. Please buy one, uncle!" Dan saw that William wasn't buying and tried a different tactic.

"What about your daddy?' William asked. Could his father allow his mother to bring a child out to sell condoms?

"Uncle, please leave if you don't want to buy. Why are you asking about my daddy?" Daniel was sad because he never had a daddy. He already accepted that not everyone had a daddy!

William's heart inexplicably ached when he saw Dan drooping his head.

"All these, I'll take it all! How much are they?"

"Really? You're a good man, uncle! You're a hero, ten thousand yuan!" Daniel remembered what mommy said.

William took out his wallet. He started to carry a wallet after he was yelled at by Sherry the other day. He took out twenty thousand yuan and gave it to Daniel.

"I'll give you twenty thousand yuan. Don't sell these anymore. A kid should concentrate on his studies!" He was at the age when he should be pampered by his parents.

"I don't want so much! Just ten thousand will do!" Daniel returned half of the money to him, "Uncle, take the entire box!"

After that, he took the money to look for Sherry!

William's mind was once again filled with that woman's face as he saw the small boy walking away. He became frustrated and threw that box of condoms into the boot of the Bugatti...

"Mommy! I've sold the goods! We can go home now!"

Sherry was stunned and only when Daniel gave her the money did she come to her senses, "Oh lord! Dan, how did you..."

"An uncle came and bought all of them. He was the same uncle who I met on the airplane! So that uncle isn't a bad person after all! He gave me twenty thousand yuan but since mommy said that ten

thousand was enough, so I sold it for ten thousand yuan!" The tiny boy explained, "I know not to take advantage of others!"

"What!" Sherry was very conflicted inside her. She looked at her son's small face and tears began to well up in her eyes. She was thinking about whether she was wrong to do this!

"Mommy? What's wrong?"

She was really wrong to do this! She shouldn't be selling this type of thing. Dan was only five years old. How could she have her five year old son sell condoms together with her?

This child was already very pitiful. He was abandoned since young by his parents and almost froze to death by the lake. If she didn't attempt suicide that day, Dan would have frozen to death! God, she was horrible.

"Dan, mommy will not sell these anymore! Let's go home!" Sherry returned the goods in her hands and held onto Dan's hand,

"Mommy will take you shopping and buy clothes with the money that Dan earned!"

"Mommy! It's fine that we don't sell these. I will take care of you!" Dan patted his chest, "I guarantee that I'll be able to take care of mommy!"

"Mommy believes that Dan can take care of Mommy but now you are too young and must learn from your teacher. You can take care of me when you grow up!"

"Mommy, don't worry, the electronic games that Celia bought for me, I had already hacked them. Later I will program my own games and we'll be rich when I sell them!"

"Good boy! Mommy doesn't want you to earn money. I just want you to be happy!" She had placed all her hopes on him. She had already lost all her kin and now the heavens gave her a son. How can she not cherish this gift?

The two of them held hands and left the shop and Dan pointed to the car which just drove off and said, "Mommy, look, it was that car! What a beautiful car! That uncle bought all the condoms! Do you think that he'll play with them as balloons like my classmate Mason if he can't finish them?"

Sherry looked in the direction where Dan pointed and saw a blue Bugatti. She frowned and wondered if she had seen Mr. Rowland's car. She shook her head and decided that she must be mistaken. Why

would Mr. Rowland buy these things?

She had a wonderful weekend and didn't receive any harassing telephone calls...

Monday.

Sherry was uneasy when she arrived at the office. After all, she didn't go to the airport to receive Mr. Rowland and wondered if he will be angry.

"Dearest Sherry, why are you in a daze?" Liam said loudly.

"Good morning, Mr. Brooks!" Sherry greeted politely as she glanced at his back, "Has Mr. Rowland arrived?"

The telephone rang at this moment. Sherry was startled and answered the call.

"A cup of coffee please!" The deep voice like an announcer came over the phone and Sherry was dumbfounded that Mr. Rowland had arrived so early.

"Er! He's already here! Go quickly and send a cup to me as well"

"Yes!" Sherry made the coffee and sent it to the director's office.

She entered after knocking on the door and saw the man behind his table smoking with his head lowered. The smoke-filled room was choking and Sherry guessed that he must have arrived for a while as there were numerous cigarette butts.

"Mr. Rowland, coffee!" Sherry placed the coffee on the table.

She was about to leave when he suddenly said, "Why didn't you go to the airport?"

Sherry swallowed her saliva and became worried and turned around. She didn't want to explain that there wasn't anyone to pick her son up and said, "It was after working hours and the company does not give overtime pay. So, I shouldn't need to work outside of office hours!"

William tapped the cigarette ash into the ashtray and stood up suddenly. He then swiftly walked over to her which startled Sherry causing her to take a step backward. His tall frame towered over her with the overpowering smell of smoke.

"Mr. Rowland, you can fire me if you don't think that I'm suitable to be your secretary!" She mustered her courage and said.

He remained speechless and Sherry noticed that he was staring at her. His tall and slim body started to get closer to her. At that moment, she could smell the thick smoke and the fresh faint smell of cologne. That fragrance excited every cell of her body.

"What are you doing?" Sherry tensed up as she looked at William.

William was very calm and a mischievous look flashed across his eyes. He stretched out his hands towards her hair. He saw that her eyes were wide open and glared at him while her face began to blush so redly that it could bleed at any moment.

She thought about how he kissed her the other night! What was he up to?

"There is a piece of cotton on your hair!" William was suppressing his laughter and extended his fingers past his face and onto her hair. With a gentle flick, he looked again at Sherry and then went back to his seat.

Cotton? Sherry looked at William walking slowly back to his seat and then became suspicious of him. This was the first time Sherry felt that William had another side to his cold expression. He not only had that clean cold expression, but also the cunning smile of a fox.

After a moment, Sherry suddenly became furious and said, "You did that on purpose!"

"Did what on purpose?" William asked without looking at her.

"On purpose..." She paused for a long while and didn't know what to say. Sherry pouted in defeat and huffed. She lowered her head and felt that something was amiss but could not see that William's expression revealed his mischief.

"Wait!" She suddenly yelled.

William's expression neutralized and looked expressionless at her, "What?"

"It's autumn, where did the cotton come from?" She finally realized what was amiss.

William's cunningness flashed again and changed the subject, "Why didn't you go to the airport on Friday?"

"I don't want to go!"

"Is the business plan ready?" He asked again as if he wasn't concerned about her foul attitude.

He didn't bother to answer her, neither did he fire her. What was this about? She intentionally upset him several times so why hadn't he fired her?

"Ms. Sherry, where is the business plan?" William laughed again.

"I'll get it right away!"

"Take your business plan to the departmental meeting today. I hope that you will be able to present your plan during the meeting." William stood up as he said, "Let's go to the conference room on the fifty-eighth floor!"

"Yes!"

At the conference room, all the department managers and supervisors had already arrived. Sherry brought her business plan and felt uneasy as she entered the conference room. All the department managers and supervisors were curious about her presence.

The doors were opened and everyone stood to attention and said in unison, "Mr. Rowland!"

William walked steadily into the conference room with Liam and Ms. Hines following behind him.

William sat down while Sherry stood by the door waiting for his instructions while nervously holding onto the business plan.

This was the first time Sherry attended such a meeting and she was nervous as she had to make a presentation later. She turned to glance at the attendees and realized that some people were looking at her.

Liam blinked and signaled her to sit down at an empty seat beside William. Sherry was stupefied as Liam nodded at her. Sherry was conflicted.

*Ms. Murray, sit down!" This was the first thing that William said after coming in.

Sherry sat after hearing the order.

"Let's begin: William placed his hands on the armrest and slightly crossed in front of his chest waiting for the reports. Each department manager started to report on the highlights of last week.

After everyone completed their report, William said, "Ms. Murray, let's talk about the cooperation project with AVL!"

Sherry took a deep breath, stood up slowly, and walked to the projection screen.

She looked up and smiled professionally hoping to use the smile to cover her nervousness. Thereafter, she placed the printed presentation slides on the projector and began to explain at the screen. "Everybody should know that the Rowland Group is the sponsor for the launch of this year's winter fashion. The difference this time is the T shaped walkway will be moved outdoors. This will enable more people to attend our launch.."

She endeavored to maintain a calm and steady tone to show her self-confidence.

William can't help but look at her and his attention fell onto her fair petite face which captivated him. The words that came out of that tiny mouth were coherent and powerful. That face was clean without any makeup and her lips were naturally colored.

She was very different than all the women he knew. Her body and eyes exuded a natural purity...

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“Our budget of the project is around five million dollars. We will have fifty thousand guests for the outdoor fashion show and four thousand seats will be arranged for VIP. As to the VIP lists, two thousand guests are from our local distributors; the other two thousand will be reporters from social media. The proposal will contribute one hundred million dollars to the profit of our company”

Just the moment, somebody asked, “Ms. Murray, why are you so certain about the profit it will bring?”

“From the historic data, The Rowland Group spent forty million dollars on advertising on the TV, newspapers and magazines last year. I think everyone has got to know how much it earned. It was only from several social medias. This time, we plan to invite some leading TV stations as well as newspapers and magazines with key opinions, especially the fashion magazines. The Rowland Group is so well-known that we don't have to pay them extra costs; they will try to attend the show to report our event. So, don't you understand how much we will earn from the promoting of the two thousand reporters?” she answered with great confidence and gave another question at last.

Sherry was smiling at all the meeting joiners, confidently waiting for the next question.

Unintentionally, she had an eye contact with William, but not try to avoid him at all. She might be asking whether he had some other questions to her.

Then she found William had a look at Liam who was also looking at and nodding to William now.

Finally, William raised a question, "Ms. Murray, it is late autumn now. Have you considered for the models about their feeling cold at such a night show?"

Sherry kept a smile to say, "Mr. Rowland, on our proposal you could read some information. We will set up a temporary backstage of three hundred square meters big there. The supplier of the central air- conditioning agreed to offer us free service at that night. As the exchanging condition, our group will use them as a regular supplier for installment of all air-conditioners in office:

Liam was happy with her answer. As a new joiner of the group, Sherry had a glorious performance.

Anna also changed her mind about Sherry now.

The meeting came to an end after some more discussion.

All people left the meeting room. Liam walked towards Sherry to give her a compliment, "Sherry, you did a really good job!"

He did not expect Sherry to perform so well that the arrogant Susan started to think highly of her and loved to invite her a dinner.

From the meeting, she was surly competent.

Sherry smiled and said, "I really appreciate your advice"

Now William was leaving the room but stopped to look at Sherry who stood in front of the projector. It made Sherry feel some of nervous.

Liam asked, "William, some comments?"

William watched them to answer, "If we can earn one hundred million dollars from the winter wear in the quarter, you will get the bonus of fifty-month salaries.

Liam yelled, "Wow! William, it's cool!"

Sherry was astonished and had a shy smile. Would she make it some day? Her smile stunned both William and Liam.

Before Sherry getting back to her desk, Alice came to give Sherry a hug and said, "Sherry, well done! Anna said you are so amazing today!"

Sherry shook her head; obviously, she had not got used to the close body contact, "Thank you. Mr. Rowland is in office.'

Alice sat back immediately and took a peep at William who came soon. He was back to his own office as well as talking with Liam.

Lara walked out of her office room and had a look at Sherry, then leaving for the pantry.

At lunch time, Sherry had something with Alice in the dining room. Lara was passing by with a hot soup.

Unexpectedly, she threw the hot soup on Sherry by accident.

Lara screamed, "Oh, my god! I'm so sorry, Sherry, this is an accident!"

Sherry yelled in a lower voice, "It's too hot!"

Alice found all the hot soup on Sherry's arm and said, "Sherry, you have blisters. It hurts?"

All the staff in the dining room turned to look at them. Someone felt sympathetic while someone felt gloating. Anyway, all of them kept silent because everyone considered Lara to be one girlfriend of William.

Lara apologized again, "Sherry, that's my bad. I am so silly to do it"

Sherry shook her head and bit her lips. She felt too hot on her arm where some blisters appeared. She said peacefully, "Never mind. I know"

It was Alice who got fury with this, "Ms. Rhodes, you can slip on such a wide pass. It's incredible!"

Lara raised her voice to be sharp, "What do you mean? You said I intended to do it?"

Alice curled his lips and said, "You know yourself! You poured such hot soup on Sherry's arm. She got blisters now!"

"Alice!" Sherry stopped Alice to talk more. She appreciated Alice for arguing with Lara. However, Lara had told this was an accident, so, she had to end the trouble.

Liam was in the dining room for a moment; now he was much annoyed with what happened. Everyone knew how nice Liam was, but he was horrible at the moment and came to them.

Someone said, "Hey, Mr. Brooks was here"

Liam came near to see Sherry's hand; there were some blisters.

He held Sherry's another hand to leave and said, "Follow me:

"Mr. Brooks!" Sherry tried to get rid of Liam, but failed by his great power.

When passing by Lara, Liam looked coldly at the surprised Lara and left.

It also stunned everyone here who was doubtful about the relationship between Sherry and the charming Mr. Brooks.

Alice did not imagine that Sherry could be highly recognized by both of William and Liam. Whatever, Alice was happy to see how astonished Lara was.

Out of the dining room, Liam took Sherry to the lift.

"Mr. Brooks, I'm fine. Let me go!"

"Are you ok? We're going to see the doctor"

Now William met them holding each other's hands. He turned to be angry to ask, "What are you doing?"

Liam and Sherry turned back to see the upset William standing behind them.

Sherry tried to get rid of Liam again and failed again. Seeing William, Liam answered easily, "Sherry's hand was hurt by Lara with hot soup. I am going to take her to the hospital. It occurred among your staff; you are the boss who should care about the victim. I suggest you go to see the CCTV now to check what happened.

William had a look at their holding hands and Sherry's wound; he did not say anything, just walking to hold Sherry. He said: "She is my secretary, and from today, she is the first secretary of mine. I will take her to see the doctor"

Liam did not expect him to talk about it; he nodded and patted William's shoulder to say, "Good boss, just go"

William held Sherry's hand to his personal lift.

Just now Lara was walking out of the dining room and saw Sherry leaving with William; she was some of jealous.

They did not treat Sherry as a normal staff. Sherry, you are so charming that even the stern William greatly cared about you?

Before realizing what happened, Sherry had already been in the lift with William. She was stunned to look up at him to find he

was such a handsome man.

His big hand covered her smaller hand fully. She tried to get rid of him because she thought it was not suitable for them to be like this. Yet William did not let her hand off; he was much more aggressive than Liam.

Sherry pretended to have a cough and said, "Mr. Rowland, please let me go. I don't need to go to hospital."

William did not follow her request, but got her another hand to see. The radiant-white hand turned red and swelled; several blisters were there. He said, "Don't move."

"I said not to go to hospital. Just a scald"

"Shut up!" William spoke loudly in a fierce way.

"Don't be so mean to me!" Sherry was hurt by his girlfriend; now he yelled at her.

William calmed down to say, "Just get some medicine"

Sherry had a look at her two hands being held by him and frowned to say, "Could you please leave me alone on the way to hospital?"

He asked abruptly, "You only allowed Liam to hold you?"

She got surprised to hear it and soon looked at the unconcerned William, asking slowly, "Are you crazy?"

Then she had her hands off him without any hesitation, "Thank you so much! I can go by myself"

Sherry had some blush on cheek for getting angry. What's the problem today? Lara hurt her by accident; William also disturbed her. What a bad day!

William watched her blush and got some idea in his mind.

It took longer to get to the ground floor by the lift. Sherry looked at William calmly, but actually through his eyes, she was unsure about what he would do to her and became worried.

Just the moment, William stared at her to say, "Follow me to the hospital"

By instinct, Sherry was still scared by his sharp look.

She shifted her eyes from him to see the buttons on his shirt which was of silver-grey color. Today William wore a light-color tie with printing. His chest seemed amazingly strong; it was no doubt that he looked so fit to be absolutely fascinating.

Damn! She was thinking about how fit he was!

Back to the reality, Sherry said, "Mr. Rowland, I appreciate your kindness. But it's not necessary to go to hospital now!"

William frowned and knew she pretended to be calm, just saying, "This is an order!"

Finally, she stopped talking more.

But she still looked unhappy with him.

Why did he care about her with an order? What an aggressive man! Anyway, he was trying to protect her, Sherry would not like to argue more.

But Sherry did not understand why he watched her with great frown. In his view, she was a trouble to him?

After a while, William started to ask about the reason, "How was your hand hurt?" Sherry almost lost herself in his fabulous voice; she believed she had heard the voice before!

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"Simple as that?" He asked. He thought she had more to complain.

"Yes. What?" She was confused.

"She did that on purpose!" He was surprised that he should say such thing out loud.

Because he always acted calm in front of people.

"What?!" Sherry opened her dazzling eyes widely. She couldn't believe William's words. "Mr. Rowland, Ms. Rhodes is your woman. Maybe you should protect her instead of accusing her"

She suddenly realized how tall this man was when talking against him. However ... that was not the point! What a cruel man!

He took her virginity, then spoke ill of her!

Indeed, Ms. Rhodes might do that on purpose. But who could prove it?

"You really think it was an accident?" He raised his eyebrows, "Shall I help you get revenge?"

He lowered his head towards her while speaking. His breath and unique smell surrounded her.

Sherry put on a big smile and answered casually, "Why would I take revenge? I'm not mad!"

Next time she would dine at a corner where no one went in order to avoid anything extremely hot.

"Are you really fine without me?" He kept breathing near her ear.

"Mr. Rowland, don't you have anything to do? Why you stand so close to me?" She stuck her finger at his chest angrily. Out of her expectation, his slim body was so strong. Those pectorals hurt her finger like hard rocks!

William was amused. He wrapped her finger with his big palms.

"Stop that!" She retreat her hand.

The elevator opened up at this moment.

It was not her first time sitting in William's Bugatti. He pushed her into the copilot seat like last time.

But this time neither of them spoke. They brought cream for scald from the hospital, which intrigued intense discussions in the company.

Reception, the lobby.

Riley, the reception guy, was on the phone with someone, "Damn! Mr. Rowland is holding Ms. Murray's hands. It's the first time I see him do this .."

When they came back, William was walking in front of Sherry, who held the cream. She still felt intense pain even though her hand had been treated. William headed to the private elevator, and Sherry automatically walked to the elevator for staff.

William turned back when Sherry was about to leave, he immediately reached out his hand and grabbed her collar. "This way!"

The air in the hallway froze.

Sherry shrank her body a bit, "Ill just go that way"

"It's order!"

"Fine!"

Later, the news that the CEO shared his private elevator with Sherry spread.

Back to the top floor.

"Sherry, thank God, you're back" Lara suddenly cared for Sherry.

Sherry frowned a little bit when she saw Lara. She nodded and went back to her seat, saying nothing.

William's emotionless eyes swept through Lara's face in shorter than a second. Deep inside, he had never moved by her beauty.

Lara was startled by how indifferent William was, she mumbled, "Mr. Rowland!"

"Well, you're back, Sherry. What did the doctor say?" Liam always knew when to pop up.

"Everything's fine" Sherry stood up while shaking her head.

Watching two men worrying about Sherry, Lara's jealousy erupted, and her drooping beautiful eyes radiated cold light.

Liam, however, saw everything. He signed to himself: jealousy women were so ugly. They literally had no limit, this time they spill hot water on you. Next time who knew what unfortunate incident would happen.

William's eagle-like sharp eyes swept from Ms. Hines, Alice, Liam to Sherry, and landed on Lara, "Ms. Hines, call the monitoring room and get me the video of the dining room immediately:

Everyone is stunned!

Sherry thought she heard him wrong.

The smile froze on Liam's face. Was he really going to humiliate Lara?

"Yes, I'll do it right away" Ms. Hines made the call immediately.

Lara's face went pale out of fear.

William still wore that cold look, but you can hardly catch the sarcasm flashed by in his eyes. His Satan-like facial expression gave people chills easily.

Then he walked to his office, expressionless.

"Mr. Rowland!" Sherry shouted, out of everyone's expectation.

William stopped his footsteps and turned back. He squinted at her with his emotionless and mysterious eyes.

Everyone was startled for none of them knew what she was going to say.

Sherry lost her words the moment she saw others' faces. One look at Lara, she lost her desire to say anything, especially in front of everyone. "Nothing!"

William narrowed his eyes before he returned to his office.

Lara still looked as pale as paper.

Liam went to William's office.

When the guy in the monitoring room came to deliver the CCTV taps, Sherry immediately made two cups of coffee and took them to the CEO's office on a tray.

The tapes were placed on the table.

"Mr. Rowland!" Sherry's sight fell on those tapes. "Can you destroy them?"

As expected, both William and Liam fixed their eyes on Sherry after she done asking the question.

"Ms. Murray, what do you mean?" William raised his eyebrows.

Sherry was also straightforward. "I know what you wanna do, Mr. Rowland, but it's unnecessary. Can we just be at peace, isn't that better?"

William and Liam were both a bit surprised.

"Sherry, the CEO is trying to punish a staff who misconduct. Don't mess with it!" Liam really didn't know if Sherry was a softball or a stupid girl.

"Mr. Brooks, I don't care about this. I just don't wanna offend any of my colleagues." She was a single woman with a child, and was always act carefully in life. She believed that as a human, she should be kind.

"Ms. Murray, how do you know that I ask for the tapes to take revenge for you?" William slowly spit out these words, showing no special emotion.

"What?" Sherry was speechless, then her face got red.

"Ms. Murray, don't flatter yourself" William sneered.

"You're not doing this for Sherry?" Liam disclosed his intention.

But Sherry didn't realize that. Wasn't he doing this for her? Did she misunderstand him? Jesus! Her cheeks spoiled, "I'm sorry, I thought ..."

Looking at him, Sherry thought to herself that maybe she did over-think about it. It was impossible that he would do something to his lover for her.

She looked at him, however, she was incapable to read his mind. What a dangerous man, anyone could lose in his eyes without knowing it.

But she still had her doubts.

Sherry turned around and walked out. The look on her face intended she was trying to figure out things.

"I can't believe' Liam put on a smart smile, "You should go to war for that little secretary:

"Mind your own business!" William still sounded calm, but a little impatient. He was embarrassed that Liam knew his mind.

"William! It wasn't like that!" Lara let out a scream. She was completely shocked that William would fire her for Sherry. She didn't even get the chance to be his lover anymore.

William took his hand back from Lara, whose face was twitching. He lit a cigarette, then said to her with his raspy voice, "We're over, and you know the reason. I hate women with sneaky minds."

"William! I'm sorry! I won't do that again!" Lara burst into tears while kneeling down to his feet, "William! I'm sorry!"

"You know what to do. Leave K city. I don't want to see you here anymore!" he signed a check with a careless attitude, "This is what you deserve!"

"William!"

"Out! Now!" William got rid of her hands and ordered with the cruelest tone ever.

Lara knew this was the end. Tears swirling in her eyes, she cast hateful eyes at William and clutched her fists, "Because of Sherry?"

"Get out!" William scolded.

Lara left at the end, but Sherry was appointed by William to get receipts at the financial department at that time. When she came back, Lara had been gone.

"Sherry, do you know that Lara was fired?" Alice gossiped.

"What?" Sherry's mind went blank, "What are you talking about?"

"You don't know? Mr. Rowland fired her. She's gone"

Was that really because of her?

Sherry walked into William's office, "Mr. Rowland, Ms. Rhodes .."

"How's your hand?" William walked around his table and took her hand naturally. He carefully checked her burn scar and didn't let go until he had confirmed that she put the cream on.

Sherry followed his gentle moves with her eyes, and almost forgot the things she wanted to say, "Mr. Rowland, why did you fire Ms. Rhodes?"

"Because of you!" What a surprising answer! What was more surprising was that he lowered his head and gently kissed her forehead. Before Sherry realized, she had already been in William's arms.

"No!" She panicked. But the next second, William had put his powerful lips on her.

It seemed like a declaration.

It seemed like a declaration that she was his.

Chills went through her back.

The same scene in the man's bathroom at the party once again appeared in her mind. Her body was shaking, struggling to get out his control. His kiss really hurt her. She couldn't take it no more and bit him. The taste of blood pervaded in her mouth, however, instead of letting her go, he kissed even harder.

He was declaring something.

Chapter 30 - A Moment in Destiny

"No!" She shook her head and her eyes glared wide open. This man was terrifying.

"Smack!" She swung her hand and he didn't dodge and took on the full impact of the slap. She was stunned.

With a scoff, William's cold gaze locked onto her startled eyes and licked the blood at the corner of his lips. He grinned and his ruthlessness flashed across his eyes and then he regained his deathly coldness.

"You are the first woman who dares to hit me but I'll give you this honor!" His tone was overbearing but tender.

She stared at him and her heart started to flutter. She was terrified about this man because he could cause raging waves within her heart.

"Be good, don't get me worked up!" His domineering arrogance raised her surprise a higher level.

"You're crazy!" She was so shocked that she had forgotten the purpose of looking for him and quickly escaped.

"Sherry, what happened to your lips?" Alice looked at her hurrying out of the director's office and looked at her curiously, "Er! It's swollen! Did Mr. Rowland kiss you?"

"What the hell are you talking about?" Sherry tensed up immediately.

She mustered up a smile but realized that even the corner of her lips was stiff. She quickly ran to the restroom. She looked into the mirror as her trembling fingers touched her painful lips. She had been forcibly kissed and her lips were painful as they were burning hot.

What did he mean? What were his intentions by doing these tyrannical actions?

She composed herself before she walked out of the restroom.

William remained in his office for the rest of the day.

At the end of the workday, Sherry received Celia's call. She was back after a vacation in Singapore. "Hi, Sherry, shall we go for a celebration? Take our Dan and we'll have dinner at a Western restaurant. I'll give you a treat!"

"What's the occasion?" Sherry grinned and forgot for a moment that she was violated by William, "You sound very happy!"

"Yes, I'll tell you later! Oh yes, I'll pick Dan up first, and thereafter we'll pick you up at your office at six. Don't forget that!" Celia instructed.

"Okay! See you later!" Sherry hung up the call.

"Sherry, is that your boyfriend?" Alice started to poke her nose into her personal affairs again.

"Yes!" Sherry was about to deny but when she saw William, her heart skipped a beat, and inexplicably nodded.

"Sherry, you have a boyfriend already?" Alice yelled.

Sherry glanced at William and said, "Yes, of course! He'll pick me up later!"

She was hinting to William that she already had a boyfriend and he should not harass her anymore! William's gaze sharpened and walked briskly to Liam's office.

Sherry heaved a sigh and thought that Mr. Rowland should not bother her again.

After work, Sherry took the lift down. The colleagues who were gleefully chatting away suddenly became silent when she stepped into the lift. She felt that countless eyes were looking at her when she stepped out of the lift.

She saw Celia's car a distance away as soon as she stepped out of the main lobby.

In the main lobby, the director's reserved lift also opened.

Sherry started to run towards Celia's car. Celia drove a manly off-road vehicle. A small boy got out of the car and ran towards Sherry, "Mommy, I'm here to pick you up!"

"Slow down!" Sherry hugged him, "Dan, let's go quickly!"

William walked out of the building and turned his gaze and saw someone carrying a child into the car.

"Sherry?!" William was stunned, that child?

Sherry turned and saw William standing at the entrance of the building. Her heart almost jumped out of her throat. Then she saw William walking over in large strides...

"Drive! Celia!" Sherry stuffed Dan into the car and then quickly got in thereafter.

"What happened? Have you seen a ghost?" Celia immediately started the car when she heard her yell.

William's eyes narrowed ominously. Did she really have a boyfriend? Really?

"Mommy? Is there a big bad wolf?" Dan was curious and looked behind but the car had already driven off.

"I've been encountering some insane people recently!" Sherry explained, "But I'm fine, don't worry. Where are we going?"

"Okay! My brother's western restaurant is opening today. Free invitations. Of course, we must not miss out on a free meal!" Celia joked.

"Why do you make us sound like we are beggars?" Sherry grinned and brushed off the harassment she encountered today.

"Leon, this is my friend Sherry and my godson, Daniel. We're here to celebrate your restaurant's opening!" Celia held onto Dan's hand and congratulated Leon while giving him a sizeable red packet.

Sherry presented a bouquet of flowers, "Leon, congratulations on your opening!"

This wasn't the first time Sherry met Leon but Leon looked particularly handsome when he wore a business suit today.

"Sherry, we've not met for years!" Leon was stunned and looked curiously at the child next to Celia, "This child looks so familiar!"

"Leon! I'm starving! Quickly serve the food!" Celia interrupted him.

"From today onwards, you are my...' William's tyrannical declaration rang in her ears and Sherry was immediately distracted.

Sherry, why is your heart pounding?

Ah ah ah ah...

I'm going insane! I'm going crazy! Sherry, why are you thinking of that man? Didn't you say to take him as a lunatic? But the warmth on her lips still lingered and she was totally conflicted! She was in a mess. Her mind started to buzz continuously.

It was like a dream, no, more of a nightmare. She hoped that he would not bother her anymore after she said that she had a boyfriend.

"Sherry? Sherry? Wake up!" Celia looked at Sherry who was in a daze, "Hey you, are you in heat?"

Sherry came to her senses after hearing a familiar female voice and blushed even more, "Erm!"

"Something's up" Celia confirmed.

"Celia, what's up?" Dan's cute face was full of curiosity.

"I'm going to the washroom and will be back soon; Sherry said and quickly left for the washroom.

"Congratulations on the opening!" Liam declared when he saw Leon and whistled.

William remained cold and silent but when he saw Leon, he grinned, "Congratulations!"

"Thanks! I didn't expect you to come!" Leon said and his expression changed when he saw Susan following behind.

"Why? Don't you welcome me?" Susan blinked mischievously.

"No, no, I just didn't expect you to come!" Leon smiled coyly.

William and Liam exchanged looks seeming to understand something.

"Reminisce on the past, you two, we'll go up first!" Liam said and was about to go upstairs.

Leon turned around quickly and instructed someone to lead them into the restaurant. When he saw the mischief in William's eyes, he realized and quickly yelled.

"Will, is your son here?"

"Sammy? William raised his eyebrow, "No!"

"I saw a child who looks very much like you! Especially his eyes!" Leon said, "I thought that he is your son! So, I was mistaken!"

"Er? Sammy's eyes do not look like Will and should look more like his mother!" Liam thought. "Will, who is Sammy's mother? When will you tell us?"

"I'm going to the restroom!" William glared at him and didn't turn back. He exuded a dangerous aura and walked towards the restroom.

Leon looked at Liam, "Why do you like to talk about taboo subjects?"

"Okay, continue with your conversation. [I'm going up." Liam rubbed his nose and walked into the restaurant.

Sherry quickly composed herself and walked out of the restroom with her head lowered.

William also walked in that direction and suddenly his eyes narrowed as he noticed her. To think that she was also there, what a small world! William walked over to her and then stopped.

Sherry, with her eyes looking down, suddenly saw a pair of shiny leather shoes and lifted her head. She looked stunned with eyes wide open, "Mr. ... Mr. Rowland!"

The next second, he grabbed her slim waist and pulled her into his warm embrace.

"Mr. Rowland..." To her surprise, he had already lowered his head and looked as if he was about to kiss her.

But he stopped just before he kissed her. At that closeness, she could smell the tobacco on him and started to feel dizzy.

"We are fated to be together! Sherry!" He smiled charmingly, "Where's your boyfriend? Which one? Introduce him to me!"

Sherry's pupil dilated and swallowed her saliva, "Mr. Rowland, my boy... boyfriend is outside. Quickly release me or I'll scream!"

"Scream?" he scoffed and grabbed her to the female restroom.

What's that pervert doing in a female restroom? Why did he enter the restroom? The previous time he kissed her was in the female restroom.

"Go ahead and scream, you may scream if you want to!" He said coldly and pressed her against the door. His cold expression could make a person shiver.

"... " Sherry was petrified.

His sharp gaze was staring down into her and the overbearing suppression caused her to struggle with her breathing. Only a tyrant could cause such a feeling...

"You're a pervert! This is the ladies!" She finally spoke.

"Break off with your boyfriend! Immediately!" His gaze locked onto her eyes as if he was going to devour her.

"You, are you insane?" Sherry was dumbfounded and was startled by his sudden appearance not to mention what he just said. He shouldn't be ordering her like that even if she had a boyfriend.

Why was he here? What was he doing here? What did he want?

William started to smile in a strange manner. He maintained silence and looked amusingly at Sherry's bewilderment and felt good about it.

"Mr. Rowland, release me. How can you do this?"

"What did I do?" William smiled and tightened his grip, holding her tightly in his embrace not letting her budge.

He looked down and was on the verge of kissing her. He liked to see her in that anxious manner and felt particularly aroused.

Sherry's instincts took over and raged, "Stop it! My boyfriend will kill you! Release me!"

"Then call out to him! Get him into the ladies to kill me!" William laughed arrogantly.

Sherry closed her eyes in resignation and said, "How, how can you behave this way? You are a director!"

He just overturned her impression of him. How could he sexually harass his secretary? She wasn't one of those easy women!

"Leave your boyfriend!" He continued to demand.