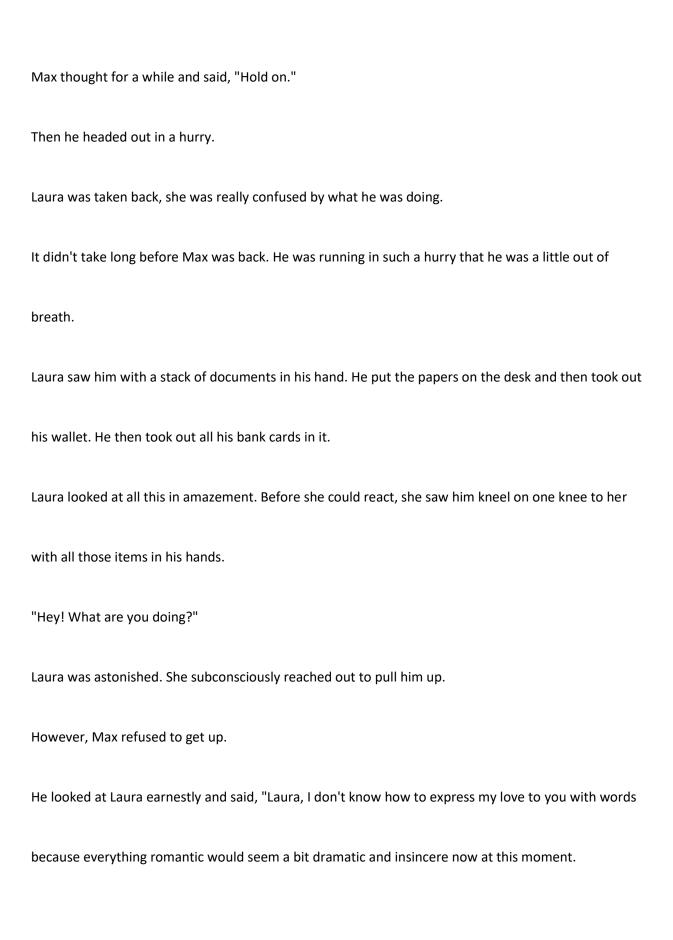
## **KINDA SWEET 621**



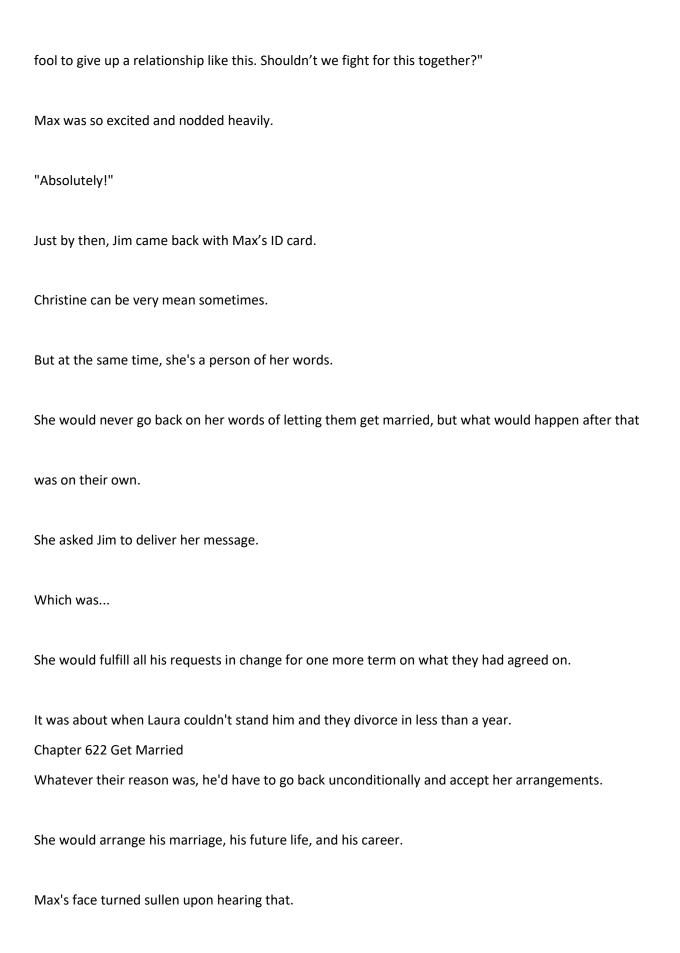


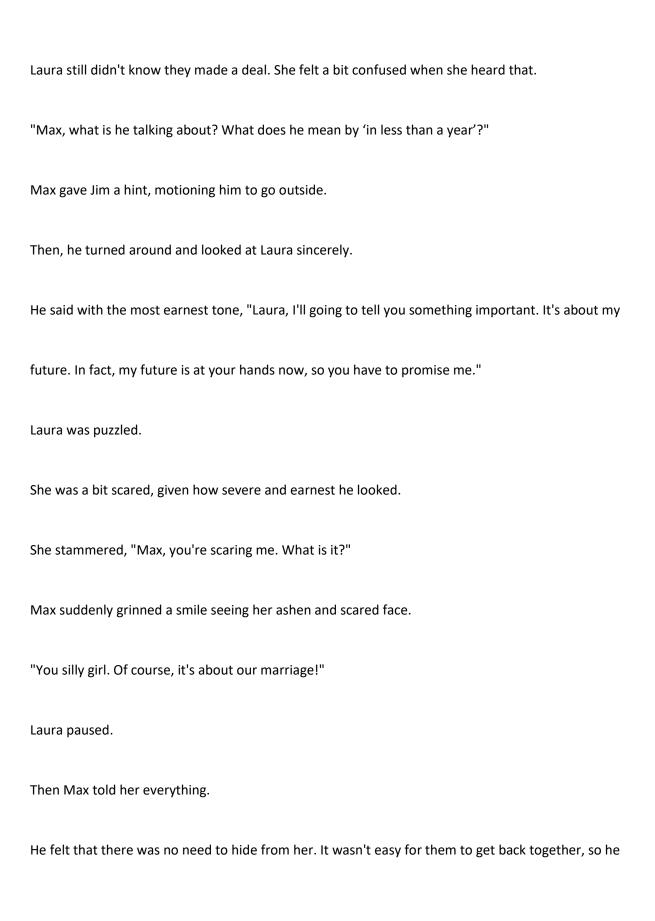
Therefore, I can only profess my feelings to you in the most primitive and direct way. I love you, and I
meant what I said to my mom just now. I wanted to marry you, and that's a serious decision. I didn't just
say that to fool her.
Laura, these are the certificates for my properties and company shares. All these bank cards have the
code on their back. I've got nothing else for you but these now. Trust me, even if I am not a member of
the Nixon family, and I don't have a solid family background from now on, I can still create a great
future for us on my own!"
Laura froze when she heard that.
She looked at Max with her mind blank.
"Are you"
Max held the documents and asked sincerely, "Laura, will you marry me?"
After moments of astonishment, Laura felt overwhelmed with mixed feelings upon realizing what was
happening.
She felt warm waves surging her heart, eyes brimmed with tears.
Seeing his sincere gaze, she felt she had been such a ridiculous and stupid coward.

Max was observing the change of her expression. He seemed very confident, but nobody knew how
nervous he was at that moment.
He was scared that Laura would turn him down.
After all, she hadn't decided if she should be with him till today.
Laura pursed her lips and snorted softly, "That's all you've got to ask me to marry you? Stop
daydreaming!"
Max's face changed.
It was just as what he had thought
"She didn't want to marry me?"
He forced a smile and said, "It's fine. You don't need to answer me now if you're not sure. Take your
time. Sleep on it"
However, before he finished speaking
She suddenly added, "There should be flowers and rings for a proposal! Who wants your stupid papers



He must be truly in love with her - it made him full of joy when she said yes.
"Laura, I'm so happy! This is like my dream coming true!"
Max turned a few more rounds before he put her down.
He acted as if she would run away from her and hugged her in his arms tight for several minutes. Then
he let her go.
"Pinch me, Laura, to see if this was a dream."
Laura felt him funny and reached her hand and pinched a soft part on his waist.
Max's face twisted in pain. Laura laughed, "How's that? Now you know it's not a dream, huh?"
Max laughed.
"It's so not a dream!"
He reached out his hand to hold her face and then kissed her cheek affectionately.
"Laura, thank you for saying yes."
Noticing his sincere tone, Laura felt so warm and pursed her lips and whispered to him, "You don't
have to. I say yes because I love you, just like you love me. You're brave enough to try. I would be a

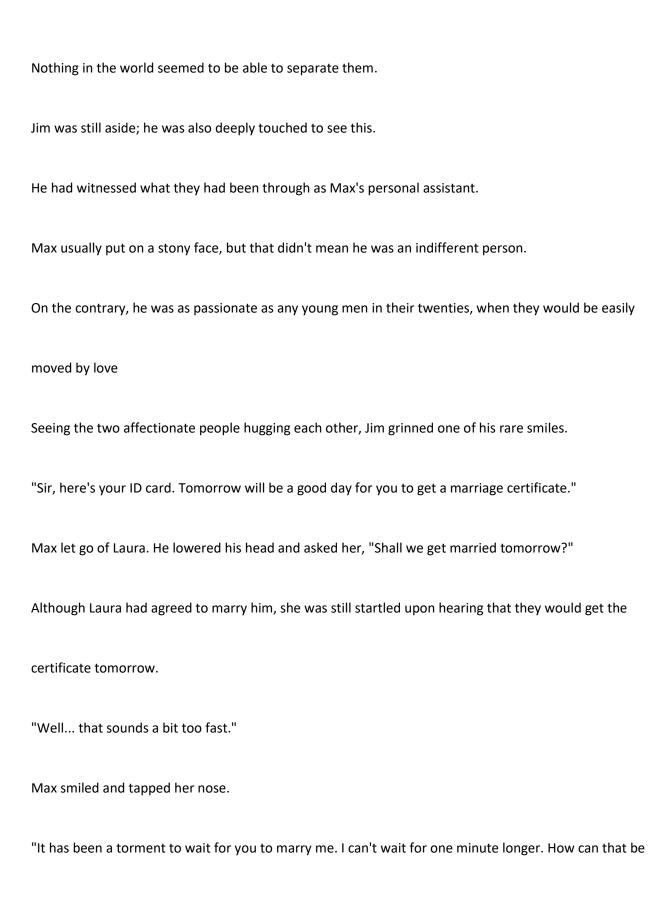




had seen the world. She knew that even the craziest love would have its day to settle in peace. Only personal interest was the ever-lasting pursuit and forever truth for everyone. She was surprised that Max was willing to give up his hands-down fortune and privilege for her. He wanted to be with her as an ordinary man. She felt in no position to get mad or blame him. Max didn't expect that not only was she not mad, but she also apologized to him. His heart melted like chocolate. He held her hand and said gently, "You don't have to feel sorry, honey. It was my decision. It's what a man would do for his beloved woman. It's not something to be proud of. In fact, I should thank you for staying with me after what I've done. Don't worry, I'll love you no matter how the world changes. I'll protect you and will never let you hurt." Hearing his sincere words, Laura was so touched. She jumped into his arms immediately.

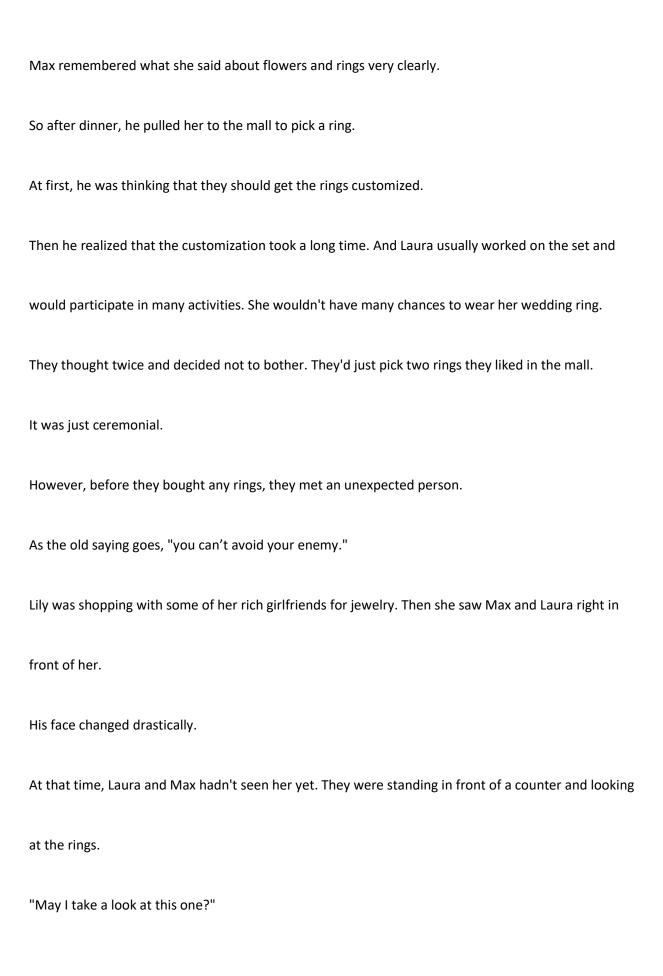
They were so close to each other. For the first time, they are with each other physically and mentally.

Max held her tight and gently stroked her back.

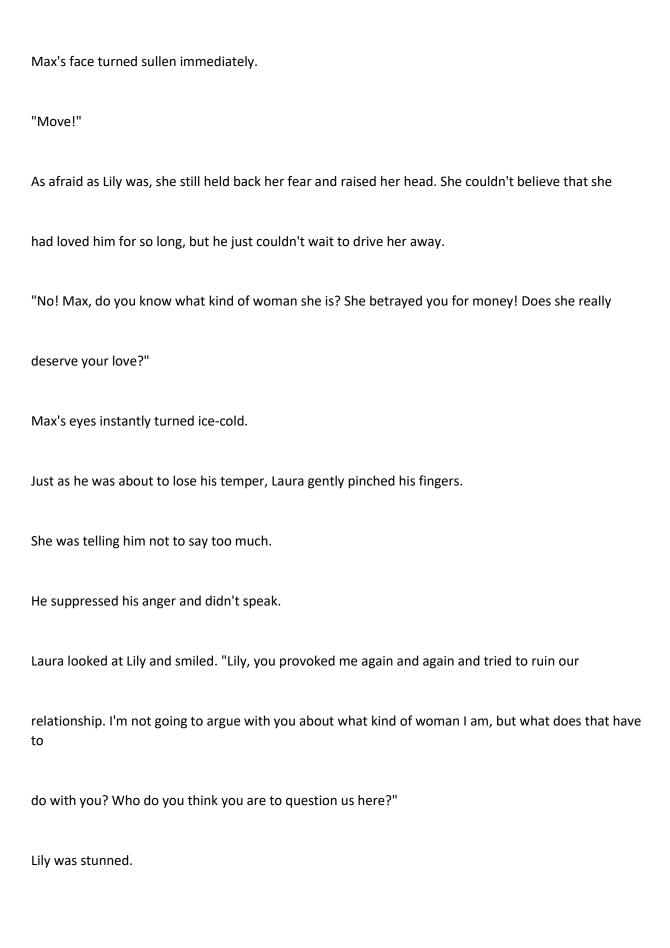


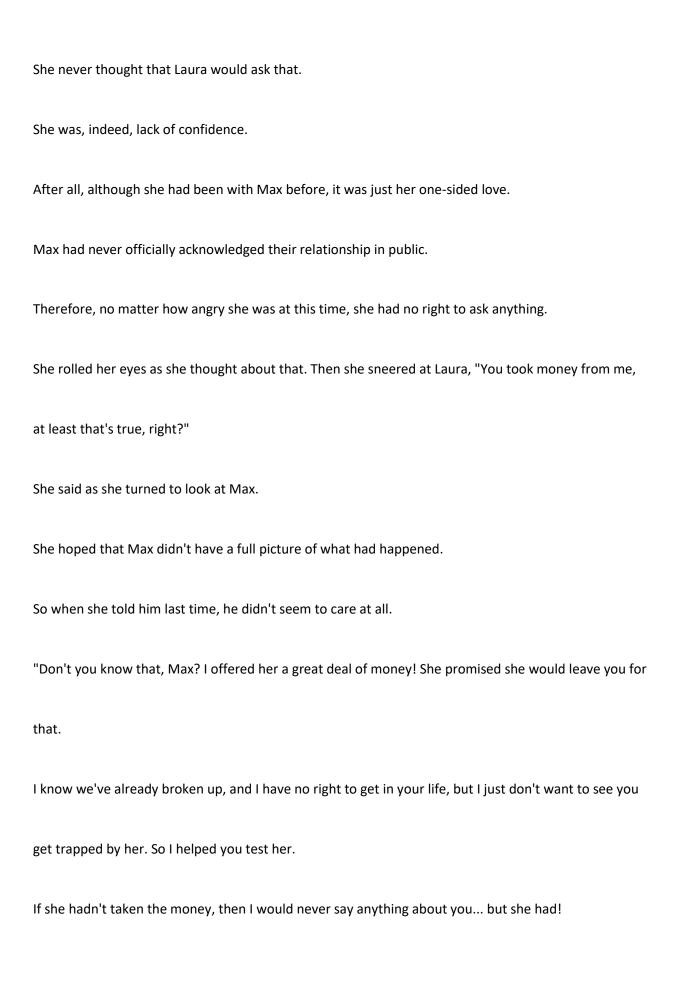




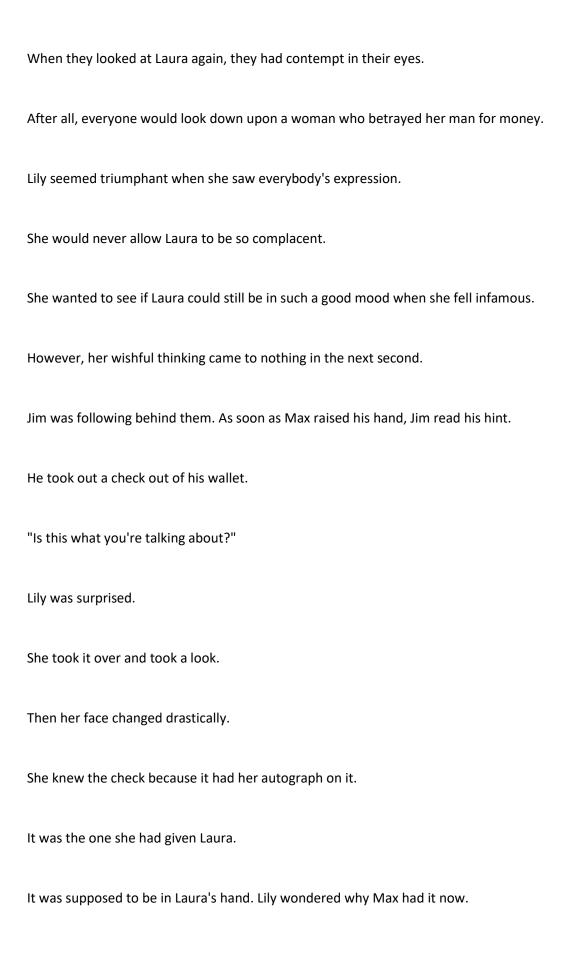


She picked a heart-shaped diamond ring. Just as she was about to take a closer look, a mocking voice
came from aside.
"Hey! Look who's here! It's you!"
Laura and Max raised their heads. They all frowned upon seeing Lily.
Laura didn't want to get pestered by Lily. She gently tugged Max and whispered to him, "Let go over
there."
Max also felt that there was no point in getting pestering with Lily.
Winning her would disgrace him, and losing to her would disgrace him even more.
Therefore, he didn't want to talk to her. He nodded, held her hand, and was about to leave.
However, that attitude only made Lily angrier.
After all, although Max used to hate her, he hadn't acted like this. He didn't even want to talk to her
now.
She felt so sad and took a few quick steps to stand in their way.
"Stop!"





Do you really feel at ease to be with a woman who would betray you for money? She betrayed you once; aren't you afraid that she'll do that again?" As soon as Lily said that, the crowd around fell into silence. This high-end jewelry mall was usually too fancy for ordinary guests. There weren't many people even on weekends, let alone on weekdays. Even so, there were still shopping assistants watching them. They felt embarrassed for Laura when they heard that. They knew Laura and Lily because they were both celebrities. When they saw Max bring Laura over for rings, they were happy to have discovered a hidden romantic relationship. Given Max's power and influence, they wouldn't dare leak the gossip. They only felt happy for Laura because they had watched her shows and liked her. But now, it seemed that everything was not as simple as it seemed. These three people seemed to be caught in a love triangle.







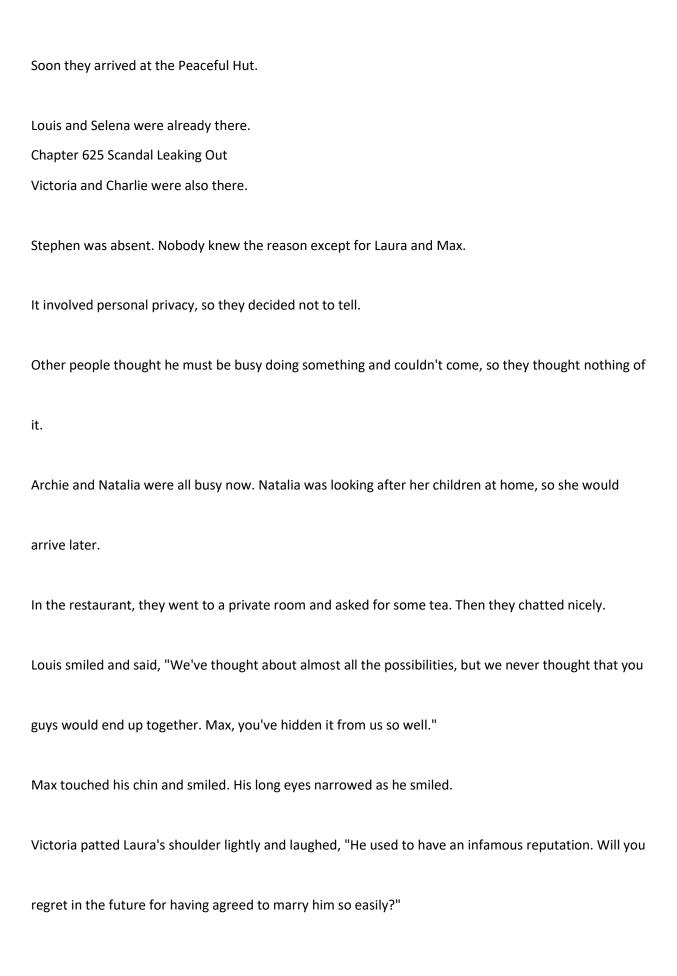




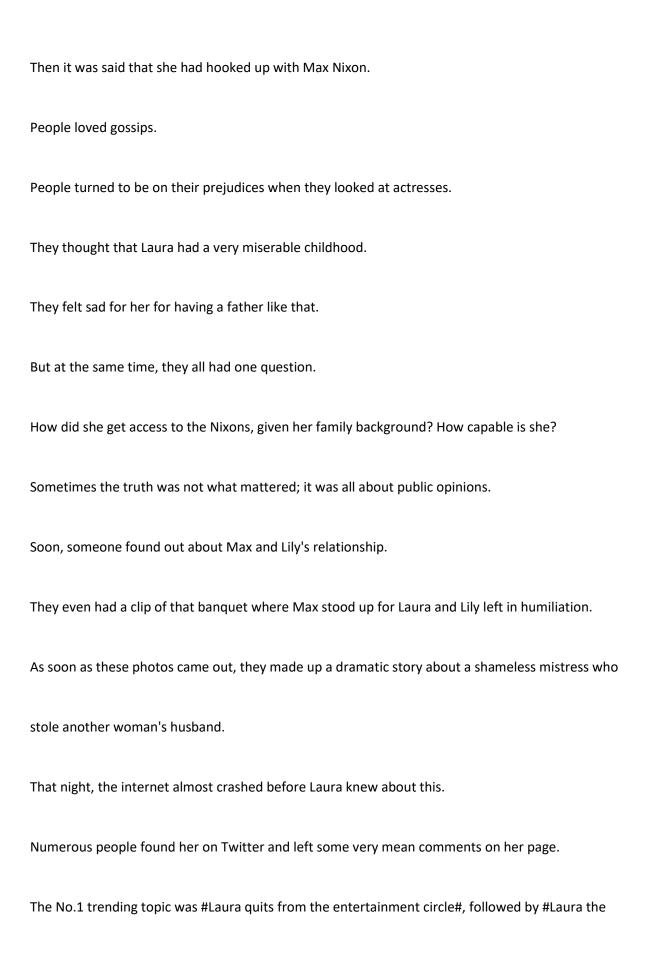
She felt less confident. Then her face flushed, and she snorted in dissatisfaction.
"I'm not jealous; I'm just stating the fact."
Max looked at her pretty face in anger. He fell in silence for a while and then sighed.
He reached out to hold Laura's hand.
She was mad at him now; she wouldn't let him hold it.
She immediately drew back her hand.
Max grinned a bitter smile at that.
He explained, "Laura, what if I tell you that there was nothing between her and me? Will you trust me?"
Laura was taken aback and looked at him unexpectedly.
He rubbed his forehead and pondered for a minute, then he answered, "I did play the field back then,
and I'm not going to deny it, but I had a bottom line. I did all the crazy things I wanted to, but I've never
crossed the line."
"You know, in our friend circles, women always throw themselves on me because of my money and
family. I haven't met you at that time, and as flawed as Lily's personality was, there's one thing good













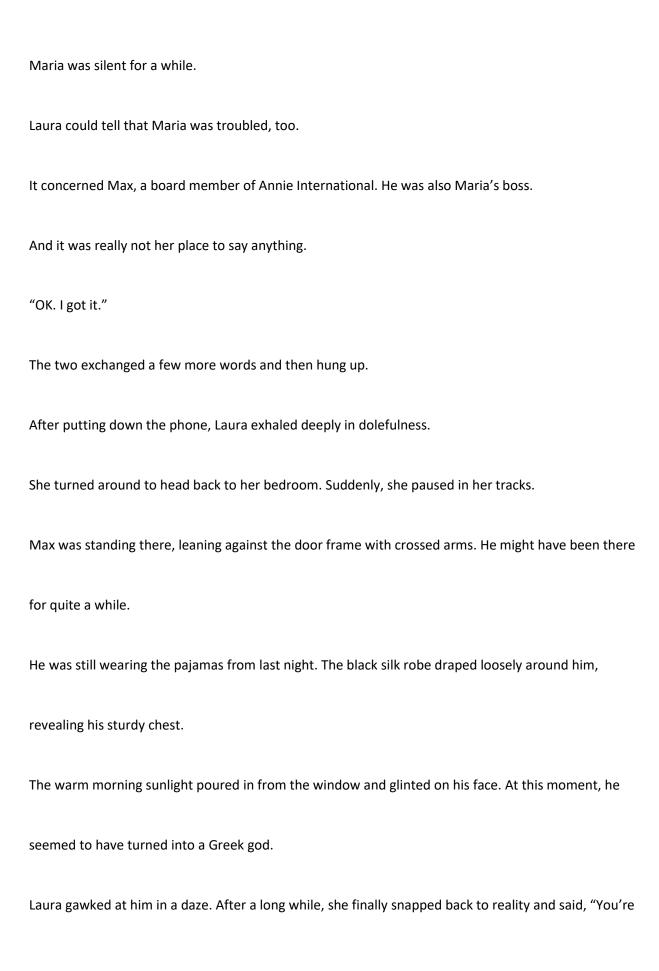


She said as she got rid of his hand and got off the bed.
Max was in a daze when he heard the word "mistress."
He still needed a while to get clear-headed. He even smiled.
"My mistress, isn't that you? I dare anyone would hurt you."
Laura was in no mood for jokes. She got off the bed and instantly called Maria back.
Maria knew she had already seen the trending list, so she took a deep breath and surpassed her
anger.
"What about now? Did you see it? Can you tell me what had happened now?"
Laura pursed her lips. He looked at the man in bed and then headed to the living room.
"I need to tell you from the very beginning."
It had taken her over ten minutes to tell Maria the whole story.
Maria sneered and said, "I underestimated you. I'm your agent, and even I didn't know that you've had
such a stirring relationship. You've done such a great job keeping this secret."
Laura rubbed her forehead and said, "It's my fault. I shouldn't have kept it from you. Sorry."

Maria snorted, "Don't be. You're now the wife of the second Max Nixon. I'm just an agent and can't afford to upset you. We already had an emergency meeting last night and came out with a plan. I'll send you an email if we need your help." Laura could only say yes. Maria paused and continued, "Mr. Nixon should step in to help us if possible. You know what I mean. " Laura didn't answer. Of course, she understood what she meant. Chapter 626 Got You in Trouble "But we've already promised Christine that we won't go public. If Max stepped forward, we wouldn't be able to keep our marriage a secret. "We would break our promise, wouldn't we?" Thinking of this, Laura heaved a sigh. "Let's just wait and see what happens. Try to bribe the press if you have to." On the other side of the line, Maria nodded and said, "Now you and Max are in love, which makes it less scary with him on your side. I was worried before because I was afraid that your marriage was

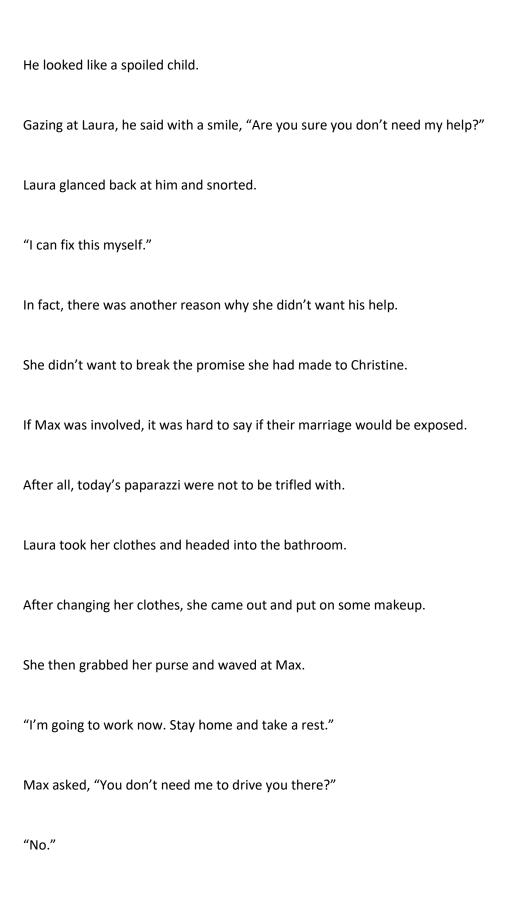
fake. You know, in this circle..."











Laura thought with annoyance, "Is he kidding?" "Gossips are flying on the Internet. I wish I could keep a distance from him. How can I let him drive me to work?" "Does he want to give others more juicy stuff to talk about?" Max clearly had thought of this, too. He scratched the tip of his nose with disgruntlement and fell silent. After taking a few paces, Laura suddenly stopped and said, "By the way, I gotta tell you something. To avoid more gossips, we can't live together for the time being. I'll move back to my apartment. If it's too inconvenient, I'll stay in the hotel booked for the crew. And try not to visit for a while, or we may be photographed and even make things worse." Max was vexed as soon as she said that. With a long face, he said in a low, angry voice, "No!" Laura cocked her eyebrow and asked, "Why?" Without a word, Max strode forward and took her into his bosom. "You're my wife. How could you stop me from seeing you? I can't even go visit my wife?"

Laura froze. Clearly, she was stumped for words.

She rolled her eyes and said, "There is no other way. We've agreed to keep our marriage a secret. Do you understand what a secret marriage is? We can't let others find out we're living together or we're actually a couple."

She whipped out her phone, clicked Twitter open, and pointed the top trending photos to Max, saying,

"Look, that lover of yours has told the world about our relationship.

Many reporters are already waiting to catch us being together. If you come to see me, you can't

possibly do that without being spotted. Thus, to be safe, you'd better stop seeing me for some time."

Max's face turned even more somber.

"Then how much longer shall we hide our marriage?"

He had finally married the woman he loved, but they still had to hide their relationship.

Even though they were a married couple now, they could not even see each other when they wanted

to.

Chapter 627 The Silent Treatment

It made no sense!

Laura thought for a moment before saying, "You've promised your mother to hide our marriage for a

year. Let's just get through a year first." Max's expression turned more surly. But this was a promise he had made to his mother. It was also what made Christine agree to let him and Laura stay married for now. Therefore, Max had to honor this promise. At last, Max could only watch Laura leave the house in reluctance. A car had been waiting outside to pick her up. Seeing Laura, Nicole leaped out of the car and handed her a hat, a pair of sunglasses, and a mask. After Laura put these on, nobody could possibly recognize her. Nicole looked around to make sure everything was OK, and then led Laura into the car and drove away. Laura didn't go to work for a few days because of the kidnapping. So in the next few days, the crew would focus on shooting the parts Laura should have done days ago. Of course, the crew had all seen the scandal online. Some were not interested at all, but some were quite curious. Nevertheless, everyone had formed a tacit agreement—no one talked about this when Laura was

around.
After all, this was not something to be proud of.
If they discussed it in Laura's presence, they would feel they were speaking ill of her and embarrassing
her on purpose.
Laura knew the others must be gossiping behind her back.
But as long as they didn't do it in her face, she preferred to act like she didn't know it.
Days went by in peace.
The sensation caused by the scandal lasted for days. But Laura didn't respond. After doing the one-
person show for a couple of days, Lily also felt this game was not fun anymore.
If Laura responded, Lily would get a chance to pick a fight. Then, the whole thing would be interesting.
But if Laura never reacted to it, even though it went viral on the Internet, those who followed the story
would gradually lose interest when they realized that there was nothing new anymore.
However, to wait for the heat of this scandal to wear off was easier said than done.
After all, Laura knew many people were talking about her and even rebuking her on the Internet.

Yet, she had to pretend that she knew nothing. Nor could she do anything or care about it. Luckily, Laura had firm willpower. Under Maria's instruction, she didn't make any response no matter how heated scandals had become online. To not ruin her mood, she didn't touch her cell phone these days. Nor did she check Twitter once. When she had to use her cell phone for work, she asked Nicole to handle it. For this reason, though she didn't see any of those snarky comments online, Nicole saw it all. She now sympathized with Laura even more. She thought indignantly, "Why are these people so vicious? "It's obvious that Laura is the victim. But why didn't they feel for her but attack and ridicule her with every chance they got?" "Look at what they said online. Do they kiss their mother with that mouth?" "They called her 'daughter of a murderer'. They said she deserved to be publicly humiliated. They even told her to disappear from the entertainment circle for good and that she should kill herself!" "None of these people know about the truth!"

"They merely trashed Laura because they saw others all doing this!"

In recent years, Laura's career had been going very well. Now, she was basically a top-class actress.
She was getting more and more acting offers. As such, in the highly competitive show business, she
had gotten in the way of many.
Now that she had a scandal, those who took issues with her success naturally took the opportunity to
fan the flames.
For a time, the Internet was filled with nasty accusations.
But Laura's life was still incredibly serene.
On this evening, after finishing shooting, Laura was sitting in a chair studying the script for the next
scene.
Suddenly, she felt a tap on her shoulder. She looked up and saw it was Stephen.
Stephen was holding a cup of hot beverage.
He bent down and said with a smile, "Timothy made some hot chocolate. It's cold today. This will warm
you up."
Laura took the cup and said, "Thanks."

Stephen smiled back and said nothing. In this play, they were the leading male and female roles. They needed to discuss the script and exchange opinions sometimes at work. Therefore, when the others saw them sitting together, they thought it was quite normal and never considered if anything was going on between them. Stephen pulled a stool over and sat down beside Laura. It was already late at night. The shooting sight was brightly lit, but the lights in the resting area were dim. Since the temperature was too low, the crew provided many small electric heaters for everyone. Though the heaters were old-styled, they worked very well. People were all glad to have them. Thus, when Timothy saw Stephen sitting with Laura, he also brought Stephen's heater over there. After he put down the heater, Stephen nodded and told him to take some rest.

When everyone around walked away, Stephen tilted his head and looked at Laura. He asked, "Are

you... alright lately?"

His tone was kind of weird.
It sounded like he wanted to say something but restrained himself on second thought.
Laura was certainly aware of why Stephen asked that.
She gazed at the warm yellow light from the heater in front of her and smiled.
"Yeah, I'm fine."
Stephen puckered his brows when he saw her smile.
"I know the accusations online are not true. If you need somebody to defend you or something, I can
help anytime you need me"
But Laura cut him off before he could finish.
She turned to look at him, with a grateful and loving smile on her pretty face.
In the quiet night, her voice was light as a feather, which gently tickled his heart.
She remarked, "Thanks. I appreciate your nice gesture, but I don't think you could actually help me this
time. Even if you stick up for me, no one would believe you. So instead of making endless explanations
to the haters, I think I'll just be myself, regardless of what others might think or say. I don't really care."

Stephen quietly gazed at her. In the darkness, the warm light from the heater gleamed on her exquisite
face. Her clear eyes shone with dazzling beauty.
Stephen felt a little bitter.
Laura's heart was also slightly bitter, though she seemed to have stayed strong on the outside.
A smile appeared on his face.
"Now I know why Max would choose you to be his wife."
Laura was taken aback.
She turned around and saw his self-mocking smile. He was looking into the distance. There was a
rueful and faintly unyielding look in his eyes.
"You're really great. You're the best girl I've ever met. Max has good taste. Since childhood, he was not
the naughtiest, but the smartest.
"Now that you're with him, to be honest, I'm happy for you."
Laura fell silent. She didn't know what to say to that.
Stephen suddenly looked at her with a serious face and said, "Can I ask you a question?"  Chapter 628 Childhood Memories
Laura froze for a moment. She then came to her senses and nodded, "Sure, go ahead."



father was his grandfather's adjutant. Father often went out on missions with his grandfather. My
mother felt I might be bored if I stayed at home alone, so she took me to our neighbor's house, where
Max's grandfather lived, to hang out.

"I met him there for the first time."

Laura seemed to have been carried up by her memories and zoomed back to that warm afternoon 20 years ago.

With a chuckle, she said, "I was so little back then. I was barely a toddler. One day, I was chasing dragonflies in their backyard. Suddenly, I tripped over a stone.

It would be no big deal if I merely tripped and fell. But there was a pond in front of me. I lost my balance and fell into the pond.

The water was deep. I still remember the feeling of being engulfed and having water flood into my mouth and nostrils.

I struggled in the water, screaming for help. But the adults were in the front yard. And the servant who was supposed to watch me just left to run some errands.

Nobody was there to rescue me. But just as I was about to give up, someone grabbed my hand.

Then, I was pulled up by someone, who carried me in his arms and swam to the shore.	
I was scared out of my wits and kinda unconscious. I didn't remember who saved me.	After waking up,
all I did was cry.	
When my family heard that I fell into the pond, they hurried over to check on me. Arou	und my bed, they
began to bicker about who was to blame.	
They didn't know I fell into the pond myself. I didn't want to blame anyone. I just hope could	ed somebody
hug me.	
Later, I saw Max, with his clothes all drenched like mine, standing not far away. He har	nded me a piece
of candy and said, 'Don't cry. This is for you.'	
That scene was not very special, was it? A seven-year-old bravely saved a drowning the	ree-year-old.
It happened so long ago. I should have long forgotten all that. Yet, I seem to remembe	r every little
detail.	
I even clearly remember his expression and the shy look on his face when he handed n	ne the candy."
Laura was calmly telling the story. Stephen was listening quietly with a face devoid of	expression.

But the hand on his side silently clenched into a fist.

Laura continued, "Since then, I often went to Max's place to play. Max was the only kid living in that house. His older brother was much older than him, so he was already working with their grandfather to learn skills. Therefore, only Max could play with me.

We soon became best friends. When we had snacks or fun toys, we would immediately share them with each other.

I followed Max everywhere like his little sister. He also protected me from being bullies like my brother."

Laura's eyes glinted with tears as she recounted the past.

She looked sideways at Stephen and said with a smile, "Look, how vividly I remember that. Every detail of that time we spent together was carved into my heart."

Stephen's heart jolted with agony. His fist clenched so tightly that his fingernails sank into his flesh.

Laura smiled, "I always thought I didn't begin to like Max until a long time after I met him again. But later I realized, in fact, that the seed of that love was planted a long, long time ago. Just like a healthy seed buried in the ground, it only needed a little sunlight and water to take root and grow into a giant

tree. Even I can't deceive myself anymore."

if I met you first instead.

She fixed her eyes on Stephen seriously and said, "Now, you want me to tell you if I would still love him

"I think the answer is yes, because I love him for him. It has nothing to do with how soon we crossed paths. He already won my heart since the day he jumped into that pond and saved me when I was three. No other man in the world could fully capture my heart as he did. Nor could he be replaced by another man.

So, Stephen, I won't leave him for you, do you understand? If I did that, it wouldn't be fair to you or to myself. It would be even more unfair to Max. I'm sorry. I hope you will also meet someone who loves you wholeheartedly. I wish you happy."

After Laura gave her answer, Stephen didn't speak for a long time.

The two fell into an awkward silence.

After God knew how long, Stephen suddenly heaved a sigh.

It sounded like he was mocking himself, or perhaps scoffing at something else.

He said in a soft voice, "I see. I thought Max and I were standing at the same starting line before. It was

just that he met you first. Now I get it..." He smiled and lowered his head to conceal the pain in his eyes. Moments later, he looked up. His face was gentle and calm as it usually was. He turned to look at Laura. Smiling, he said, "Don't worry, I'll keep this between us. I won't say anything stupid to you anymore." Laura compressed her lips and said gently, "Thanks." "I'm the one who should say thanks. I've been disturbing your life and intervening in your relationship with Max regardless of your will. But now, I understand everything. You can rest assured. I will try to look for the one meant to be with me. I hope I can also find happiness as you did. Hearing these words, Laura knew he was completely ready to move on. She then smiled with relief and said, "I'm sure you will." Chapter 629 A Huge Crush Stephen nodded. They didn't say anything more.

After they sat there in silence for some time, the director told Laura to have a little rehearsal. Laura

then said goodbye to Stephen and went away. Stephen continued to sit there, motionless. In the darkness, he quietly watched Laura move from one spot to another as the director instructed. Just then, Nicole came over from behind. "Stephen, I bought some snacks. You want some?" Laura always had midnight snacks when she had to shoot scenes at night, or she would feel sleepy. Nicole usually went out to buy some snacks for her when she needed them. Knowing that Stephen also had work tonight, she bought snacks for two people. Stephen was stunned at first. He then turned around and smiled when he saw her. "What have you got?" "Puddings, sandwiches, pies, and some barbecue meat." Nicole scratched her head with embarrassment and muttered, "I'm not sure if you like them though." Looking at the delicious food before him, Stephen felt a warm current coursing through his heart. Smiling, he said, "I like them." Then, he took over some snacks without hesitation and began to eat.



Nicole was taken aback. She wanted to tell him that the food would get cold in a while, so he'd better not eat these. Unexpectedly, Stephen looked back as he walked outside and said, "Watch them for me. Don't throw them away. I don't care if they're cold." After that, he left in a hurry. Nicole pulled a wry face as she watched him leave. Shortly after, Stephen came back. He picked up the snacks and finished them all. Laura also returned after she was done with the rehearsal. As there were some problems with the light, the shooting was stopped, so Laura could take a break. She was surprised when she came back and saw Stephen enjoy so many snacks. "Good for Nicole. She's getting better and better at her job. She now knows to buy you snacks as well." Stephen looked up at her and said in amusement, "What? You won't share your snacks with me?" Laura froze. Realizing that he was joking, she laughed and said, "Oh please! Of course, you could try my snacks. I just feel sorry for the girl because the man she has a huge crush on has no idea of her



Tonight, Laura had to shoot a quarreling scene.
She was not good at quarreling herself.
As long as she could fix the problems with muscles, she would not do the talk.
After the quarreling scene was done, she felt completely worn out.
Nicole poured her a glass of water. After she took several gulps, her throat was finally not that dry.
Then, she started to shoo the next scene.
The shooting that night didn't end until three in the morning.
Laura was so drained that she didn't have the energy to lift a finger.
After getting back to the hotel, she just wanted to go to bed.
Nicole didn't live in her room. She lived in a room downstairs instead.
It was too late. Nicole still had to get up early to go to the shooting set with her.
Thus, Laura didn't let Nicole walk her to her room.
She said good night to her in the elevator and told her to go back directly to her room.
The entire hotel had been booked for the crew. There were bodyguards stationed at the gate at all
hours.

Besides, the two bodyguards Max told Jim to send over would always be with Laura, so she was
perfectly safe.
Now Laura insisted, Nicole agreed to let her go back alone.
The two then went back separately. The two bodyguards halted outside the door and watched Laura
enter the room before leaving.
The moment Laura entered the room, she kicked off her high-heels even before turning on the lights.
Yet, with shoes barely left her feet, she heard the breathing of a man from behind her ears.
A chill instantly ran down her spine. She subconsciously turned around and snarled, "Who is it?"
But before she could recognize the man in front of her, he lowered his head and clamped her lips with
his.
Laura's eyes rounded. She heard a buzz in her skull as if something exploded in her head!
Without thinking, she reached out to push him away.
However, the man grabbed her hand before she could reach him.
Then, with a bang, she was pressed against the door.

Her hands were seized by him and held over her head. With her lips clamped and her hands tied, Laura was freaking out! "There was a loud bang when I hit the door. How come the two bodyguards didn't hear it?" They just walked me here. They can't have gone that far. With their sharp ears and high vigilance, how could they not have heard that noise?" Laura was puzzled and annoyed. Feeling that the man was getting more and more aggressive, she was both scared and furious. She bent her knee and kicked at a man's weakest part. A second later, the man's expression altered. He didn't expect she would do this to him. In the dark, he let out a moan of pain. His grip instantly loosened. Laura took this opportunity and broke free. She then held up her purse and began to whack the man with it. "You Jackass! How dare you touch me! How dare you!" She didn't stop whacking while yelling. The man only put his arms over his head to protect himself in the dark. He didn't dare to fight back, for he was worried that he would accidentally hurt her.

Chapter 630 A Surprise for Her

Unable to bear the pummeling any longer, the man suspected that Laura would beat him to death if he

didn't say something to show who he was.

He yelled, "S-Stop! Honey, it's me!"

Laura was fuming. Yet, she froze when she heard the familiar voice.

After she came to her senses, the light in the room was soon switched on.

With a click, the room was brightly lit, and the mysterious man who assaulted her was exposed.

Laura widened her eyes in disbelief.

"Max? It's you?"

Max gazed at her with an innocent look on his face while rubbing his arm.

"Of course it's me. Who else could it be?"

Laura paused. Thinking of what just happened, she suddenly found it both irritating and amusing.

Feeling rather speechless, she threw him a hard look and scolded, "Why did you do that? I was so

scared! Even if I was not that scared, I might fight back ruthlessly and hurt you!"

While speaking, she walked up to Max and gently caressed his arm.











Looking at the gleaming words in the sky, she said, "Would this expose our relationship?" Max smiled and assured her, "You worry too much. There are countless girls named Laura in the world. I didn't write your full name in the sky. How could others know this is for you?" Laura contemplated for moments and thought that it made sense. Looking at the glinting words of affection, she felt her heart had been honey-coated. She snuggled up to Max and said softly, "Max, thank you." She then continued inwardly, "Thank you for loving me like this. Thank you for giving me the courage of accepting a man's love again. Thank you for your forgiveness as well as your childishness. I thought my life would be cold and dull forever. But you made me feel sweet and warm again." Max placed a hand around her shoulder and took her into his arms. The night was quiet and sweet. The two didn't speak again, for they were enjoying some rare romantic time they had. At this moment, Laura suddenly let out of cry of shock.

She left Max's embrace and turned to look at him, asking, "Nobody saw you on your way here today,
right?"
A deep frown appeared on his face.
He seemed a little upset.
When he was about to answer that question, his voice was full of grievances.