

LLDP 101-110

Love Letters, Divorce Papers Chapter 101

“Chloe has always wanted to be acquitted, so she insists on appealing for the second trial, but the result will not change. So she will still have to be detained. Her mother definitely came here to ask you to drop the case.” Cole whispered in Amber’s ears.

Although his voice was low, Mrs. Mendez still heard it. She was a little embarrassed, “Miss Reed... Mr. Lyon is right. I’m here for this.”

“See, I got it right.” Cole spread his hands.

Amber rolled her eyes at him, then looked at Mrs. Mendez with a cold and distant smile, “I’m sorry, Mrs. Mendez. I won’t drop the lawsuit.”

Mrs. Mendez didn’t expect that Amber would refuse her so directly. Her face stiffened and she felt a little upset.

But soon, Mrs. Mendez held back her unhappy face and pleaded, “Miss Reed, I know that Chloe has gone too far this time, but she already knows that she is wrong, so can you...”

“No!” Amber interrupted her expressionlessly, “Mrs. Mendez, you said she knew she was wrong, but why hasn’t she apologized to me yet? As her mom, since you know she was wrong, why didn’t you do anything to make it up?”

“Exactly.” Cole put his hands behind his head and said leisurely, “The final trial is coming. Chloe is going to be convicted. Now, you came to find Amber. But we still don’t see your sincerity. You wanna ask Amber for forgiveness? Hypocrite! Are you not afraid of being laughed at by others?”

Mrs. Mendez clutched her bag tightly with both hands. Hearing this, she was embarrassed.

She originally thought that she would easily persuade Amber.

But she didn’t expect these two young people to be so merciless.

“Well, let’s go.” Amber didn’t want to entangle with Mrs. Mendez, so she said to Cole.

Just when the two were about to turn around, Mrs. Mendez suddenly grabbed Amber’s hand, “Miss Reed, please, please forgive my daughter.”

Amber frowned and wanted to pull her hand back.

But Mrs. Mendez grabbed her tightly and didn’t let her go, “Miss Reed, for the sake of my begging, please! As long as you agree to let her go, I will take her to apologize to you in person. Miss Reed, please!”

“Mrs. Mendez, I’ve made it very clear just now that I won’t drop the lawsuit. It’s useless for you to beg me. Could you please let me go?” Amber said impatiently.

As if Mrs. Mendez didn’t understand what Amber said, she just looked at her with a sad face, “Miss Reed, are you really so unfeeling?”

“Amber is unfeeling? Chloe asked for it!” Cole snorted at her words.

But Mrs. Mendez ignored him and focused on Amber, “Miss Reed, I can kneel down to you as long as you let Chloe go!”

Saying that, she let go of Amber’s hand and dropped to her knees.

Both Amber and Cole were startled by her actions. After reacting, they quickly helped her up.

“Mrs. Mendez, don’t do this!” Amber rubbed her temples, feeling headache.

Cole also pouted, “Mrs. Mendez, this is emotional blackmail!”

If Amber didn't agree with her, she would kneel down to beg. How preposterous. This was not only emotional blackmail, but also threat and compulsion.

Sure enough, she was Chloe's mother. Like mother, like daughter! It was not surprising that Chloe would become like this.

Mrs. Mendez still ignored Cole. Seeing that Amber seemed to waver a little, she took advantage of it and asked, "Miss Reed, please!"

Amber said, "I'm sorry, Mrs. Mendez. I..."

Before she could finish her words, Mrs. Mendez broke free from Cole's support and was about to get down on her knees again.

But this time, before Mrs. Mendez knelt down, she was helped up again.

It was not Cole or Amber, but Makenna.

Makenna pointed at Amber, and said indignantly, "Miss Reed, you are going too far. How can you let an elder kneel to you!"

Amber's lips twitched.

Cole rolled his eyes, "Hey, hey, are you blind? When did she ask Mrs. Mendez to kneel? It's Mrs. Mendez who knelt to her initiatively, okay?"

"Impossible." Makenna looked incredulous.

Mrs. Mendez patted the back of her hand, "Makenna, he is right. I knelt down myself."

"Auntie, why!?" Makenna looked at Mrs. Mendez in disbelief.

Mrs. Mendez's face was full of sorrow, "For Chloe! As long as Miss Reed is willing to drop the lawsuit, Chloe can be free, so..."

"So you kneel down to her?"

"Yes." Mrs. Mendez nodded, glanced at Amber, and wiped away her tears, "But Miss Reed refused me."

"I see." Makenna pursed her lips, then looked at Amber disapprovingly, "Miss Reed, she's already down on her knees to beg you, but you still rejected her. You are too cruel!"

"I'm cruel?" Amber raised her hand to tuck her hair behind her ears, looking so poised, "When I refuse to spare Chloe Mendez, you said I was cruel. But when Chloe created heinous and incendiary lies about me, why didn't you accuse her of being vicious?"

"I..." Makenna was choked, feeling a little embarrassed.

Cole sneered, "So Makenna, when you accuse Amber, think about whether you are in the right or not."

A trace of humiliation flashed in Makenna's eyes, but it quickly disappeared. She bit her lip, "Even if Chloe did something wrong at the beginning, she has been punished. There are so many people who criticize Chloe on the Internet. Is it not enough? Besides, her mother knelt down to you. Can't you forgive her?"

"No!" Amber said coldly, "Why should I forgive her?"

"Yeah! She hurt Amber, but you guys didn't ask her to apologize. Instead, you asked Amber to forgive her. Amber is already very kind that she didn't take revenge on her." Cole put his hand around Amber's shoulders and said sarcastically.

"By the way, I almost forgot it." Amber stared at Makenna without any emotions in her eyes, "Miss Gardner, Chloe came to this point because of you, so the one who should save her is you."

After saying that, she looked at Mrs. Mendez, “Mrs. Mendez, you might ask Miss Gardner for help instead of me. After all, she is so kind and definitely willing to help you.”

“Bye.” Cole waved to the two of them and took Amber into the courthouse.

Makenna didn’t dare to look at Mrs. Mendez, “Auntie, I know Chloe did it for me, but...”

“Enough.” Mrs. Mendez wiped her tears and interrupted Makenna, “I know Chloe has asked you for help, but your hands are tied.”

Hearing this, Makenna was surprised. But then she heard Mrs. Mendez say again, “But I hope you can stay away from Chloe in the future. It’s not suitable for Chloe to be your friend.”

“Auntie, what do you mean?” Makenna’s face turned pale and her voice trembled, “Are you blaming me?”

Mrs. Mendez took a breath, “Yes, I’m blaming you. If you didn’t stop me just now, maybe Amber would agree to let Chloe go when she saw I kneel down twice more. Now, because of you, everything is in vain. So it is your responsibility that Chloe can’t be released.”

After speaking, she ignored Makenna and left directly.

Makenna’s pretty face was suddenly distorted.

She never thought that Mrs. Mendez would hate her just because she didn’t let her kneel down.

How dare such a woman from a small-time family hate her?

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Makenna bit her lips tightly, feeling exasperated. Now, she was not in the mood to see the second trial about Chloe, so she turned and left.

Half an hour later, she came to the Farrell Group.

“Jared...” Makenna didn’t care whether there was anyone else in his office. She walked directly to Jared who was behind the table, sat on his laps and put her arms around his neck. Then she buried her head in his chest, sobbing softly.

Jared froze for a moment. He frowned slightly and looked at the woman in his arms.

If he hadn’t heard her cry, he would have even wanted to push her away.

“Put the documents here. I’ll read them later. You guys can go back first.” Jared put down the paper in his hand, rubbed his temples, and said to staffs on the other side of the table.

The man and the woman nodded, “Okay, Mr. Farrell.”

Then, the two turned around and went out.

After the door was closed, the woman couldn’t help but whispered, “That’s Mr. Farrell’s fiancée? Where’s her manners? She didn’t even knock on the door before coming in. Didn’t she see us talking business? She pounced at Mr. Farrell directly, Jesus, right in front of us!”

The man shrugged, “But Mr. Farrell loves her.”

The woman’s face was full of dissatisfaction, “Even if he loves her, she can’t do such things regardless of the occasion.”

“Okay, enough. If she hears it, we will be fired.”

The woman pouted and said nothing.

In the office, Jared gently pushed the woman in his arms away, "Makenna, come down first."

"No!" Makenna buried her head on his chest again.

Jared was helpless, so he could only ask, "Tell me, what happened?"

Makenna raised her head. Her eyes were red, "Jared, why did they say that to me?"

"Who?" Jared narrowed his eyes.

Makenna sniffed, "Miss Reed and Mrs. Mendez. I was going to see Chloe's second trial today, but I saw Mrs. Mendez kneeling down to Miss Reed in front of the courthouse, begging her to forgive Chloe. But Miss Reed refused Mrs. Mendez. I helped Mrs. Mendez to persuade Miss Reed..."

"Wait a minute, what did you do?" Jared raised his hand to interrupt her, "You persuade Amber to forgive Chloe?"

"Yeah." Makenna nodded, "I see Mrs. Mendez kneeling down and begging, so..."

"Makenna, you are wrong this time. You shouldn't do this." Jared looked at her.

Makenna seemed a little astounded, "Why?"

"This incident was caused by Chloe. Amber is the victim. It's up to her that whether she forgives Chloe or not. As a bystander, you have no right to ask her to do it. Do you understand?" Jared said in a deep voice.

Makenna bit her lip, "But..."

“Well, I know you want to say that Mrs. Mendez has already knelt down to Amber. She has gone too far if she still refuses to forgive. But have you ever thought that Mrs. Mendez’s kneeling down might not be a real begging, but a sort of compulsion? ”

“Compulsion?” Makenna seemed to be surprised.

Jared nodded, “Yes, Mrs. Mendez can go to Amber in private, but she chose to kneel to Amber in front of the public. It’s apparently that she wants to force Amber to agree.”

“That’s it.” Makenna lowered her head, looking very sad, “No wonder Mrs. Mendez hates me for helping her up. It’s just because I ruined her plan.”

“Never mind. Just pay more attention before helping others next time.” Jared stroked her hair gently, “Besides, The Mendez family aren’t decent people. You should have less contact with them in the future.”

“Got it.” Makenna forced a smile.

Soon, she thought of something again. Then she looked at him expectantly, “Jared, how about we go out this weekend?”

“Weekend?”

“Yeah.”

“Why did you suddenly think of going out?” Jared smiled lightly.

Makenna replied, “Because I feel so bored. You’ve been very busy lately and you don’t have much time to eat with me. I can only stay at home every day by myself. I’ve been so bored. Jared, just go out with me.”

She shook his arms, acting like a spoil child.

Jared couldn't do anything with her. It just so happened that there were few things to do this weekend, so he nodded, "Okay, I'll take you out this weekend, but I can't go too far in two days. I can only be in Olkmore. Where do you want to go?"

When Makenna heard him agree, she smiled brightly, "I don't know. I just woke up not long ago. I still don't know which place is fun in Olkmore. Jared, where do you want to go?"

Jared thought for a while. Then he seemed to think of something. The light smile on his face became a little brighter.

"I remember you said in your letter that you like horse riding and mountain hiking, and you're quite good at horse riding as well. It just so happened that Mr. Morris owns a riding club, and it's built on the mountain. After riding, we could directly go hiking. What do you think?" Jared looked at her.

The smile on Makenna's face was frozen.

Horse riding and mountain hiking! She could go hiking, but she couldn't ride a horse at all!

She had an innate fear of these large animals.

"Do you not want to do these?" Seeing that Makenna didn't speak for a while, Jared's face turned serious.

Makenna was afraid that he would suspect things, so she quickly nodded, "Yes, yes! I've thought about it a long time ago. I'm just so touched and happy that you still remember this."

"I've said this before. I remember all your preferences." Jared murmured in a gentle voice.

Makenna forced a smile, "Really?"

Jared said, "Then I'll contact Mr. Morris later."

“Okay.” Makenna nodded absently.

It seemed that she had to go to the riding club.

As for riding a horse, she could make up an excuse to avoid it.

Thinking of this, Makenna was no longer worried.

In the courthouse, the second trial had come to an end.

Under the repeated questioning of the judge and Amber’s lawyer, Chloe finally couldn’t stand it any longer. She lowered her head and admitted that she did deliberately tweet that post, in order to ruin Amber’s reputation.

Although it was bad, the laws about cyber-bullying were inadequate. So Chloe was only sentenced to be detained for 15 days and fined 30,000 dollars.

“Not enough.” After walking out of the court, Cole pouted.

He actually wanted Chloe to go to jail rather than simply to be detained.

Amber smiled, “The law is like this. Accept it! Anyway, Chloe has also been punished. We should be happy.”

“That’s right, why don’t we go celebrate for it? I heard that there is a new seafood restaurant on Saurock Avenue, do you want to have a try?” Cole looked at her with a smile.

Amber hadn’t eaten seafood for a long time. After she heard it, her eyes lit up, “Let’s go.”

“Okay!” Cole took out the car key. When he was about to press it, his phone rang.

“I have to answer it first.” Cole smiled bitterly.

The call came just in time.

Cole took out his mobile phone, looked at the caller ID, and raised his eyebrows, “It’s my mother!”

“Pick it up.” Amber urged.

Cole answered it and put the phone to his ear.

On the other end of the phone, a soft contralto voice came, “Cole, is the trial over?”

“It’s over.” Cole replied, and then asked, “Mom, what’s matter?”

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“I’m not looking for you. I’m looking for Amber. Is she by your side?” Mrs. Lyon asked back.

Cole looked at Amber, “Yeah.”

“Give the phone to Amber.”

Cole snorted and handed the phone to Amber, “My mother.”

Amber took the phone, “Auntie.”

“Amber, I miss you so much.” Hearing Amber’s voice, Mrs. Lyon was very happy.

Amber was also happy, “Auntie, I miss you too.”

“But you don’t come and see me.” Mrs. Lyon pretended to complain.

Amber stuck out her tongue, “Sorry, I’ve been too busy lately.”

“Then do you have time now? Come to my family for dinner. I’m going to prepare some delicious food for you.” Mrs. Lyon invited Amber for dinner.

Just as Amber was about to speak, Cole, who was eavesdropping on the side, couldn’t help but said, “Mom, I’m taking her to eat seafood.”

“There is no delicious seafood outside! It’s not fresh. If you want to eat seafood, come back here and I’ll cook for you.” Mrs. Lyon replied.

Amber said, “Okay. Seems like we have to bother you today.”

“Just come back early.” Mrs. Lyon laughed happily when she heard that Amber agreed to come to her place.

After hanging up the phone, Cole took the phone back and looked at Amber helplessly, “Now, we can’t eat the seafood outside.”

“It’s alright. We can go there next time. Let’s go and buy some presents for your parents.” Amber held his arm and walked towards the car.

The two came to the mall. After looking around, Amber bought a cloak for Mrs. Lyon and a tie for Mr. Lyon before driving to Cole’s home.

The Lyon family and the Reed family had been friends for generation.

Mrs. Lyon and Amber’s mother were best friends.

Since Amber's mother died, Mrs. Lyon had raised her as her own daughter. It could be said that in Amber's eyes, Mrs. Lyon was her another mother.

Soon, they arrived Cole's home.

This was the first time Amber had come here in six years. It was still the same as before, without any change.

Therefore, Amber didn't feel strangeness at all.

"Amber!" Hearing the sound, Mrs. Lyon ran out to greet her. Amber's eyes lit up instantly, then she opened her arms to hug her.

"Auntie." Amber smiled and stepped forward.

The two hugged.

Cole was jealous, "Mom, you ignored me, didn't you?"

Mrs. Lyon rolled her eyes at Cole, "I see you every day. I'm already tired of it. I want to see Amber. Let me take a good look."

She took Amber's two hands and walked around Amber to look up and down, feeling a little distressed, "You've lost weight."

Amber didn't know whether to laugh or cry, "Really?"

"Yeah. Your face was a little chubby before." Mrs. Lyon said.

Amber replied, "It was baby fat. So it looked a little chubby. Alright, Auntie, let's go into the house."

"Yes, yes, go in the house first." Mrs. Lyon held her hand and walked into the villa.

After entering the villa, Amber found that there was no one else. So she couldn't help asking, "Is Uncle not here?"

"He's playing golf outside. Don't need to care about him. Amber, tell me how you spent the past six years." Mrs. Lyon watched the press conference and was eager to know how she had been doing.

"Well." Amber nodded, and then told Mrs. Lyon her life in the Farrell family in brevity, lest Mrs. Lyon feel distressed.

But Mrs. Lyon was still very angry after hearing this. She couldn't help slapping the coffee table, "The Farrell family is spiteful. Amber, why didn't you tell us? If you tell us, we will give you support, and they definitely dare not to bully you again."

"Yeah, I also told her that before." Cole nibbled at the apple and nodded in agreement.

He had always been angry at Amber's behaviors of being bullied during her marriage and not telling him.

But he cared about her more than he was angry with her.

Their concerns had warmed Amber's heart. Tears welled up into her eyes gradually, "Because I don't want you to worry about me."

Her parents were gone. The closest people for her were Mrs. Lyon and her family.

She could ask Mrs. Lyon to support her a few times, but she couldn't rely on them all the time. After all, they were not her real family. They would feel annoyed over time, so she might as well not ask for their help in the first place.

“Silly girl!” Mrs. Lyon poked Amber’s forehead and sighed.

Amber knew that Mrs. Lyon was indignant for her being the pushover. She smiled, and hugged Mrs. Lyon’s arm.

Mrs. Lyon’s heart softened. She stroked Amber’s hair.

Suddenly, Cole frowned and sniffed twice in the air, “Mom, what did you make? It’s burnt.”

Mrs. Lyon’s eyes widened. She stood up abruptly, “No, my seafood congee!”

After speaking, she quickly ran to the kitchen to save her congee.

Fortunately, it was discovered in time, so the congee was saved.

Mrs. Lyon came over with two glasses of juice and put them in front of Amber, “Amber, drink it and watch TV first. I’m going to the kitchen to make two dishes. The meal will be ready soon.”

“Okay.” Amber smiled and nodded.

Mrs. Lyon looked at Cole, “Go and help me.”

“Me?” Cole couldn’t believe what he heard. He blinked and pointed to his nose, “Mom, are you kidding me? What can I...”

“Huh?” Mrs. Lyon pulled a long face.

Cole didn’t dare to refuse anymore. He stood up reluctantly, “Well, well.”

Then he dejectedly followed Mrs. Lyon to the kitchen.

Seeing him like this, Amber giggled.

In the kitchen, Cole looked around, "Mom, what are you asking me to do?"

Mrs. Lyon squinted at him, "Don't I know you're trained for nothing? I'm afraid you will blow up the kitchen."

Cole curled his lips, feeling aggrieved, "Then why did you ask me to come here?"

"Because I wanted to ask you what your feelings to Amber is. Do you still like her?" Mrs. Lyon looked at him.

Cole's face changed, "Mom, how..."

"You want to ask me how I knew that you like Amber, right?" Mrs. Lyon interrupted him directly.

Cole's lips moved but he didn't say anything. He acquiesced.

Yes, he liked Amber since he was a child.

But he knew that Amber didn't like him and only regarded him as her best friend, so he never told her his feelings for her. He always thought that he had concealed it well and no one could find it out. But he was discovered by his own mother.

"I didn't know it. It's you who told me. On the night of Amber's wedding six years ago, you were drunk and blurted it out yourself."

Speaking of which, Mrs. Lyon sighed, "To be honest, when I heard it, I was also shocked. If I had known that you liked Amber so much and didn't regard her as your younger sister, I would definitely make a match between you two! But you hid it so well. By the time I knew it, it was too late."

Cole touched his nose and didn't speak.

While washing vegetables, Mrs. Lyon said, "You haven't answered me yet. Do you still like Amber?"

Cole turned his head and looked in the direction of the living room through the door, with strong feelings in his eyes, "I love her. It's never changed."

"Well, now that Amber is single again, you should chase after her boldly. Try to become her real boyfriend as soon as possible." Mrs. Lyon encouraged him.

She really liked Amber.

So she wished Amber could marry her son.

Cole shook his head. His eyes dimmed, "No. She doesn't like me. If I suddenly chase her, it will only scare her."

He had seen a lot of girls' male besties pursue those girls. But there were very few people who could succeed. Basically, those girls were scared away and stayed away from those boys. After all, not everyone could accept their best male friends as their boyfriends.

He didn't want him and Amber to become like that. So he didn't dare to take risks. He would rather be her best friend for the rest of his life. At least this way, he could stay by her side.

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Seeing Cole was clearly moved but finally gave up, Mrs. Lyon couldn't help poking him on the forehead, "It's because you have too many scruples and are too timid, you always miss Amber."

"How can you blame me?" Cole was a little aggrieved.

Mrs. Lyon rolled her eyes at him, "Why can't I blame you? If you pursued her directly before, maybe she would accept you long time ago."

“It’s not so simple.” Cole dropped his head and smiled bitterly, “Not all girls can accept male besties as their boyfriends.”

“You haven’t asked Amber yet. Then how do you know that Amber won’t accept you?” Mrs. Lyon pouted.

Cole was rendered speechless.

Mrs. Lyon waved her hand angrily, “Well, well, go out quickly. Don’t stand in the way.”

“It’s you who asked me in.” Cole’s eyes widened.

Mrs. Lyon didn’t bother to argue with him. She just pushed him out of the kitchen.

“This boy, always fears this and fears that! He’s being overcautious!” Mrs. Lyon shook her head helplessly, “It seems that I have to take actions and create opportunities for them.”

Thinking of this, Mrs. Lyon took out her mobile phone and made a call, “Hey, Ruben, I heard that you have a riding club, right?”

“Yeah, what’s the matter?” A loud baritone voice came from the phone.

Mrs. Lyon smiled, “Can I invite someone over there? It’s for my son and future daughter-in-law.”

She planned to trick Cole and Amber to go to the riding club and stay there for a few days, and then set up some small and harmless accidents for the two.

Maybe the relationship between the them would grow by leaps and bounds.

However, Mr. Ruben Morris replied apologetically, "Sorry, someone has already made a reservation."

Mrs. Lyon frowned, feeling a little unhappy.

Who the hell was it?

Who was actually ahead of her?

"How many people are they?" Mrs. Lyon asked.

Mr. Morris replied with a smile, "Two! It seems that they're also lovers."

"Two?" Mrs. Lyon's eyes lit up, "Can you talk to them and let them not to book the whole club? I promise that my son and my future daughter-in-law will not disturb them."

Mr. Morris was a little embarrassed.

Mrs. Lyon stood there with her hands on her hips, "Ruben, have you forgotten how I helped you before?"

Mr. Morris smiled heartily all of a sudden, "Well, well, I'll try my best to negotiate with them, okay?"

"Okay." Mrs. Lyon hung up the phone contentedly, and began to eat.

After the meal, Amber touched her slightly bulging belly and slumped on the sofa to digest, "Auntie, your cooking skills are as good as ever."

Mrs. Lyon laughed, "Well, just come here more often with Cole. I will cook for you."

"Okay." Amber nodded, "Thank you so much."

"I like cooking the most, but Cole and his father are always away from home. No one eats the dishes I cook." Mrs. Lyon complained.

Hearing this, Cole, who was peeling the apples, rolled his eyes at her, "Mom, seriously? It's you who often go shopping and traveling and don't have time to cook. But you blame me and my dad!"

"What are you talking about? Boy, I need to teach you a lesson!" Mrs. Lyon pretended to clench her fists angrily.

Cole stopped peeling the apples anymore and jumped up to dodge.

While running away, he shouted, "You can't catch me!"

Amber watched the mother and son running around, holding her stomach and guffaqing.

The atmosphere in the living room was very cheerful.

Soon, it was getting dark.

Amber looked at the time. It was almost eight o'clock, so she said goodbye to them.

Mrs. Lyon wanted to let her stay here, but she refused.

"Cole, drive Amber home." Mrs. Lyon pushed Cole.

"Okay, my pleasure." Cole grabbed the car key from the coffee table, "Let's go, honey!"

"Well." Amber nodded, then waved to Mrs. Lyon, "Goodbye!"

“Goodbye.” Mrs. Lyon also waved.

Amber followed Cole out of the villa, got in the car and left.

An hour later, they arrived Kelsington Bay.

Amber unfastened the seat belt and opened the door, “Bye then.”

“Okay.” Cole responded.

Amber closed the door and walked around the front of the car towards the building.

At this time, Cole received a text message from Mrs. Lyon, “Son, go to Ruben’s riding club with Amber for a date on the weekend. I have already arranged it for you. The rooms in the big villa are also prepared for you. I believe you will be with Amber. Come on!

Cole’s mouth twitched.

His mother was making a match between him and Amber.

But dating...

Cole’s eyes flashed. Then he rolled down the car window. Seeing Amber was about to walk into the building, he clenched his fists, summoned up his courage and shouted, “Honey.”

“What’s wrong?” Amber stopped and turned around.

Cole took a deep breath and tried his best to put on a casual smile on his face, so as not to let her see that he was nervous, “My mother just texted me a message and said that she wants us to go to the riding club on the weekend.”

“What?”

He spoke so fast that she didn't hear it.

Cole scratched his hair, opened the car door and got out of the car. Then he walked towards her, stopped in front of her, and repeated what he just said, “My mother booked a riding club before for horse riding, but she had to go shopping in Europe this weekend, so she let us go there, in order not to waste money.”

When he spoke, he didn't dare to look her in the eyes, for fear that she would see that he was lying.

However, Amber didn't pay attention to him either. All her attention was attracted by the words “riding horses”. She nodded with bright eyes, “Okay.”

She hadn't ridden a horse for a long time since she married Jared.

When she thought about it, she felt she was really stupid back then. She actually gave up so much entertainment for a man who didn't love her.

“That's great. I'll pick you up this weekend.” Cole breathed a sigh of relief and said with a smile.

Amber said, “Okay, I'll go back first.”

“Bye.” Cole nodded.

Amber was about to turn around.

An idea suddenly popped up in Cole's mind. He immediately stopped her, “Wait.”

“Is there anything else?” Amber looked at him suspiciously.

Cole didn't look at her, “There is something on your head.”

“What?” Amber raised her hand to touch her hair, “Nothing.”

“Not there. Don't move. I'll get it down for you.” Cole said.

“Okay.” Amber obediently stood still.

Cole stretched out his hand towards her hair. Meanwhile, his body leaned closer and closer. Then he lowered his head with his lips slowly approaching her forehead.

Just when his lips were about to touch her forehead, Amber suddenly asked, “Is it done?”

Cole stopped in time, with a forced smile on his face, “It's done.”

He put his hand down, took a step back, and returned to the position where he stood just now, sighing with a wry smile inward and full of regret.

Just now, he almost kissed her.

But that was fine. What if his kiss scared her and she wouldn't go to the riding club with him this weekend?

In the black vehicle across the road, Jared looked at the two people standing under the building with a gloomy face. His hands were clenched into fists. Inexplicable anger rose in his heart.

For some reason, when he saw Cole kissing Amber, he really wanted to kill him.

“Leave!” Jared pursed his lips and commanded in a cold voice.

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Ben responded and started the car.

The moment the car drove out, he quickly glanced at Amber and Cole, sighing in his heart.

He really didn't know what Mr. Farrell was thinking. He actually got a divorce with Miss Reed for Miss Gardner.

But after the divorce, Mr. Farrell still cared about Miss Reed. Now, when he saw that Miss Reed was close to her boyfriend, he was unhappy. If he knew it early, why bother divorcing her?

The departure of the black commercial car didn't attract the attention of Amber and Cole.

Amber looked at Cole's hand, “Didn't you say there is something on my head. What is it?”

“It's a small feather, probably from the other clothes. I've already tossed it.” Cole waved his hand.

Amber didn't have any doubts. She nodded slightly, “Okay, then I have to go now. Be careful on the road.”

“Okay.” Cole responded.

Amber turned around and left.

Cole stood there and watched her leave. Until the elevator was closed, he still didn't leave but just looked upstairs.

When he saw the light of a certain window on a certain floor turned on, he smiled and moved his numb feet, walking away.

The next day, Amber came to Goldstone Co. Just when she walked into the office and before she sat down, Sheila walked in anxiously, "Something happened, Miss Reed."

"What's wrong?" Amber put down the bag from her shoulder.

Sheila didn't know what to say, so she directly handed the tablet to her, "Miss Reed, you can see for yourself."

Amber took it over suspiciously, then looked down.

The tablet was playing a video. The lens was a little shaky. At first glance, it was shot by a mobile phone, but it was very clear.

Amber saw an old lady and a middle-aged woman sitting on the ground, crying and scolding.

Beside them, a group of construction workers surrounded them and pointed at them.

The video was not long so Amber finished watching it quickly. Her face was a little gloomy, "This is our construction site, right?"

"Yes." Sheila nodded.

"Why are these two people making a scene at our construction site?" Amber pointed at the old lady and middle-aged woman in the video, frowning.

Sheila sighed, "This video is sent by a foreman. The foreman told me that the two women accused us of killing their husband and son, who was smashed to death by our excavator throwing clods carelessly."

"What!?" Amber was stunned, "Killing her husband and son?"

“That’s what the two women said, saying that their husband and son were hit and died on the spot when they passed by at night.” Sheila replied.

Amber laughed angrily, “At night? The construction site is not open at night. Who would use the excavators at night? Besides, the entire construction site is enclosed, and the excavators are also working in the central area. How did other people get in? Can the clods be thrown hundreds of meters away?”

This was clearly a false accusation!

Besides, the construction team was sent by the relevant department. If someone was killed, the relevant department would handle it, and would not let the two women have the opportunity to go to the scene to make trouble.

Sheila also thought it was ridiculous, “The two women are making a scene there now, demanding us to compensate.”

“How much do they want?” Amber knew that this matter was fake, so she was no longer worried. She took a sip of coffee, and asked lightly.

“Five million.” Sheila stretched out one hand and spread out five fingers, “They said, if we don’t give them five million, they will spread it on the Internet, so that we can’t build the factory.”

“Five million? How dare they!” Amber sneered, “I think their real purpose should be to prevent us from building the factory.”

Five million! Whoever paid was a fool.

“Really?” Sheila didn’t believe it, “They are only two women. Why don’t they let us build the factory?”

“It’s not them, but the people behind them won’t let us build the factory.” Amber narrowed her eyes.

Sheila opened her mouth wide, “You mean that someone bribed these two women to make trouble?”

“Definitely! Otherwise, they’re just two women. They aren’t so bold to blackmail us. This is obviously someone who is instigating and supporting them. Besides, the people behind them are clear that we won’t give the compensation, so the purpose is obvious.” Amber said coldly.

Sheila suddenly said, “So that’s it. It’s too hateful. Who the hell wants to make trouble with us?”

Amber pursed her lips, “Have you forgotten who has been thinking about my land?”

“It’s Trenton Gardner!” Sheila said immediately.

Amber nodded, “Yeah, it should be him. When he didn’t buy the land from me, he said he would stop all construction teams in Olkmore to build factories for us. Now Trenton knows that our factory is still under construction, so he would definitely make trouble.”

“It’s so shameless.” Sheila scolded angrily.

Amber curled up her lips coldly, “Yeah, it’s really shameless, but his move is really good. According to the law, once there is a death on the construction site, the work will be suspended for three months, but during this period we still have to pay the salaries and related expenses .”

“There is also a high overdue fine for the construction period.” Sheila added.

Amber nodded, “That’s right. Once our factory building can’t be completed within the designated time, these costs will be enough to bring down our company. This is Trenton’s plan to kill two birds with one stone.”

It could either make her unable to build a factory or bring down her company.

It could even ruin her reputation. After all, there was someone who died at her construction site! Then, it would be very difficult for her to make a comeback. This move could be described as cruel!

“What should we do?” Sheila looked at Amber worriedly.

Amber was still in no hurry. She laughed, “It’s okay. If he wants to make trouble, just let him make trouble.”

“What do you mean?” Sheila was a little confused.

Amber didn’t answer but asked, “How is the museum construction going?”

“The foundation has been laid.”

A glint of light flashed in Amber’s eyes, “Okay, you can find a way to tell Trenton that it’s also the factory we are building.”

Sheila understood her purpose immediately. Her eyes lit up. Then she gave Amber a thumbs up, “Miss Reed, excellent move.”

Amber smiled, “Remember, don’t let him know that it’s us who told him.”

“I see.”

“Well, don’t worry about the following things. Someone will teach Trenton a lesson.” Amber waved her hand.

“Yes.” Sheila turned around and went out.

It didn’t take long for Trenton to receive the news. He slapped the table with a gloomy face, “What? She built two factories?”

“Yes, because the land is too big. It would be too wasteful to build only one factory, so she built two.”
The assistant replied respectfully.

Trenton’s face darkened.

No matter the location or the topography of the land, it had high commercial value. Building a factory was a waste. No matter how many factories were built, it was a waste.

Trenton felt so annoyed when he thought that the piece of land that belonged to him had been so ruined by Amber.

“Mr. Gardner, do we still have to arrange some people to make trouble?” the assistant asked cautiously.

Trenton’s old face was very sullen, “Send some hooligans to smash her factory building!”

“Got it.” The assistant nodded and was immediately going to do it.

At this time, Jared and Ben came in from outside the office.

“Mr. Gardner, I just heard that you are going to smash Amber’s factory?” Jared frowned slightly, and his tone was impassive.

Trenton waved at his assistant, letting him go out, then looked at Jared, “You hear all that?”

“Almost.”

Trenton squinted, “Are you trying to stop me and help your ex-wife?”

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“No.” Jared walked to the sofa and sat down.

The government assigned the construction team to help Amber build the factory, so naturally they would deal with it.

He didn't need to do anything.

Trenton looked better, following him. "Why did you ask me about it?"

"Sir, have you forgotten the fox mask man?" Jared looked up at him.

Hatred flashed through Trenton's eyes. He squeezed words between his teeth, "Of course, I remember him. So what? I've done everything secretly this time without leaving any traces online. He wouldn't find me."

"There's always a way." Jared picked up a teacup and filled it with water. "If he looks into the matter, he can definitely find it out."

"Enough. Are you teaching me how to do things?" Trenton was unhappy.

He always thought he was an elder, Jared's future father-in-law. Hence, he disliked Jared's attitude when talking to him; it was way too casual. In his opinion, Jared should be respectful to him.

However, Jared's status and power were higher than his, so Trenton couldn't speak it out.

Seeing that he was losing patience, Jared stopped reminding him. He took a sip and put down the teacup. "I came here to discuss the cooperation with you. I've read through the business plan. Several things need to be modified."

Behind him, Ben gave him a file.

Jared opened it and put it on the tea table. Then he turned it around and pushed it to Trenton. "I've highlighted the places. Please take a look."

“Okay. I’ll check on them.” Trenton picked it up.

After reading them through, he nodded thoughtfully. “It became much better than the previous version. I’ll let my subordinate modify it and deliver it to you afterward.”

“Okay.” Jared stood up. “I must go now. See you, sir.”

Then he left with Ben.

In the car, Ben glanced at the rearview mirror and asked, “Mr. Farrell, don’t you think Mr. Gardner is overconfident? He really thinks no one would find out what he has done as long as he hasn’t left any trace online, doesn’t he?”

Jared pinched his nose bridge and said, “He has been suffering losses when confronting Amber and the fox mask man recently. He has become impatient and wants to teach Amber a lesson. Hence, he doesn’t have any smart means.”

“That makes sense.” Ben nodded. Then he thought of something and asked, “By the way, Mr. Farrell, why didn’t you remind Mr. Gardner it was the construction team from the government that helped Ms. Reed build the factory? If he wants to smash it, the government will arrest him.”

Jared looked down to cover the thoughts in his eyes. “Not necessary. Trenton is always going against Amber and his means are extreme. It’s good to let him learn a lesson and calm down.”

“Really?” Ben cast a glance at him in disbelief.

Jared looked annoyed. “Or what?”

‘I thought you wanted to help Ms. Reed deal with Mr. Gardner,’ Ben thought to himself.

However, he dared not to speak it out. He adjusted his expression and answered, “Nothing.”

Jared snorted and let go of him.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, Amber heard that the museum had been smashed. It was done by a gang. They destroyed the foundation that had just been built.

The leader of the gangsters said they were in charge of that area. They demanded for protection fee. Since the construction team refused, they smashed it.

Then, they were arrested.

"They deserved it!" Sheila said happily, "Did they really think they could just smash a museum and not to be held liable?"

Although the construction team to build the museum was the same one that's responsible for building their factory, the employers differed. Hence, the construction team of the factory couldn't arrest the two women unless Amber gave them an order. However, the construction team for the museum was different. They could arrest those troublemakers.

"How are those gangsters doing now?" Amber asked with a faint smile.

Sheila adjusted her expression immediately and answered, "They've been sent to the police station. The government paid a lot of attention to this incident. They'll be interrogated strictly. I wonder if those gangsters could take that."

"I see. Please send someone to keep an eye on the police station and keep me updated." Amber nodded.

"Sure, Ms. Reed," Sheila turned away.

The gangsters were freaked out in the police station.

They had thought that they would come here, but much to their surprise, the policemen, who interrogated them, were not ordinary. They were from a special force.

Looking at the weapons in their hands and the electric prods, the gangsters paled in fear.

They had never experienced such a scene before.

Hence, after the special policemen's interrogation, the gangsters dared not lie at all. They told everything honestly and said they had been hired to do it.

The special policemen investigated the matter according to the clues provided by them. Soon, they found Trenton.

Later, a few policemen took Trenton away from his meeting.

While he was caught, he looked shocked and perplexed.

It seemed that he couldn't understand why he had been arrested.

The news of his arrest was posted online soon.

All the netizens were discussing, wondering what the president of Trident Group had done to break the law.

For a moment, the stock price of Trident Group dropped rapidly. The shareholders were in a panic.

In Goldstone Co., Amber and Cole read the posts online and were overjoyed.

Cole opened a bottle of wine to celebrate. "Trenton Gardner has made such a trouble. Those old men in Trident Group will definitely doubt about his management capability."

Amber shook the goblet. "Unfortunately, I don't have enough funds. Otherwise, I would take this chance and buy out Trident Group's odd lots."

Right then, Trident Group's stock market was chaotic, so it was easy to buy their shares.

Cole approached her with a smile. "I can give you money."

"Forget it. Even I bought them now. It would be useless." Amber shrugged.

"All right." Cole sat back down in disappointment. "By the way, if your friend online hadn't suggested you work with the government departments, we wouldn't be able to bring down Trenton Gardner."

"Oh. Thanks for your reminder." Amber pulled out her phone.

Cole looked at her. "What's the matter?"

"I should thank him." Amber smiled. She opened WhatsApp and messaged Z: Thank you.

Jared was in a meeting. Suddenly, he heard the message notification on his phone.

The volume was low, but it sounded loud in the quiet meeting room.

All people looked over at him.

His eyes twinkled a bit, and he said calmly, "Continue with your report."

"Yes, Mr. Farrell," they answered and lowered their heads.

Jared picked up his phone and unlocked the screen. Seeing Amber's message, he understood what she meant, but he faked not understanding it and replied: For what?

Amber: For your suggestion last time. Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to bring down Trenton Gardner.

Z: It turns out to be that. You are welcome. You've thanked me last time.

Amber smiled.

Amber: No matter what, I should thank you. When will you come back from abroad?

Come back from abroad?

Jared frowned in confusion.

Although he didn't understand why she thought he was abroad, he didn't deny it. He replied: Not sure yet.

Amber felt disappointed somehow. She typed: All right. When you come back, please let me know. I want to treat you for dinner to thank you for helping me these days.

Jared curled up his lips into a smile.

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Amber stopped chatting and put her phone down.

Cole curled his lips in jealousy. "It takes you such a long time."

Amber could sense his jealousy, rolling her eyes at him. "Enough. Aren't you going back to the company? You should leave now."

“Ha! Woman! You always drove me away,” Cole stood up and said ironically.

Amber tried so hard to hold back her laughter. Ignoring him, she picked up a file and started reading.

...

The Gardner’s.

When Mrs. Gardner heard that Trenton had been arrested, she was shocked. She didn’t know what to do but cry.

Sitting on the sofa, she held a box of tissue on her knees.

There was a pile of used tissues on the tea table in front of her.

“What should we do, Makenna?” Mrs. Gardner looked at her daughter opposite with her reddish eyes.

Makenna didn’t weep. Biting her bottom lip, she said, “I don’t know either. I’ll call the shareholders in the group to see if Dad could be bailed.”

“Go ahead. Hurry up,” Mrs. Gardner urged her.

Mrs. Gardner was just a housewife, relying on Trenton all the time.

Now, her husband had been arrested. She felt as if the sky had collapsed.

Makenna pulled out her phone and dialed a number of a shareholder who was close to the Gardner family.

The call was soon connected.

However, a few minutes later, Makenna took off the earphone with a dejected look.

Seeing that, Mrs. Gardner had a bad hunch. She still asked expectantly, "How did it go?"

Makenna shook her head. "Uncle Fleming said Dad had hired someone to destroy the museum built by the government. The evidence is solid, so he can't be bailed."

Mrs. Gardner paled, feeling the whole world spinning.

Covering her chest, she cried more loudly. "How could this be possible? Why did your father destroy the museum belonging to the government?"

Makenna lowered her head in silence, hiding the twisted look on her face.

She couldn't understand. Her father had hired someone to destroy Amber's factor, but why did it turn out to be the museum belonging to the government?

She wondered what on earth had happened.

"Makenna, contact Jared." Mrs. Gardner suddenly had an idea. She grabbed Makenna's hand instantly.

Makenna looked at her. "Contact Jared?"

"Right. Since your father can't be bailed, we should let the government release him. Isn't Jared a friend of Hayden Cohen? You should ask Jared to talk to Hayden Cohen so your father can be released," Mrs. Gardner said.

Makenna's eyes lit up. She stood up and said, "I'll go to him now."

No matter what, she must rescue her father. Otherwise, the board of directors would dismiss her father from his position. Even if her father still held the most shares, he would lose the authority of management and decision-making in the group.

In that case, her status in the celebrity circle would reduce.

Makenna picked up her purse and left the Gardner's, heading to the Farrell's Mansion.

When Jared returned home after work, he saw Makenna in his house, chatting with Shonna.

"Hello, Jared." Makenna saw him and stood up with a smile. "You are back."

Shonna also smiled and said, "I wonder why Makenna didn't respond to my words. It turned out she had seen you. All right. I'll leave you guys in peace."

"Mrs. Farrell..." Makenna blushed, feeling shy.

Shonna covered her mouth and left while giggling.

"Why are you here?" Jared looked at Makenna, putting down his briefcase.

Makenna walked to him and held his arm. "Why? Can't I come here?"

"Nah. You should inform me ahead. Then I can pick you up." Jared led her to the sofa and sat down.

Makenna poured him a glass of water. "It's alright. I can drive myself. You don't need to pick me up."

Jared hummed and looked over at her. "You came here all of a sudden. What's the matter?"

Makenna hesitated for a while and asked, "Jared, you should know my father has been arrested, right?"

“Yes.” Jared took a sip of the water. “So you came to me for your father, didn’t you?”

“Yes.” Makenna nodded. “Jared, can you help my father, please? He didn’t mean to destroy the museum on purpose.”

Not on purpose?

Sarcasm flashed through Jared’s eyes and vanished immediately. He shook his head slightly. “I’m afraid I can’t help him. I’ve asked around about Uncle Trenton’s case. There’s solid evidence. The government refused to let him be bailed out.”

“I know. I didn’t ask you to bail my father out. Could you please ask Mr. Cohen for help? As long as the Cohen family speak, my father would definitely be released.” Makenna looked at him with her watery eyes expectantly.

Jared frowned. “The Cohen family can save Mr. Gardner for sure, but they won’t do it. Once they did it, their opponents would use it against them. Do you understand, Makenna?”

Moreover, it was time for Olkmore City to change the government officials. The Cohen family aimed at the mayor position.

Hence, they wouldn’t bear making any mistakes.

“I don’t understand.” Makenna’s eyes reddened instantly. “You haven’t tried yet. How do you know the Cohen family will be unwilling to do it?”

Jared frowned more deeply. “Do you think I’m lying to you, Makenna?”

“I didn’t,” Makenna answered in a low voice with evasive gaze.

However, Jared could tell she didn't mean what she said. Pursing his thin lips, he felt exhausted. "Anyway, please stay away from this trouble. Uncle..."

"I can't," Makenna clenched her fists tightly and interrupted him, "He's my father. I can't just sit and watch him go to jail without doing anything. If you don't want to help me, I'll figure out a way myself."

Then, she left while weeping.

Jared wanted to stop her, but somehow, he didn't.

On the second floor, Logan looked down from the handrail. "Aren't you going after her, Jared?"

"No. She needs to calm down." Jared rubbed his sore temples.

Logan curled his lips. "How could Makenna do that? You didn't refuse her, but she thought you wouldn't help her. You planned to save her father in another way, but she couldn't understand it. She even blamed you. How unreasonable!"

"Enough. Stop it," Jared snapped impatiently.

Logan snorted. "Why should I? I've seen everything clearly. Jared, you refused Makenna's request to contact Hayden, but she blamed you. I can tell Makenna isn't so nice as she looks. She's such a narrow-minded woman."

Jared looked down in silence.

Seeing that he didn't retort, Logan gaped. "No way, Jared! Do you also think she's narrow-minded?"

Jared cast a cold glance at him.

Logan wasn't scared. Instead, he trotted downstairs excitedly. "Jared, when did you realize she's like this? Since you've known it, why do you still like Makenna? What do you like about her?"

What did he like about Makenna?

Jared blinked. In fact, he also didn't know what on earth he liked about her.

He loved the girl who exchanged letters with him. She was kind-hearted, beautiful, and lively. Like the Sun, she brought warmth to others.

However, he could seldom see those characteristics in Makenna.

He even doubted several times if Makenna was the girl who exchanged the letters with him for real.

However, if she wasn't, who would it be?

"Jared, what are you thinking about?" Logan noticed that he was in a daze. He waved in front of Jared.

Jared pressed his lips. "Nothing. I'll go upstairs."

"Jared, you haven't answered my questions yet." Logan followed him.

Ignoring him, Jared closed his bedroom door in his face.

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Logan's nose had almost been hit. Fortunately, he paused on time.

He heaved a sigh and turned away in disappointment.

...

The following day, when Amber and Cole were reading some documents in the office, Sheila rushed in. "Ms. Reed, bad news! Trenton Gardner has been set free."

"What?" Amber's expression changed dramatically. "Has he?"

"When did it happen?" Cole asked.

Sheila glanced at him quickly and answered respectfully, "This morning. He also posted an announcement on the official website of the Trident Group, declaring that he hadn't broken the law, although he was taken away by the police. Instead, he cooperated with them for some investigations. Now, the stock price of the Trident Group has been stable."

"How could it be possible?" Cole frowned deeply.

Amber bit her bottom lip. "Something must have happened. Or, Trenton Gardner wouldn't have been set free."

"I'll ask them to look into the matter," Cole said and walked to the balcony while holding his cell phone.

Amber looked down, feeling irritated.

She had thought Trenton must go to jail for sure. Then she could bring down the Trident Group quickly.

After all, the Trident Group would be like a toothless tiger without that cunning man. Its power would decrease. However, she didn't expect Trenton to be set free so soon. Her plan couldn't carry out anymore.

Thinking of that, Amber rubbed her temples reluctantly.

Right then, there were a few knocks on the office door.

Amber put down her hands and said, "Come in."

The person entered. It was the secretary of Bernardo Delgado, the president of Goldstone.

She wondered why his secretary had come here.

"What can I do for you?" Amber looked at him and asked flatly.

The secretary smiled at Amber and answered, "Ms. Reed, Mr. Delgado asked you to attend the meeting in the meeting room."

While Amber heard his words, her eye pupils shrank.

Bernardo had returned.

She wondered when it happened.

Amber looked over at Sheila aside.

The latter was also surprised while shaking her head. She meant she also didn't know and never heard that Bernardo had come back.

Amber pressed her lips, feeling down. However, she managed a smile and said, "I see. Please tell Mr. Delgado I'll be right there."

"Okay, Ms. Reed," the secretary answered and left.

Cole came in, feeling the atmosphere in the company was weird. He also noticed Amber looked annoyed. He asked, "Sheila, what happened to my babe?"

Although she had used to hearing Cole call Amber “babe”, Sheila still felt upset.

She looked down to cover her sadness and tried to answer as calmly as possible. “Mr. Delgado has returned.”

“What? When did he return? Why haven’t we heard about it?” Cole squinted.

Amber pressed her lips. “It seemed he hid it deliberately from us, afraid we would stop him.”

The person in Goldstone who disliked Amber the most was Bernardo Delgado. He was one of the men working for Amber’s father. After Amber’s father died, the company had fallen into Bernardo’s hands.

Last month, if Bernardo hadn’t gone on a business trip, even she was the biggest shareholder of Goldstone, she wouldn’t get the management power of the company. Maybe Bernardo had thought Amber would stop him from returning because of the management power, so he hid his whereabouts and returned in secret.

“He’s having victim paranoia, isn’t he?” Cole rolled his eyes.

Amber exhaled and stood up. “All right. Let’s go to the meeting room.”

Cole didn’t speak. He nodded in agreement, following her to the meeting room.

While they almost arrived at the meeting room, Jared called Amber on the phone.

Amber was surprised. Then she hung it up, having no intention to answer.

She had already told him that she didn’t want anything to do with him.

Hence, she didn't think it was necessary to answer his call.

"Who is it?" asked Cole.

Amber shook her head. When she was about to tell him it was from an unknown person, she heard the message's tone.

Jared texted her: Grandma is sick. She wants to see you.

Amber's expression changed slightly, looking worried. Despite her refusal to have anything to do with Jared, she called him back. "What happened to Grandma?" she asked.

Jared could tell she was worried. He answered, "She fell when going to the bathroom last night."

"What?" Amber's voice raised. She almost had a heart attack. Pinching the phone with both her hands, she asked, "Is it serious? How's she doing now?"

A youngster could be injured seriously by falling, let alone an aged woman.

"No worries. Grandma was lucky. Her leg broke, but she's fine," Jared answered while pinching his nose bridge.

Amber breathed a sigh of relief. "That's good then. Is she in the hospital now?"

"Yes."

"I see. I'll go visit her in the afternoon," said Amber.

"I'll pick you up."

“Not necessary,” Amber refused expressionlessly, “Please send me the address.”

Then she directly hung up the phone.

Jared stared at his phone that had shown the main screen, pressing his thin lips.

In the past, he always hung up on her calls. They divorced now, and she often hung up his call.

It turned out it felt so bad when the other party hung up the phone coldly.

“Did Jared Farrell call?” Cole glanced at Amber’s phone. His tone was full of jealousy.

Amber didn’t know why he sounded jealous. She nodded and said, “Grandma fell. I’ll go visit her in the afternoon.”

“She’s Jared Farrell’s grandmother. You’ve divorced him. Why do you need to visit her?” Cole said, curling his lips.

Amber put away her phone. “Stop talking nonsense. Grandma treats me well. She’s injured. I must go to see her. All right. Let’s go. We can’t keep Mr. Delgado waiting for so long.”

Cole shrugged.

When they pushed the meeting room door open and entered, the meeting room was fully packed. All the attendees looked over at them. They were all shareholders and senior executives from different departments in Goldstone.

Amber looked around, and then her gaze fell on the chairman’s seat at the long table.

Before today, she had always sat on the seat. However, another person had taken it.

It was Goldstone Co.'s current president, Bernardo Delgado.

"Welcome back, Mr. Delgado," Amber greeted Bernardo with a smile.

Bernardo spun his pen and answered, "Amber, it took you a long time to come here. I thought you were unhappy for my return."

Amber's eyes darkened. Still smiling, she said, "How could it be possible? I was held up by something earlier. Mr. Delgado, you are my elder. Please don't be mad at me."

Bernardo squinted, looking at Amber up and down solemnly.

He had planned to scold her for being late and taught her a lesson. Then she would realize even if she held the most shares of the company, he had the management power.

Much to his surprise, Amber fought back by using the age matter. He had to give up his plan. Otherwise, he would be elder bullying the junior. Amber reacted quickly, and he realized that he had underestimated her.

With a wry smile, Bernardo answered, "Of course not. I'm not that petty. Why would I be mad at you for this?"

"Thank you, Mr. Delgado," Amber answered with a smile.

Cole thumbed up to her under the table and lowered his voice to say, "Bravo, Babe."

"Stop it." Amber rolled her eyes at him.

Bernardo saw their interactions. Looking annoyed, he said, "Okay. All attendees have arrived. The meeting starts now"

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All attendees sat upright.

Bernardo started sharing his business trip with them.

After that, he switched the subject to Amber. "I've known what happened in the company when I was away. Amber, you did a good job on my behalf. Thank you for your hard work."

On his behalf?

Amber frowned and smiled. "You are welcome, Mr. Delgado. After all, I'm the biggest shareholder of the company and the vice president. It's my duty to manage the company. Please don't mention it."

Bernardo's mouth corner twitched, feeling angry.

It turned out Amber was a tough nut to crack.

He believed she had understood his implication. He would withdraw the management power from him.

"Really? Amber, you are quite sensible. I've returned. You should take a break," Bernardo looked at Amber and said with a sneer.

Amber looked into his eyes. "It's alright. I'm still young. I like challenges. Please don't worry, Mr. Delgado."

Bernardo instantly looked annoyed.

Other senior executives and shareholders in the meeting room lowered their heads, daring not to utter any word.

They had never expected Amber to directly compete for the management seat with Bernardo.

They wondered if she was confident or just being brave.

Even Cole was agape at her boldness.

Although he believed it was inappropriate for Amber to be against Bernardo now, and she was way too reckless, Cole loved her.

Hence, no matter what she did, he would take her side without any conditions.

“Good job, Babe!” Cole gestured to courage Amber.

Amber didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. “Gee. Just shut up.”

Cole giggled and shushed.

Seeing that Amber was even in a mood to flirt with Cole. Bernardo went outraged. “Are you serious, little girl?”

Amber smiled. “Of course. I hold the most shares of the company, and also I’m the vice president. It’ll be improper if I don’t have any management power. I need half of it.”

She knew she couldn’t win against Bernardo. After all, he had been managing the company for many years. More than half of the senior executives and shareholders in the meeting room were his henchmen.

However, she was reluctant to return all her management power. Hence, she decided to fight for at least half of it, although she might keep all of the management power for the time being.

Bernardo laughed in anger. "You are so ambitious. Why haven't I found you are so ambitious before, Amber?"

Amber tossed her hair and answered calmly, "It was because my father had protected me back then. Now my father has passed away, I should face the storms myself. If my father still lived, he would definitely be happy for me. Don't you think so, Uncle Delgado?"

Bernardo clenched his fists tightly. With viciousness in his eyes, he squeezed words between his teeth, "I agree with you."

Amber was indeed capable. She even mentioned her father Hugo Reed to remind him that Hugo had been his teacher and guidance. If Bernardo mistreated Hugo's daughter, he would be too ungrateful. However, Bernardo couldn't retort at all. If he did, he would be the ungrateful person in others' eyes indeed. In that case, the public opinion would be against him.

Besides, his shares couldn't compare to Amber's. If public opinion impacted Goldstone Co., all the shareholders would be against him. In that case, they would hold a general meeting of shareholders and reselect the president. Then, his efforts in the past years would be in vain.

Thinking of that, Bernardo was so furious that his chest heaved up and down. However, he had to hold back his anger. Looking at Amber gloomily, he said, "Like father, like daughter. All right, I can give half of it to you, Amber. However..."

Amber's eyes twinkled. "Please go ahead, uncle."

She knew it wouldn't be that simple.

He would set her up again for sure.

Bernardo picked up a file and continued, "This is a partnership proposal for the new energy technology. I've spent a lot of effort to gain the opportunity to compete for it. The sponsor wanted to find five business partners. If you could make Goldstone one of them, I'll give what you want."

After a pause, he added, "On the contrary, if you failed, you must give up the management power and leave Goldstone. You'll be an ordinary shareholder. Of course, if you insist on stealing it forcibly by then, you can't blame me for being rude to you and ruining Goldstone. What do you think, Amber?"

"You are threatening her!" Cole pointed at him.

Amber pressed down his hand and looked at Bernardo. "Okay. I agree."

"Babe..."

Amber looked back at Cole solemnly. "Cole, you should know what Goldstone means to me. Even it's a tap, I must jump in. You see that?"

Cole's lips parted, and he couldn't utter any word.

Amber smiled in satisfaction and reached out her hands to Bernardo. "Please give me the proposal."

Bernardo handed it to her with a smile. "The meeting will start at two o'clock this afternoon. Please don't be late, Amber."

He didn't think she would make it.

The sponsor said he would cooperate with the most influential companies, and Goldstone wasn't that strong. He would wait for her to fail.

The meeting ended.

Cole left the company after answering a call.

Amber went back to the office with the cooperation proposal, sat on her chair, and started reading.

Until one o'clock in the afternoon, she closed the file and drove to Universal Hotel, where the meeting would be held.

When she arrived at the hotel, it was ten to two. The meeting would start in ten minutes.

Amber stopped the car and trotted into the hotel on high heels. Seeing one of the elevators was about to close, she immediately yelled, "Please wait!"

Upon hearing her voice, Jared squinted. He reached his hand between the door and stopped it from closing.

The elevator door sensed the obstacle and was opened again.

Amber's eyes lit up when she saw it. She knew people were waiting for her, so she sped up.

Finally, she entered the elevator. Resting her hands on the knees, she bent over and gasped for breath. "Thank you so much."

Jared looked down, coincidentally seeing her collar.

From her collar, he could see her fair skin. Her bosom heaved up and down while she was panting, quite eye-catching.

Jared's eyes darkened. He answered, "You are welcome."

Amber paused when she was wiping off her sweat. She thought she had misheard, so she stood upright and looked up.

Sure enough, it was Jared. She covered her eyes helplessly.

Heaven must be joking with her.

How could she encounter him when going into an elevator at random?

Amber pressed her lips. With a stern look, she moved aside to distance herself from Jared.

Jared noticed there was enough space for two to three persons between them. His handsome face darkened.

Did she take him as a plague?

Why was she hiding from him?

Jared looked down, feeling irritated.

Soon, the elevator arrived at the destination.

Amber hadn't wished to be with him in the same space. She walked out first.

However, after taking a few steps, she heard the footsteps behind her.

"No way!" Amber's lips twitched. She slightly tilted her head and looked back from the corner of her eyes, only to find that Jared was walking behind her. She had a bold guess.

Was his destination the same as hers?

When Amber was getting closer and closer to the box, she was more and more certain.

Until she stood at the box door and turned around to look at Jared, she was confident that he was also here for the meeting through the surprise in his eyes.

It made sense, though. The Farrell Group was the top enterprise in Olkmore City, and Jared was the president. How could he miss such cooperation with a significant profit?

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“Aren’t you going in?” Jared also realized that Amber was here for the meeting, although he didn’t know how she had obtained the qualification.

Amber bit her bottom lip. “After you. I don’t want to go inside with you.”

She could hear there were many attendees in the box.

If she entered with him together, others would make wild guesses again. Besides, they were in an awkward relationship.

Jared seemed to have understood something. He looked down and said, “There are only three minutes ahead. Anyone late for the meeting would lose the qualification.”

As he spoke, he pushed the door and entered.

It seemed he was reminding her.

No matter what, Amber remembered it seriously. She gazed at her watch. After one minute, she took a deep breath, pushed the door open, and entered.

Many attendees gaped at her.

“Is she Mr. Farrell’s ex-wife?”

“She’s also the vice president of Goldstone Co.”

“Goldstone Co.? It’s going bankrupt. How did they get the qualification?”

They kept discussing in low voices except for Jared and Trenton.

Jared looked down a bit as if he was sorting out the documents in his hands. In fact, from the corner of his eyes, he was looking at Amber.

She didn’t look timid or nervous when on such an occasion. He curled up his lips into a smile. A trace of admiration flashed through his eyes quickly.

However, Trenton squinted at Amber viciously, wishing to skin her alive.

Amber sensed his hostility. She didn’t fear it. Instead, she smiled gracefully at him and said, “Long time no see, Mr. Gardner.”

Trenton suddenly gaped.

He saw his mother in her suddenly.

Especially her smile just now, looked so much like his mother’s provoking smile when she was young.

Amber didn’t know why Trenton suddenly stared at her intently. She wasn’t in the mood to figure it out, either. She withdrew her gaze and switched her attention to Jared.

Jared was sitting in the host chair in the meeting, so she could tell he was the sponsor of this cooperation project of the new energy.

For a moment, Amber’s heart sank.

She didn’t have much confidence to make her company a partner because Goldstone Co. wasn’t mighty without any advantages. However, she still had a ray of hope.

But now, the project sponsor was her ex-husband, who didn't love her and even disgusted her. He would definitely not cooperate with her. She wondered what to do.

Amber looked down, feeling rather flagging.

Seeing that, Jared frowned.

He wondered what had happened to her.

"Mr. Farrell, it's time to start the meeting," Ben reminded him.

Jared withdrew his attention from Amber and put down the sorted documents. He glanced through all the attendees and said, "Have you all read through the proposal?"

"Yes." All nodded.

Jared added, "The new energy technology is the latest result from the research department of my company. It could be used in different industries to highly increase efficiency. The most important is it's environment-friendly."

He paused a bit and continued, "Currently, the government has known about the technology, and they don't allow the Farrell Group to monopolize. Hence, I started a cooperation proposal and wanted to select five business partners in the cooperation."

Amber understood and muttered, "Now I see."

When she was reading the proposal, she was confused. The sponsor had such advanced technology, but why didn't he develop the project himself? It turned out to avoid monopolization.

It made sense, though. If only one enterprise had such a technology, the economic balance would be broken, which the government wouldn't allow.

“Mr. Farrell, we all understand what you’ve said. But, I have a question.” Suddenly, Trenton raised his hand.

Jared looked at him, “Yes?”

Trenton looked over at Amber.

Amber frowned, realizing that this man would give her a hard time again.

Sure enough, Trenton pointed at Amber. “When you invited us for this meeting, you said you would only invite the top-twenty companies in Olkmore City and select five most suitable companies from them. Mr. Farrell, why is the representative of Goldstone also here?”

Others looked at Amber with searching eyes.

Amber clenched her hands, her face sullen.

Only then did she know that Jared had only invited the top twenty companies. She wondered how Bernardo had managed to get the qualification.

Besides, he didn’t tell her. He wanted her to be humiliated here.

Amber trembled in anger.

Seeing that, Jared felt sorry for her. However, he was still calm. “I asked Ben to offer some additional seats for the medium-sized companies. They were selected by the draw lots.”

“I haven’t heard about such things before? How did Goldstone win one of them coincidentally? Jared Farrell, did you give it to her on purpose?” Trenton looked at him doubtfully.

Jared's face darkened. "Mr. Gardner, if you don't believe me, you can go ahead to look into the selection later. All right. Let's go on."

He looked pretty unhappy. Trenton snorted and quieted down.

Although he was Jared's future father-in-law, Jared hadn't married Makenna yet.

Hence, Trenton knew that he couldn't go too far.

"As Mr. Gardner said earlier, I'll choose the five most suitable companies to cooperate with. The judgment standard will be the cooperation plan."

Jared glanced through them and looked at Amber. "Every company shall give me a proposal. The content includes the use, value, advantages, and disadvantages of using the new energy technology. Please send it to the Farrell Group by next Monday. I'll make the final decision."

"That works." All attendees nodded.

Trenton made trouble again. "Mr. Farrell, you won't help Ms. Reed because she is your ex-wife, will you?"

Jared's face turned gloomy.

Before he spoke, Amber said with a smile, "Excuse me, Mr. Gardner. Mr. Farrell and I have no relations at all. How could he open a backdoor for me? Even we used to be a couple, he won't do it. Mr. Gardner, you are his future father-in-law. You are the one who could pull strings. Besides..."

Amber smiled faintly at the man in the host chair and continued, "You are Mr. Farrell's future father-in-law. As long as you request, Mr. Farrell will save a place for you. No matter how lousy your proposal will be, he'll marry your daughter in the future, won't he?"

Upon hearing her words, others looked at Jared and Trenton weirdly.

Especially when they looked at Trenton, they looked hostile.

They agreed with Amber. Trenton was Jared's future father-in-law. Definitely, Jared would save him a place.

Although it made sense, they felt it was so unfair. They all came here for fair competition, but Trenton could win one place without working hard.

Feeling their hostilities, Trenton was so angry that his face was twisted.

He knew Amber had done it on purpose. She deliberately made others against him and left him no way out.

Trenton indeed planned to ask Jared to give him a place directly. However, other candidates had paid attention to him because of Amber's reminder. If he insisted Jared give him a place, he would become the enemy of dozens of companies.

Thinking of that, Trenton suppressed his anger and said with a wry smile, "Please rest assured. I won't do that."

"Mr. Gardener, you wouldn't do it, but it doesn't mean Ms. Gardner wouldn't do it either." Amber didn't want to let go of him. Supporting her chin, she smiled and said, "As long as Ms. Gardner talked to Mr. Farrell, Mr. Farrell will definitely agree."

Jared clenched his fists and said in a cold tone, "Am I such a man blinded by love in your opinion?"