

Chapter 684 Dismissal

Mara's words were so harsh that even Etta was offended by her.

However, Celia just smiled calmly and replied, "You haven't received any new projects for several months, and most of your previous clients complained about your services. Also, you don't even complete your work on time. If there is a retrenchment, you will be the first to go."

Mara felt so insulted by Celia's reply that she lost her rationality. She scolded Celia angrily, "You have no right to fire me, you whore! Did you even get your projects based on your own merit? No! You only got them because you are sleeping with big shots. You have no right to fire me!"

She started approaching Celia, the anger in her eyes growing with each step. Finally, she stopped in front of Celia and huffed, "I'm telling you, I won't let you get away with this anymore. I will go and see the CEO. He will give me a fair judgment!"

Several other colleagues who were jealous of Celia also echoed and clamored to see the CEO.

"I also want to see the CEO. I want to ask why I haven't been promoted despite working here for three years. You have only been here for a few months, and you have already been promoted twice."

"I heard that your salary is several times higher than ours. You haven't even won a single award in the industry. How on earth do you get such a high salary?"

"If the CEO doesn't give us a reasonable explanation, we

won't let this matter slide!"

Celia got a headache as things were getting out of control. She had no choice but to agree. "Okay, since you all want to see the CEO, let's go to his office together."

She led them to the CEO's office, but Emmitt blocked their advances before they could reach the office.

Emmitt took down the group's concerns and told everyone to wait at the door while he relayed their messages to Tyson.

Soon, Emmitt reappeared and announced, "You can go in now."

With that, everyone rushed into the office.

Tyson sat in his chair with his back to the crowd. "Go ahead," he said coldly to the crowd.

Mara was the first to respond. She acted miserable and exaggerated her grievances as she described herself as a worker who had suffered a lot. She also threw shade at Celia, saying she was a terrible leader who used her power to bully others.

She ended in a mocking tone. "Mr. Reyes, Celia can't fire us randomly. It's not in accordance with the company's rules! She is just a manager of a department. How can she have such power? And as far as we know, she had an affair with Mr. Watson, who just resigned before. She was employed by our company without proper assessments and even promoted twice. These were the results of her sleeping around. Letting such a person stay in Semshy Group will only discredit the company!"

Tyson's face darkened with a murderous look in his eyes, but he still had his back to the crowd. He paused for a moment to regain his composure and asked calmly, "How

many of you don't believe Celia has earned the promotion?"

Everyone exchanged glances, and more than half of them voiced their disagreement.

Tyson immediately signaled Emmitt to gather the portfolios of those who spoke up. When he got the portfolios, he read out the projects they had handled since they entered the company, the earnings from each project, their clients' feedback and reviews, and other relevant information. He then compared them with the projects that Celia had handled to prove her contributions to the company were way higher than that of the rest.

Everyone fell silent as they listened to Tyson. After he finished reading, he noticed that the room was eerily quiet. Satisfied, he said calmly, "Now, who still objects to Celia's promotions?"

Again, no one spoke for a long time.

Taking their silence as an answer, Tyson continued, "I appreciate and reward talents. I don't care about your backgrounds as long as you have the skills and abilities to handle your work here at the Semshy Group. Since your contributions to the company are less than Celia's, her promotions and rank are justified, and you all better behave yourselves under her management."

He glanced at Emmitt and purposely spoke loudly for everyone to hear. "Tell the human resources department to issue a dismissal letter to Mara. Anyone who lacks teamwork will be fired. There will be no exceptions."

He then addressed the crowd, "If any of you want to leave, you can go with Mara."

Nobody wanted to resign. After all, it wasn't easy for them to enter a big and reputable company like the Semshy

Group.

Tyson used Mara as a warning to the others, and no one dared to cause trouble for Celia anymore.

Mara felt unfairly treated and restless. She stamped her foot and cried, "Why? Why are you helping this bitch? Celia is..."

Before she could finish her sentence, the security guards rushed over, covered her mouth and dragged her out of the office.

With Mara out, Tyson appeased the rest of the crowd and ordered everyone to go back to work except for Celia.

As soon as the last person left and the door was closed, Celia walked up to Tyson and asked seriously, "Mr. Reyes, how can I help?"

Tyson finally turned around and pulled her into his arms. He whispered in her ear, "Baby, are you okay? Sorry, you had to go through that. Let me know if anyone offends you. I will take care of them for you."

Celia's heart pounded when his hot breath caressed her cheek. Her face reddened, and she pushed him away gently, whispering, "Behave yourself. We are at work."

"Don't worry about it, babe. This is my office. No one will come in," Tyson assured her. He held her even tighter, and his soft lips rubbed against her forehead as he whispered, "I miss you. Let me hug you longer."

Chapter 685 Soup

Over the next hour, Celia stayed in the CEO's office. When she returned to her office, her face was still a little red.

Following Mara's dismissal, the other employees didn't dare cause any more trouble. They sent their reports to Celia immediately.

Jamie also came to Celia's office. After giving her report to Celia, she asked, "Celia, do you have a personal friendship with the CEO?"

Celia raised her head and assertively said, "What are you trying to say?"

Jamie realized that Celia was cautious. She explained quickly, "Don't get me wrong. It's just my first time seeing a CEO defend someone like this. Miss Carter has been working with him for several years and she has never been treated in this way."

Celia was suspicious of the motives behind her words. She said, "I think it's perfectly normal that Mr. Reyes should be protective of his employees. Mr. Reyes and I are not friends. You should focus on your work, not spreading rumors around the office."

Jamie said no more on the matter. She just smiled and left.

As soon as she was out of the office, the smile on Jamie's face disappeared. She had a cold look in her eyes as she plotted her schemes.

It was after work when Celia received a phone call from Alita. She answered it, a little confused. "Hey, Alita. What's

up?"

Alita spoke in a distressed tone. "Sweetie, would you happen to have the time to have dinner with me tonight?"

"Sure thing! Just send me the address."

Once Celia received the address, she sent it to Tyson and typed, "I'll be having dinner with Alita at this place tonight. I'm afraid you will have to have dinner by yourself, babe."

After sending the message, Celia went to the address given to meet her friend.

Alita was already at the restaurant when Celia arrived.

Celia was quick to see that Alita was not in a good mood. She said, "Alita, why the long face? What's going on? Is there something wrong with you?"

Alita took large sips from her wineglass, looking very glum and dejected. She explained, "Honey, I don't know why Ronald has been so distant with me these past few days. He is always a gentleman to Vida. I'm sad. Do you think he likes Vida more? Should I give up on him?"

Ever since Alita had fallen for Ronald, she had been very insecure. Whenever she saw him in the company of another woman, her heart ached.

She had considered expressing her love a few times. After all, what was there to lose?

But every time there was a chance, her courage failed her.

She was too concerned about leaving a good impression on Ronald to ask.

Celia couldn't relate but she sympathized with her friend and comforted her, "Don't be sad, Alita. There are two

choices. Either give up your love for Ronald or go and confront him. You can't continue torturing yourself like this!"

Celia was so absorbed in comforting her friend that she didn't notice Cerissa staring at her from across the restaurant.

Cerissa had not been to this sort of high-end restaurant ever since the Kane Group had been acquired. Now that she was here again, she thought it was bad luck that she would bump into that bitch, Celia!

"Here are your dishes. Please, enjoy!" said the waiter as he served Cerissa a bowl of soup. Cerissa suddenly had a wicked idea.

She surreptitiously spat into the bowl of soup and gave it a stir with a spoon. Then she stood up and approached Celia and Alita's table, offering the soup with a sycophantic smile. "My dear sister, it is such a pleasant surprise to see you here."

Celia's and Alita's faces both darkened when they recognized Cerissa.

"What are you doing here?" Celia said coldly.


"Celia, calm down. I'm not here to make trouble. I'm here to apologize," said Cerissa.

With this, she placed the bowl of soup on the table. "We are sisters and it was my fault before. I sincerely apologize to you now. Please take this soup. It's the restaurant's specialty. I took the initiative of ordering it for you."

Alita did not look impressed. She was scared that Celia would be moved so she was quick to say, "Cerissa, get out of here or I don't know what I will do to you!"

Cerissa wasn't going to be bullied into walking away. In

Chapter 685 Soup

 +120 Points at most

fact, she began to raise her voice on purpose to attract the attention of the other patrons.

"Alita, you are too aggressive! I made a mistake but I was young and thoughtless. I feel guilty for my actions. I mean my apology. As her friend, shouldn't you persuade my sister to accept my apology and the soup?"

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