

108 The Annex

Carla nodded rather enthusiastically and stepped forward again, stretching her lips into an unsuccessful parody of a friendly grin. ¹

"Yes, Mrs. Bennett. I heard from my sister that you were looking for new maids to hire so here I am!"

Amelie took a better look at the woman in front of her.

Indeed, she looked almost exactly like Mary; only her hair was much shorter, barely covering her ears while her build was sturdier, indicating that she must have been a big fan of intense physical exercise.

She then looked back at Mary and smiled.

"Mary, step inside my office, please. Let's have a brief talk."

Once the two of them found themselves in the quiet confines of Amelie's study, Mary took a



seat across her employer's desk, shifting awkwardly as she knew that was up for a big scolding.

Amelie, however, retained her calm demeanor as she began.

"How old is your sister, Mary?"

"Oh, well... Twenty-one, Mrs. Bennett."

"Has she ever worked as a maid before?"

Mary shook her head, "No, never! She--wait a minute, Mrs. Bennett, are you seriously considering hiring Carla as your maid?"

Amelie leaned back in her chair and tried to think.

"The two maids who have worked for me in the past are still settling their paperwork with their current employers... Judging from that almost empty resume I saw, that girl has zero working experience but she is in desperate need of a job.

Mary is already warming up to me but one maid is clearly not enough to get the rest of the staff on my side as well. If I give her sister a job, I will already have two people. No matter how

inexperienced Carla might be, I need her here too.'

Finally, Amelie offered the maid a friendly smile and spoke again. "What can your sister do?"

Confused by that question, Mary was rendered speechless for a few long moments. Then, she scratched her right cheek and shrugged.

"To tell you the truth, Mrs. Bennett, she cannot do much around the house. You see, Carla used to be quite a troublemaker when she was younger. She even enjoined a gang and almost got into jail! Thanks to my uncle who has connections with the police, we managed to send her to the army, you know, to get her head straight, and it actually helped.

She finished her service several months ago but hasn't been able to find a job since. She doesn't want to do "manly" jobs as she calls them, but at the same time, she is literally qualified for nothing."

'A maid who cannot do anything...' Amelie turned her head to the window and let out a short sigh. *'Well, I don't need her to do anything difficult anyway; it's just a menial job. But if I give it to*

her, she will definitely be entirely grateful to me, and that means loyalty and respect.' ²

Shifting her eyes back to Mary, Amelie declared, "I will hire your sister as one of my maids. Please let Mrs. Greene know and get her to have the paperwork ready by tomorrow. Carla can start working for me right away."

"Oh my..."

Amelie flinched and wrapped her loose knitted cardigan tightly around her chest as the strong gust of evening wind touched her skin through her clothes.

It was only September but the evenings were beginning to get rather chilly. She needed to think over a much warmer wardrobe now.

'I think I am going to miss my lonely evening walks. Liam promised that I could get back to work starting next week which means I will have less idle time on my hands.'

It's strange... I was restless when I had nothing to do, but now I feel sad that this laziness will



disappear again. Humans get used to changes so quickly...'

As she slowly walked around the mansion, her mind wandered back to the events of the day.

'Mary was right; her sister is indeed something else. I caught a glimpse of her showing Carla around the mansions and I must admit, she might not be as hopeless after all. She quickly memorized my schedule and the location of each room, and even successfully ran her first errand. I guess that army discipline indeed did her a lot of good. If all goes well, she might turn into quite an efficient worker and acquire a lot of useful skills.'

Lost in her inner musings, Amelie failed to notice that she had already made it around half of the residence and was now standing in front of the annex building which she had been ignoring during her previous walks because it was closed due to unfinished renovations.

Today, however, it managed to catch her attention with the bright orange light seeping through one of the tall and wide windows in the middle of its wall.

Amelie paused and carefully examined the building.

It looked simple, more like a garage than anything else with the exception of two huge windows that stretched almost the entire surfaces of the opposite walls.

Amelie had no idea what that building was supposed to be; since it had been closed for so long, she concluded that it would remain abandoned even after the renovations were over, but now that she saw the light behind the thick gray curtain over one of the windows, she couldn't help but be curious.

'Is it a studio of some sort? Or maybe the gardener's house? A greenhouse?'

Since guessing was useless, Amelie decided to find out the purpose of that building by entering it. However, once she stood in front of the already half-opened door, she got unreasonably scared.

'Alright,' she took a deep breath and grabbed the edge of the door with her fingers. *'I am Liam's wife, I have the right to go wherever I want to.'*



Now more confident, she peeked inside the building only to find herself completely and utterly flustered by the view inside.

There, covered in glistening drops of sweat, stood Liam. Completely naked. 7

“

Dear readers, due to Webnovel's server issues in the last few days, some of your comments are not visible to me so I apologize if they were left ignored.

yoojee

Creator's Thoughts