

Married in a Flash Embarking on the Journey to Wealth

Chapter 321

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Cynthia hesitated momentarily.

She had never told Eva that the man she secretly loved was Leslie, the brilliant young man who had made a name for himself abroad.

She wanted Leslie all to herself.

Whenever Eva asked, she would simply say he was a decent-looking colleague.

Eva was accustomed to seeing handsome men and beautiful women in the fashion industry, so she

had become numb to them.

She often advised Cynthia not to lose sight of the bigger picture for the sake of one man.

Cynthia never listened. Eva couldn't understand the benefit of becoming Leslie's girlfriend or wife.

Aside from Leslie himself, there was his vast business empire.

Cynthia believed she was the only one worthy of him because they were in sync at work, shared the

same ideas, and made decisions together.

With such harmony, why couldn't they be together?

Cynthia felt it was only a matter of time before they were.

She refrained from revealing Leslie's true identity to Eva, fearing she wouldn't lend her a helping

hand.

“He’s a young and promising developer at One Technology. With One Technology thriving in Seacester, no one dares to offend him,” she said casually.

This wasn’t entirely a lie, as Leslie had asked everyone to keep his identity secret.

he’ll

“Ah, I see. Can’t you aim a bit higher? Instead of going for all the wealthy and influential people abroad, you’re fixated on an employee of a tech company. Even if he’s good-looking now, probably be just an average Joe with a receding hairline in the future.”

Eva clucked her tongue disapprovingly.

“Eva, I just like him. I don’t want anyone else but him. If it weren’t for Aurelia, he would definitely have feelings for me,” Cynthia said firmly.

“Wait a minute... You’re not calling me just because of Aurelia again, right?”

Eva immediately guessed the problem.

“Yeah.”

Cynthia briefly explained the recent events but didn’t mention her **role** in making things difficult for Aurelia. Instead, she portrayed Aurelia as a very scheming woman.

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Upon hearing this, Eva sympathized with Cynthia’s frustration.

“Haha, our company is full of women like her. She must really think highly of herself if she dares to compare herself to you. Don’t worry, Cynthia. I have a plan.”

Cynthia felt much better upon hearing that.

Eva had always been the type to take matters into her own hands and rarely encountered opposition.

Both of their parents were regional CEOs of major companies, and they had received elite education from a young age. They looked down upon women like Aurelia, who tried to climb the social ladder through men.

Their pride wouldn't allow them to lose to someone as ordinary as Aurelia.

"Eva, what do you plan to do?"

Eva smiled and said, "Tomorrow..."

After hearing Eva's plan, Cynthia couldn't help but laugh.

"You're so ruthless."

"It's been a long time since I've had any fun since graduating from university. If someone comes knocking, why not play along?"

Eva shrugged.

"Okay, have fun then. If it works out, I'll be sure to thank you properly," Cynthia said.

"Just wait for good news tomorrow."

After hanging up the phone, Cynthia looked up at the building through the car window.

The amusement in her eyes slowly faded and was replaced by ruthless determination.

After finishing their food, everyone fell into silence and started working again. Instantly, the only sounds in the office were the sound of them typing on their keyboards..

Aurelia sat quietly beside Leslie to wait for him to get off work.

This was her first time watching him work. His long fingers danced on the keyboard, filling the screen with symbols she didn't understand. Whenever he paused to think, he looked composed and focused.

It was no wonder that they said a man was most attractive when he was focused.

At the moment, everything he did looked dazzling.

At some point, she fell asleep.

The sound of someone typing was hypnotizing, especially when a group of people was typing simultaneously.

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Her head was about to hit the desk when a hand caught her and placed her head on the desk gently.

She didn't feel any discomfort. On the contrary, she felt wonderful and nuzzled against the hand before continuing to sleep.

It wasn't until the sound of typing stopped around her that she jolted awake. After two dazed moments, she realized she was sleeping on Leslie's hand, and he was typing with a single hand.

She immediately straightened her back, and Leslie frowned. His hand felt numb, and he could barely

move it.

What horrified her most was that she saw something shiny on his hand.

She touched the corners of her lips, and they were wet.

She had been drooling.

Just as Leslie was about to move his hand, Aurelia grabbed it and locked fingers with him.

Leslie was taken aback.

"Ahem!"

"Ahem!"

"Ahem!"

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Just then, everyone started clearing their throats while staring at their joined hands.

She flushed but couldn't bring herself to release Leslie's hand when she thought of her

drool on it.

Daniel smiled.

"Who would have thought that Leslie could type so quickly with just one hand? How impressive."

Everyone laughed.

Leslie raised an eyebrow.

"That's just because none of you have had the chance to practice."

Daniel and the others immediately stopped laughing. They then shut off their computers

and left.

Aurelia felt embarrassed but couldn't think of anything other than wiping her drool off Leslie's hand.

With his hand being numb, she chuckled and took the opportunity to grab a piece of

tissue paper.

"It's hot, and your palm is sweaty. I will wipe and massage it for you so it won't feel as numb."

Deep down, she praised herself for her quick thinking.

She quickly wiped his palm and breathed a sigh of relief once the drool was cleaned up.

Just then, Leslie teased, "Wipe your mouth, too."

Aurelia fell into silence, feeling stricken.

He chuckled and got up.

"Come on,
let's go home."

She nodded.

"Sure."

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She gathered her things and was about to leave when she noticed Leslie looking for something.

"What's wrong?"

"I don't know where I placed my phone.

"I'll just call

you,

"she said and made a call to his phone.

A ringtone sounded, and it turned out that Leslie's phone was hidden underneath a pile of documents.

She pulled out the phone and said, "It's here."

Suddenly, she froze when she saw his screen.

She wondered if she was reading it correctly.

He had actually saved her number as "Aurelia". She couldn't possibly mistake her own

name.

She contemplated if she was different from Cynthia if he had saved her number and not Cynthia's.

"Aurelia, what are you thinking? It's just a contact profile," she inwardly chided herself.

Still, she couldn't help but smile.

Just then, Leslie grabbed the phone.

"Why are you smiling?"

She immediately stopped smiling.

"Nothing."

He glanced at the contact name on her phone.

"Husband? You haven't changed it back?"

Aurelia immediately covered her phone.

She had forgotten to change it.

"I'll change it later. No, I'll do it now."

She immediately opened her contact list.

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He narrowed his eyes and thought, "Is she really going to change it? Whatever. Why am I bothered by it?"

"It's fine," he said.

"Why?" Aurelia asked.

"Others will need to know who to call the next time you faint," he said.

"That's true. You should make a note, too, or no one would know how to reach your wife if you pass out."

Aurelia instantly realized she had said the wrong thing, as others could always contact Linda.

“Why hasn’t the elevator arrived yet? Hurry up!” she thought. “What should I change your contact to then?” Leslie asked.

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Aurelia felt annoyed at herself. It wasn’t like she could ask Leslie to change her contact name to “Wifey”.

As she faced his stare, the elevator door opened.

Feeling like she had been saved, she hurried inside and **said**, “Just change it to whatever you want.”

He stepped inside and said, “Sure.”

As the elevator descended, the two remained silent, and she noticed him tapping on his phone.

Confused, she wondered if it took that long to change a contact profile.

What exactly was he doing?

Curiously, she approached him. As her gaze fell onto the screen, it went black, and she only managed to catch sight of a symbol.

Leslie’s voice rose.

“Do you want to see it?”

“Yeah.”

Aurelia nodded without much thought and froze when she snapped out of it. She immediately shook her head.

“No, I don’t want to see it.”

“Alright,” he said and stepped out of the elevator.

She pouted behind him and thought, “Whatever.”

After taking a few steps forward, Leslie stopped and turned to look at her.

“I hope it will never be needed.”

Aurelia fell silent, unable to understand the type of information one would wish would never be necessary.

She didn't inquire further, and Leslie headed straight to the parking lot.

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Back home, Leslie advised her to get some sleep while he went to the kitchen to wash the lunchboxes.

Leslie was indeed impeccable, both as a husband and a room

Aurelia returned to her room and lay down.

But even with her eyes closed, Leslie’s words kept echoing in her mind.

“Ugh, I can’t sleep.”

She sighed and reached for her phone to pass the time and hopefully induce sleep.

Just as she opened the video app, there was footage of an accident on an overpass.

In the video, a woman crawled out of an overturned car, trembling as she clutched her phone.

Bystanders rushed to her aid, dialing emergency services while urging her to remain

conscious.

The woman weakly waved the phone, the screen displaying “Emergency Contact”.

Ultimately, the ambulance arrived, and bystanders said they had reached the woman’s husband using the emergency contact on her phone.

The outcome was positive, and Aurelia breathed a sigh of relief as she scrolled to other videos.

Suddenly, something occurred to her. She rewound the video and paused it on the screen of the woman's phone.

phone in

There was a red asterisk symbol. She had seen this symbol before on Leslie's phone in

the elevator.

She pondered if it meant Leslie had added her as an emergency contact.

It was no wonder Leslie had said he hoped it would never be needed.

She sat up abruptly in bed and searched for how to add an emergency contact on her phone. Following the steps, she realized it required several taps, just like Leslie did.

It was +

She had become Leslie's emergency contact.

Suddenly, she felt a bit more burdened with responsibility.

At that moment, she heard the sound of the balcony door opening from outside her room.

door.

Aurelia hesitated. She wondered why he was still awake despite it being so late,

After a moment's contemplation, she got out of bed and walked out of the room.

In the living room, she saw Leslie leaning against the balcony railing. The evening breeze tousled his shirt and his hair.

He remained motionless with his head slightly bowed like he was gazing down stairs or looking at the flickering cigarette in his hand.

There was always a mysterious energy about him, which was both intriguing and irresistible.

Aurelia didn't want to disturb Leslie's thoughts. However, as she turned to leave, **she** bumped into the couch, making enough noise to startle him.

He turned to look at her, and through the glass door, she couldn't discern what was **on** his mind.

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Aurelia walked outside and met Leslie's gaze, her mind wandering off again to the emergency contact he set up.

"Why haven't you slept?" she asked.

Leslie noticed her nose wrinkling at the smell of cigarettes and put the cigarette out.

"I couldn't sleep. What about you?"

"Um... No reason. I just saw a piece of news that made me quite emotional."

She couldn't bring herself to ask him about the emergency contact, fearing that she may be overthinking.

"What news?"

"It's about the accident on the bridge. It's nothing big."

Not wanting to let it slip, Aurelia changed the subject.

"Are you worried about work?"

"I suppose so."

Leslie didn't tell the truth.

Daniel had just called him to say that the big shot in the Synder family wanted to meet

him. It had been over a decade since they last met, and Leslie felt nervous.

Aurelia met the dark look in his eyes, realizing that he seemed frustrated.

She didn't know much about his work and couldn't be of much help.

After a few thoughtful moments, her eyes lit up, and she said, "Just wait. I have something great."

Leslie watched her in confusion, wondering why she always seemed so energetic.

Sometime later, she walked over with a tray. Apart from two glasses, there were two odd-looking ornaments as well.

She pointed at the ornaments.

"Mr. Synder, pick one."

"What for?" he asked.

"To eat," Aurelia said solemnly.

He fell silent and wondered if she had lost her mind to the point of eating ornaments.

"You pick. It's a surprise," she **said**.

Leslie examined the ornaments before him. There **was** a bear and a rabbit.

Not given much of an option, he randomly chose the bear.

Aurelia picked up the bear and said mysteriously, "Watch closely. I'll perform a magic trick for you."

There was a tinkling sound, and a bear-shaped ice cube dropped into the cup, instantly coating the cup with a layer of mist.

"Ta-da! Not bad for a five dollar magic trick, right?"

Aurelia chuckled.

The wind tousled her long hair and revealed her delicate features as she smiled.

Leslie was momentarily stunned, then realized he was rude for staring and shifted his gaze to the cup.

It turned out the ornaments were actually ice cube molds.

Aurelia placed the rabbit-shaped ice cube into her own cup and poured some cola into it.

She said softly, "I hid the cola. I was afraid you wouldn't like having snacks at home."

Leslie glanced at the cola.

"There's just one bottle of cola?"

Aurelia's hand paused, and she chuckled.

"You noticed that too? Wait a moment.

A minute later, Aurelia retrieved the snacks she had bought from the cupboard, all of which only children would eat. There were even chips.

"Cheers."

Aurelia clinked her glass with Leslie's, then sipped the ice-cold cola, feeling refreshed and relaxed.

After setting down her glass, she noticed Leslie hadn't moved and was looking at her with surprise.

"What's wrong? Don't you like it?"

Aurelia looked at Leslie cautiously.

"No," Leslie replied.

He raised his glass and took a sip of the cola.

He didn't know if it was because of Aurelia or the refreshing sip of cola, but the suffocating feeling in his chest seemed to somewhat dissipate.

Aurelia began recommending small snacks to him.

The gentle night breeze felt encouraging, and she grew braver.

She picked out a box of sour treats from among them and offered a piece to Leslie's lips.

"Mr. Synder, try it. It's delicious."

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Leslie looked at the dark-colored snacks. An ominous feeling rose within him, especially when he saw Aurelia's eyes squinting.

He used to think Aurelia's smile was simple and was her best disguise. But after spending time together, he realized Aurelia was actually very bad at disguising her feelings.

When embarrassed, she would lower her head, and her eyes would wander like many other girls.

But now, her eyes were squinting in laughter. It was either fake or mischievous.

Still, Leslie didn't expose her.

He accepted the snack she offered and popped it into his mouth. His face instantly crinkled up at its sourness.

Aurelia covered her mouth and chuckled.

"Mr. Synder, I didn't know you could have so many expressions. Haha... Mm!"

Leslie fed her a sour treat amid her amusement, and her teeth ached from how tart it was.

Why did she think this was delicious when she was a kid?

The two of them made painful expressions together, then drank half a glass of cola before recovering.

Leslie curved his lips.

Aurelia observed his gentle smile and felt slightly taken aback.

“Mr. Synder, you’re really attractive.”

Leslie suppressed his smile.

“Is it appropriate to use that word on men?”

Aurelia pondered.

“The word ‘handsome’ isn’t good enough though, is it?”

Leslie couldn’t help but feel flattered and relaxed at her words.

He pointed to the snacks before him.

“Why did you buy so many snacks meant for children?”

Aurelia paused and pursed her lips.

“My dad used to buy them for me. When I just graduated, I sent over 50 resumes but received no response. Feeling down, my dad comforted me like a child and bought a lot of snacks from my childhood.

“The next day, I received an interview invitation from Seacester and was hired. When I first started working, I felt particularly out of place like I was being forced to do something I didn’t want to do. But since I had no other strengths, I could only adapt. My dad would keep buying these snacks to comfort me, and the following day would always go smoothly.

“I guess I’ve been having such a tough time lately because I forgot to buy myself these snacks. Later on, my dad passed away, and I was the one who’d buy these things. It gradually became a habit—some sort of belief. Now that you’ve eaten my snacks, your work will surely go smoothly tomorrow.”

With that, Aurelia raised her glass and drank heartily.

Leslie hesitated momentarily and listened to Aurelia talk about her father with a smile.

He thought of his own father, and his mood instantly soured.

He lowered his gaze.

“It’s not real.”

Aurelia wasn’t offended and retorted, “Who says it isn’t real? Not everyone gets their wishes after praying, but they pray daily regardless. My dad was very spiritual. I asked him to bless Seth for a smooth career in the past, and Seth almost became a supervisor from a junior employee role. I simply stopped asking my dad to watch over him later on.”

Leslie set the cup down and glanced at her.

“Your dad sure is busy. He has to watch over you and others as well.”

“Well... I guess I won’t ask him to watch over you today, then.

Aurelia pouted.

Leslie was slightly amused by the fact that he was spending **so** much time discussing such

matters with another person.

The two continued to chat late into the night, both feeling relaxed.

“Aurelia, the deal tomorrow is worth 70 million. If your dad really is that powerful, I will

let you have the entire commission if I succeed,” he said.

“Huh? I don’t think my dad is capable of that. I don’t think I’ve ever offered him anything worth a million at all. So this wish is a bit too hard for a ghost to accomplish,” she said with resignation.

Leslie burst into laughter, his eyes squinting most enticingly.

Aurelia removed a ring from her necklace and handed it to Leslie.

“This belonged to my dad. You bought me a ring, and I feel I should give something back. Since this is a matter of my dad’s honor, I will give this to you in the hope that he will watch over you.

Aurelia regretted it slightly shortly after handing the ring over.

Although the ring was made of gold, it had a simple design, and there were even scratches on it.

What if Leslie didn’t want it?

After all, no one young would prefer a gold ring.

Just as she was about to change her mind, he accepted the ring and said, “Thank you.”

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“Alright,” Aurelia said to Leslie.

She thought that he would put it on a necklace. After all, they were simply in a marriage of convenience, and he didn’t need to wear a ring.

A moment later, she froze.

Leslie placed the ring on his ring finger without hesitation, fitting perfectly.

She used to think her father had beautiful hands. She couldn’t help stealing glances at Leslie’s hands after meeting him..

She finally understood the reason for her behavior.

Leslie was taken aback as well. He was merely trying it on for size but didn’t expect it to fit so perfectly.

“I guess your dad is quite satisfied with me.”

“As what? His son-in-law?” she said and felt like slapping herself in the face.

Aurelia could practically feel Leslie’s smile and knew that she had amused him.

She had lost count of how often she lost control of her mouth.

Aurelia stood up and yawned.

“I have work tomorrow, so I’ll head to bed now. You should tidy up.”

With that, she ran back to her room.

Leslie stayed on the balcony to finish his cola.

In the meantime, he also saw the news about the car accident and the mention of the emergency contact.

Chuckling, he realized Aurelia found out that he’d made her an emergency contact.

Staring at the golden ring on his finger, he felt no discomfort and even felt that he would

win tomorrow.

He wondered about the type of woman Aurelia was.

The next day, Aurelia woke up late.

She was going to tell Leslie that she wouldn’t be cooking. To her surprise, he had already prepared breakfast.

She figured he must have bought it beforehand.

Smiling, Aurelia grabbed the breakfast and hurried along, but her eyelids started

twitching again.

The last time her eyelids twitched, she ran into Eva. Today, she and Kimberly were going to meet Eva again.

She hoped that nothing would go wrong this time.

With that thought, Aurelia rubbed her eyes and quickly finished her breakfast before heading to the office.

She planned to review some documents with Kimberly before going to meet Eva. However, a colleague informed her that Kimberly had already left.

“I came early today because I’m on duty. Kimberly came into the office early, took something, and left. She said she was going to the shooting location for IN Magazine. Didn’t you know?”

“No, I didn’t.”

Aurelia sighed.

“You better hurry. Kimberly is probably there to steal the limelight. She talks big but doesn’t have much talent. You’ll get in trouble if she says the wrong thing.”

Now that Kimberly’s status wasn’t what it used to be, everyone was no longer holding back their resentment toward her.

Aurelia thought her colleague was right, so she quickly took a taxi to the magazine’s shooting location.

Meanwhile, on the hotel rooftop, Eva was drinking coffee with sunglasses on as she listened to her assistant talk about the day’s shooting affairs.

She nodded along with her eyes closed but suddenly frowned at the sound of high heels clacking.

During the shoot, **no** one was allowed **to** wear high heels apart from herself and **the** models to avoid affecting her mood.

Since the models hadn’t arrived yet, it must be one of those staff members who didn’t know the rules.

Eva opened her eyes to see a woman smiling and extending her hand.

“Hello, Ms. Hanks. I’m Kimberly from Young Advertising.”

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Eva was about to reprimand the intruder but didn't expect this person to introduce herself voluntarily.

It was Kimberly.

The name sounded familiar to her.

When she had looked into Aurelia's background, Kimberly's name came up the most.

She was Aurelia's professional rival.

Kimberly indeed had skills, especially when it came to men. She was simply irresistible.

Upon seeing her today, Eva decided that her reputation was well-founded. She was indeed bold and seductive.

Most men were visual creatures, and Kimberly was the ultimate eye candy.

Coupled with her skill in flaunting her advantages, most men couldn't resist her charm.

However, Eva wasn't a man, and she had no interest in Kimberly's looks.

What interested her was why Kimberly wanted to see her before Aurelia did.

Eva waved her hand at her assistant and then removed her sunglasses.

"Why

are you alone? Didn't your company say there would be another person?"

"I was afraid you would be angry if you saw Aurelia again, so I came to see you in advance.

Kimberly sat down and called the waiter to order an iced Americano.

It didn't seem like she was here to discuss work. It appeared as though she showed up to negotiate.

Eva raised an eyebrow.

"You don't have to beat around the bush with me. Just say what you want. I don't have

time to dance around with you."

She deliberately showed her impatience, and Kimberly instantly spilled everything.

"Ms. Hanks, you genuinely hate Aurelia, don't you?"

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"Not at all."

Eva smiled.

Kimberly pursed her lips, unable to contain her frustration.

"Even if it's not you, it's someone behind you, right? I'm not here to cause trouble. I just want to make a deal with you."

Eva chuckled inwardly. As she had anticipated, a woman who relied on men for too long would not stand a chance against another woman.

Still, Kimberly also disliked Aurelia.

Having an extra helping hand wouldn't hurt, especially since Kimberly knew someone was behind Eva.

When she was a model, Cynthia introduced many big shots from the financial industry to pave the way for herself. Naturally, Eva wouldn't betray Cynthia.

She scanned Kimberly and decided to encourage her.

“Ms. Watson, you’re quite impressive for knowing that. Not bad. Indeed, I’m creating trouble for Aurelia because of the people behind me. So, what kind of deal do you want to discuss?”

Kimberly immediately straightened her back, feeling like she had the upper hand.

She was oblivious to the fact that women like her weren’t even qualified to show up in

Eva’s circle.

Eva was simply indulging her as she found the situation amusing.

Since someone had presented themselves for her manipulation, it seemed strange not to

make use of it.

Kimberly smiled.

“Ms. Hanks, I’m getting married soon. My only wish is to blacklist Aurelia from the entire industry.”

As **she** spoke, she twirled the ring on her finger.

Eva glanced at it with amusement. Jewelry with such quality would only win the hearts of mediocre women like Kimberly.

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Not bothering to **expose** Kimberly, Eva said, “We share the same thought—that’s perfect. So long as you can help me, the partnership with my company will be your wedding gift. What do you think?”

Kimberly’s eyes lit up, and she nodded.

“It’s settled then. Since you asked both me and Aurelia here, you must already have a plan, right?”

“Well, she’s not here yet,” Eva said and placed a big briefcase on the table.

She entered the passcode and opened it.

The splendid sight inside instantly captured Kimberly.

All women loved jewelry, especially ones that were custom-made by premium brands.

Staring at the gems on it, Kimberly was initially shocked, then proceeded to cover her ring awkwardly.

Eva closed the briefcase.

“We borrowed this piece from the Waldorf family. We need it **for** the shoot today. Do you know how much this costs?”

“How much?” Kimberly asked.

Eva gestured a seven with her hand.

“Seven hundred thousand?” Kimberly asked in shock.

“Seven million. The sapphire in the middle was taken from an actual scepter. How much do you think it’s worth?”

Eva raised an eyebrow.

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Kimberly gasped. Even though she had seen a lot of money, it was her uncle who was rich. She simply benefitted from that.

Even people as rich as Jackson would never spend millions of dollars.

Kimberly straightened her back as she didn’t want to be looked down on. “Ms. Hanks, why are you showing me this?”

“I’m reminding you to stay out of the way. If this is broken or lost, it’s going to be a big deal,” said Eva.

Kimberly immediately understood what she meant. “Thank you for the reminder, Ms.

Hanks.

“You are quite smart, Ms. Watson.” Eva put on her sunglasses again to hide the contempt in her eyes.

It was a good thing that she didn't have to get her hands dirty. With Kimberly's help, the matter would be settled.

Aurelia arrived at the hotel and saw the manager of the hotel standing outside, waiting

for someone.

Two cars approached and stopped outside the entrance. The manager went up to open the door with a grin. “Mr. Synder, Mr. Synder, welcome,” he greeted.

Aurelia froze in shock when she saw Leon.

Leon was dressed in a dark blue suit. With a gentle smile on his face, he looked every bit the elegant young master from a prominent family.

However, Aurelia had felt the piercing gaze from Leon before. She knew he was far more complicated than he appeared to be.

With that in mind, Aurelia's gaze shifted past Leon to the middle-aged man in front of

him.

He was the CEO of the Synder family, Jared Synder. He had a dignified presence, with sharp eyes and a shrewd demeanor.

Even with Leon standing beside him, Jared seemed to overshadow him.

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For some reason, Aurelia felt a strange familiarity when she looked at Jared. On top of that, Leon and Jared did not look like father and son at all. Leon also didn't seem to

inherit Leslie's charisma.

Amid her thoughts, Aurelia felt a gaze on her. She followed the feeling and realized that Leon had spotted her. She ducked behind a nearby potted plant.

Meanwhile, Jared noticed Leon's distraction and cleared his throat. "What are you looking at?"

Leon shook his head. "Nothing."

"Focus on the meeting today and don't embarrass our family again," Jared said sternly.

"Okay, Dad," Leon said respectfully and kept his head down. Jared strode into the hotel after saying that

Leon glanced in Aurelia's direction, only to find that she had quietly slipped away.

Aurelia had ignored him again.

Leon thought Aurelia was quite an interesting woman. Once they **were** done dealing with One Technology, he would spend some time getting to know her better.

Meanwhile, Aurelia had already sneaked into the elevator, but she couldn't figure out why the twitching of her eyelid grew more intense. It seems she had to do a set of eye exercises to calm them down.

Aurelia soon reached the top floor, but before she could even steady herself, Kimberly pulled her aside.

"Aurelia, what took you so long? Are you trying to make us wait for you?" Kimberly questioned.

"We agreed to meet here at nine, and it's only five minutes to nine now. I'm not late,"

Aurelia **retorted**.

"Forget it. Ms. Hanks said she wouldn't talk to us unless you apologize to her," Kimberly said as she pointed to where Eva stood.

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Chapter 329

When Aurelia looked at Eva, she noticed Eva raising her eyebrows. It seemed to indicate that Eva wasn't taking Aurelia seriously.

Immediately, Eva turned her focus back to the screen and continued discussing the models' performances with the people around her.

It was clear that Eva was waiting for Aurelia to approach her as a compromise

Kimberly nudged Aurelia. "Aurelia, we're representing the company now. You can't ruin our cooperation just because you offended Ms. Hanks. Do you know how many celebrities from Seacester are attending the charity gala? If we seize this opportunity, promotions and raises are within reach," she advised.

Aurelia felt helpless after hearing what Kimberly said. She didn't even know how she ended up angering Eva. However, she had no choice but to swallow her pride at this point.

Aurelia approached Eva and said politely, "Ms. Hanks, may I..."

Eva exploded in anger and glared at her. "Are you blind? Can't you see we're shooting here? Do you know that the cost of shooting is calculated by the second? A single blink from that model costs as much as your monthly salary. Can you afford to interrupt us?" she snapped.

As Eva berated Aurelia, people around them chuckled and cast mocking glances at her. Aurelia pursed her lips as she knew that Eva was deliberately humiliating her in public.

Although she didn't understand why Eva held such animosity towards her, she could still see the excitement in Eva's eyes as she humiliated her.

But there was nothing she could do about it. She couldn't compete against someone with such power and influence in the industry.

To avoid further trouble, Aurelia took a step back and apologized, "Sorry."

Eva felt a surge of satisfaction when she saw Aurelia retreat. It reminded her of the time when she handled the classmates who didn't like her back at school. It made her feel like she was reliving her youth.

The next moment, Eva deliberately pushed Aurelia out from under the awning. “Don’t block the light! Stand outside and wait!” she barked.

It was the peak of summer now and the temperature of the morning sun was already scorching.

Aurelia was drenched in sweat within a minute after being pushed into the sun light. She wiped her sweat and turned to head towards the shade.

Suddenly, Eva called out from behind her, “Hey, you! Whatever your name is, help us hold up the reflector.”

Aurelia paused. Did Eva just call out to her with “whatever your name is“?

Although Aurelia knew Eva was calling for her, she didn’t bother to react. She refused to acknowledge being addressed so disrespectfully.

Eva didn’t expect Aurelia to play dumb. Her previous satisfaction instantly turned into frustration.

“Aurelia! Didn’t you hear me calling out to you? Is this how Young Advertising serves its customers? With disrespect?” she shouted.

“Is that right? Were you calling out to **me**? What do you need?” Aurelia asked mockingly and continued to play dumb.

Eva was furious, but she couldn’t say much. After all, she didn’t name anyone and only meant to humiliate Aurelia.

Instantly, everyone around them fell silent, leaving only the sound of cameras clicking. They all turned to Aurelia in disbelief, not expecting someone to be bold enough to ignore Eva.

Everyone knew that Eva was ruthless and vengeful. With a powerful background, no one dared to anger her..

Sensing everyone’s gaze on her, Eva **felt** humiliated and pointed at the reflector proudly “Aurelia, we are short-staffed today. Lift that reflector for us. The sooner we finish the shooting, the sooner I can start discussing the collaboration with you, right? Or do you not want this collaboration at all?”

Since Eva had failed at humiliating Aurelia, she resorted to threatening her instead.

Chapter 330

Aurelia hesitated as she was unable to come up with a better solution.

Now that Eva had spread rumors about her lack of professionalism, it affected her and

the company.

Despite having successful collaborations with other companies like One Technology, some people still accused Aurelia of being too smug. There was no way she could continue working in this industry if this went on.

Aurelia had no other choice and reluctantly nodded. "Okay."

Eva instructed someone to hand Aurelia the oversized reflector. Then, she glanced at the photographer.

The photographer was Eva's friend, so he immediately understood what she meant. During the shoot, he kept grumbling, "Raise the reflector higher! Even higher! Do you not have any strength at all?"

Aurelia gritted her teeth and held the reflector higher.

When the photographer finally mentioned a break to touch up makeup, Aurelia quickly lowered the reflector. Her arms had already become numb. She rubbed her arms and wiped the sweat dripping from her face.

Just as she thought it was over, Eva glanced at the computer screen. Eva started barking, "What are we shooting? The lighting is terrible. If we publish these photos online, our magazine will shut down tomorrow.

"Retake! Aurelia! Can't you cooperate? I want to finish this shoot quickly and discuss cooperation plans with you. How can I trust your abilities if this is how you behave?"

Eva didn't stop criticizing Aurelia once throughout the shoot..

Aurelia endured it once more and said, "I understand."

Eva suddenly approached Aurelia with a smile and whispered, "I like how you look right now. People like you should learn to be more submissive. Just because you have some skills, that doesn't mean you can snatch everything a way."

Aurelia was puzzled by Eva's words. What exactly did she snatch?

Before she could figure it out, the photographer started reshooting. This time, they

Chase: 3:59. |—

finally got the shots..

Eva glanced at Aurelia and smirked. "Aurelia, go get the briefcase from my assistant and give it to the makeup artist.

Aurelia looked at the assistant beside the couch and assumed that the briefcase contained something valuable. She wasn't part of IN Magazine, so it didn't seem appropriate for her to handle it.

Besides, why would Eva ask her to fetch something valuable for the magazine if she disliked her so much?

Aurelia tried to be cautious, but Eva was growing impatient.

"Aurelia, hurry up. Are we all supposed to wait for you? Do you know that every second you waste costs us money? Why would your company hire someone as dumb as you?" Eva demanded.

"Ms. Hanks, I think that" Aurelia was about to turn her down when Kimberly snatched the reflector in her hand.

"Aurelia, what are you doing? Go ahead. Ms. Hanks is probably asking you to help to test your ability. You have to perform well. If not, how would IN Magazine view our company?" Kimberly spoke righteously.

Instantly, everyone turned to look at Aurelia as though she would be rude if she refused

to help.

Unfortunately, this concerned the collaboration between two firms, and Aurelia didn't have much of a choice.

Aurelia relented and said, "I'll go grab it."

"Go ahead. The shoot will be over soon. We can finalize the proposal then and go back." Kimberly waved Aurelia off and turned to exchange glances with Eva..

Eva chuckled as she thought of how Aurelia would soon be suffering from her schemes.