

Married in a Flash Embarking on the Journey to Wealth

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Aurelia was pressured to grab the briefcase on the couch. However, as soon as she picked the briefcase up, a bad feeling overwhelmed her,

Although she didn't know what was in the briefcase, she still held it gingerly. Unfortunately, her caution could prevent accidents, but not against schemes.

In the next moment, the electric wire by Aurelia's feet moved and tripped her. As much as she tried to protect the briefcase in her hand, it still slipped out and slammed hard onto the ground.

The contents on the inside were tossed out and revealed an expensive looking necklace. The necklace snapped in half as soon as it hit the ground.

While Aurelia steadied herself, everyone around her screamed.

"Ah!" someone shouted.

The photographer wailed, "It's over!"

"We borrowed that piece of jewelry that's worth 50 million. We could sell everything we owned and it still wouldn't amount to that much!" another staff cried out.

As Aurelia listened to the staff, she stared at the necklace and paled. That necklace was worth 50 million? That amount of money was unimaginable to Aurelia.

Eva darted over to grab the necklace and held each half in her hand. She turned around and glared at Aurelia.

"Look at what you've done! Are you trying to get us into trouble?" Eva snapped.

"No... I" Aurelia stammered, only to be interrupted.

“No? This necklace was borrowed from an anonymous collector on behalf of the magazine for the shoot. You’ve just broken it. How are you planning to compensate for this?” Eva demanded.

Aurelia looked at the necklace, feeling a bit lost. Her mind went blank and she couldn’t recall how it all happened. She had been careful as she was afraid of being accused of being careless. How could there have been a wire by her feet?

Aurelia felt the need to explain. She composed herself and said, “Ms. Hanks, there was a wire on the ground just now that caused me to trip.”

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Eva scoffed and retorted, “A wire? Where is the wire? Explain yourself.” She indicated to the spot Aurelia had just passed.

Aurelia glanced over and was stunned. It felt like she had just woken up from a dream. There was nothing on the ground and there was no wire in sight.

Where had the wire gone? She had clearly seen a black wire on the ground just moments

ago.

Eva frowned. “Aurelia, even if you wanted to shift the blame, can’t you come up with a better excuse? Are you trying to accuse the wires we used of tripping you? Our shoot wires are all specially marked and aren’t randomly placed. You must be mistaken.”

Upon hearing the mention of wires, the others hurried to distance themselves. They were afraid of being accused of breaking the 50 million dollar necklace.

“Miss, please don’t make baseless accusations. We always organize the wires before the shoot,” one staff insisted.

Another person nodded. “That’s right. Ms. Hanks hates seeing a mess on set, so we’re not allowed to place things randomly. How could there be a wire lying around to trip you?”

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Everyone chimed in, all eager to pin all the blame on Aurelia.

Aurelia stood still. She realized she was surrounded by Eva's supporters as IN Magazine

had booked the entire **venue**.

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Aurelia's only hope was that Kimberly would say something out of respect for Young Advertising. She turned to look at Kimberly.

Kimberly's expression was solemn as she said, "Aurelia, you've gone too far this time. Even if you want to retaliate against Ms. Hank for bossing you around, you shouldn't mess with other people's things! I can't help you this time."

Aurelia wasn't surprised at all by Kimberly's words. Kimberly had always been critical of her and would never lend her a hand. Aurelia tensed up and was unable to respond to her words.

Eva pressed on aggressively, "Aurelia, there are witnesses and evidence. How do you plan to justify yourself? Or do you want to discuss how you're going to compensate for 50 million?"

Aurelia bit her lip nervously as Eva continued berating her.

"Can't you afford it? It's your fault for being careless. I really don't understand why Young Advertising would employ someone like you. It's just their luck. If you don't pay

I'll call the police right now," Eva threatened.

up,

Kimberly hurried forward to blame Aurelia, saying, "Ms. Hanks, this is entirely Aurelia's doing. It doesn't represent the company. Our company has always approached your company with a friendly and serious attitude toward cooperation. We would never resort to retaliatory behavior."

“Kimberly, do you take me for a fool? Given the circumstances, how can I believe this

isn't something your company instructed Aurelia to do? I can't possibly work with you. people,” Eva sneered.

Kimberly immediately took out her phone. “Our company has always been fair and impartial. I'll call Mr. Zeller right away to dismiss Aurelia. It won't affect the cooperation between our companies,” she said quickly.

Eva's silence indicated her approval of Kimberly's proposal.

It was at this moment that Aurelia snapped out of her daze and stepped forward to stop Kimberly.

“Wait a minute, the matter hasn't been investigated thoroughly yet. Why should I be blamed for damaging the necklace?” Aurelia demanded.

Eva laughed. “Listen to what she's saying. We all saw it. Is she still asking this kind of question?”

Aurelia took a deep breath and said calmly, “Ms. Hanks, I did see a wire here. If you think I'm making excuses, then the scene should be thoroughly examined before any accusation is made toward me.

you

“Also, you were the one who insisted that I fetch the briefcase. This indicates that you knew in advance there were valuable items in it. However, you didn't inform me about it. And why would the briefcase open so easily? Isn't that strange?”

The briefcase had a combination lock, and there were soft pads inside to secure the necklace. Even if the necklace fell from a certain height, the briefcase shouldn't have opened so easily.

Yet, all it took was for Aurelia to stumble and the briefcase flew open, causing the necklace to fall out. The situation was too coincidental.

“What are you implying, Aurelia? Do I have to tell everyone we were carrying a 50 million dollar necklace? Are you suggesting that we are trying to frame you?” Eva retorted.

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“Since you asked me to get it, don’t I have the right to know what’s inside?” Aurelia shot back.

Eva sneered, “Why you... Is that the tone you’re going to use when facing a client? You’ll either be fired or taken to the police station today.’

“Either way, you’ll compensate for the 50 million, with or without your cooperation. I have plenty of witnesses,” Eva said indifferently with a smile, confident that Aurelia was powerless.

Aurelia glanced around as everyone stared at her, each condemning her with their eyes.

It was almost as though they were saying, “Why would you provoke Ms. Hanks? You got us into this mess.

“It’s so annoying. Someone just came along and ruined our work,” a staff complained.

Someone else shook their head in disappointment. “Damn, that’s just my luck. We are all getting scolded when we get back.”

Though they didn’t say it out loud, the messages **in** their eyes seemed to pierce through Aurelia all the same.

She clenched her fists to maintain her composure.

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“You have three minutes to think, or I’m calling the police. The destruction of others’ property worth 50 million would be quite a big crime,” Eva urged as she curled her lips. with a sharp glint in her eyes.

This action indicated to Aurelia that there was more to the story. However, no one dared to oppose Eva. The wire that tripped her was also somehow gone. What else could she do?

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While Aurelia was getting framed by Eva, another serious meeting was taking place in a private room located on the **top** floor.

The top floor was a private and grand space, so it was separated into two areas. One was made into a romantic restaurant while the other was further divided into business

meeting lounges.

Anyone who came here to discuss business would stare down at all the people below, which only made them feel superior.

At that moment, Jared and Leslie were sitting on opposite ends of a long meeting table. The atmosphere in the room was suffocating as Jared observed Leslie quietly.

Leslie had exceptionally beautiful features and looked familiar somehow. He was as calm and expressionless, which meant he was clearly not someone who could be messed with.

Even a man like Jared, someone who had been in the business world for years, couldn't see through Leslie's thoughts.

After a long silence, Leon asked with displeasure, "Where's your boss? Why did he just send an employee over?"

Daniel approached and explained, "Mr. Synder, our boss is currently overseas. He authorized the developer, Mr. Leslie, to oversee the collaboration."

Jared was taken aback and his gaze fell on Leslie once again. He was surprised that someone so young developed so many products.

Leon frowned. "Mr. Xenos, is this how One Technology does things? This is Sacester, not some other country. Don't you know the rules around here?"

Leon was reminding Leslie's group that this was the Synder family's territory and they shouldn't try any tricks.

Jared didn't interrupt Leon but instead watched Leslie with interest.

One Technology was the first company that dared to set up a branch in Seacester without any regard for the Synder family. On top of that, they even got ahead of Synder Corporation to launch new products and refused to hand the new technology over.

Over the past decade, the Synder family's tech companies had almost dominated the city by absorbing and monopolizing the research and development of young people.

If it weren't for the sudden rise in the price of ML chips, their new product launch wouldn't have taken so long.

It was precisely during this period that One Technology emerged from the pack.

Initially, Jared didn't even take these companies established by the younger generation seriously. After all, he could always exert pressure on them and find a reason to acquire the technology along with the company.

However, One Technology continued to drag the negotiation along for over two months. It was almost like they knew that Synder Corporation would not succeed in obtaining the

ML chips.

Jared considered this meeting his way of offering grace to the founder of One Technology. That way, both parties could reach a consensus.

Jared thought that One Technology's new product this time had great prospects and had a deep understanding of the young people's market.

He had high hopes for this company, but that only meant he would offer a good price when acquiring One Technology.

The conference table fell into silence again because of Leon's words.

Daniel solemnly said, "Gentlemen, rules are rules, but people can be flexible. Since it's a cooperation between both sides, both parties are required to show how eager they are to reach an agreement."

"What do you mean? Do you want us to beg you?" Leon retorted.

Daniel lowered his gaze to meet Leslie's.

Leslie twirled the ring on his finger until Leon started to lose his patience.

"Isn't it so? Our chips can save you 20% in costs. If that's not what you **want**, there's no need to continue discussing. The door is right there," Leslie said.

Leon clenched his fists and was about to get up when Jared stopped him.

"Young man, **you** shouldn't be too arrogant. It's easy to offend people if you behave this way," Jared said sternly.

Leslie coldly looked up with indifference at Jared, his fingers interlaced under his chin.

Perhaps Aurelia's father was indeed watching over him.

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Initially, Leslie expected to be filled with hatred when he finally met Jared again. Unexpectedly, seeing this man again after more than a decade wasn't a big deal after **all**.

Leslie didn't feel a thing even when Jared failed to recognize him.

When Leslie begged for this man to care for him and his mother, Jared ordered someone **to** kill them both.

That way, he could take over the profits brought by his mother, get rid of legitimate heirs, and make way for his mistress and illegitimate child.

It was truly laughable to watch Jared try and act dignified. Leon's humble and pretentious demeanor was even more ridiculous.

Leslie twirled the ring on his finger and looked at Jared. “Offend whom, exactly? You? It doesn’t matter. After all, it’s not me whose stock price has been continuously declining. Isn’t that right, Mr. Synder?”

At those words, even Jared couldn’t sit still any longer.

Leon **stood** up and looked at Jared. “Dad, let’s go. There’s nothing to talk about with such a small company. Let’s see who would dare to cooperate with them without our support,” he sneered.

“It is said that the Synder family promised to release a new product next month. I wonder if it will be another false announcement?” Leslie remarked indifferently.

After Leslie said that, Leon glared at him darkly.

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Jared cast a **sharp** glance at Leon. The more frustrated Leon seemed, the more fearless Leslie appeared.

Leon was allowing the other party to see through their desperation. Jared shot Leon a sideways glance, signaling him to sit down.

Leon reluctantly took his seat, grinding his teeth.

“Let’s get back to the point and talk about this collaboration. I’m willing to offer seven million to buy out the chip technology in your hands. You should know that no one in the whole of Seacester can offer a higher price than me,” Jared said.

Seven million? Others had invested more in One Technology than that in the early stages. The Synder Corporation simply wanted to buy out the technology and meticulously calculated costs, all without any regard for the time and effort invested.

Jared was indeed skilled in business negotiations.

With the current capabilities of Synder Corporation, the seven million he spent on the technology would turn into 70 million or even 700 million. They would earn an

astronomical profit.

This was exactly how they used to pressure young people into selling their technology at the lowest price possible.

Research and development were arduous tasks that required money, time, and energy. Falling behind even a little could lead to the brink of collapse.

The Synder Corporation had no shortage of time and money. It's why they exerted their power over those who tried to start from scratch, manipulating them in their moments.

of crisis.

However, Leslie wasn't lacking in those resources. His goal in founding One Technology upon returning to the country was to bring down Synder Corporation.

He placed his hand on the table and tapped his fingers lightly. Despite his calm demeanor, his tone made both Leon and Jared feel uneasy.

Leon chuckled lightly. "I'm afraid a small company like yours doesn't even have that much registered capital, do you? You're just feeling smug about developing a replacement for ML chips.

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"Even if your company has connections overseas, foreigners can't meddle in our affairs here. I advise you to take the money and transfer the ownership of the technology. Otherwise, it might just rot away in your hands."

Leon's words were a blatant threat.

Jared's expression softened as he began to play the good cop. "Leon, don't speak so harshly. Seacester still welcomes fresh blood. I do hope this young man in front of us can grow further in the future.

“If we had someone like him working for us, I’d treasure him. Still, if he doesn’t understand the situation, he’s destined to be eliminated.”

Leslie understood immediately what Jared was implying. This was the first time he had seen a person try to poach someone at the negotiation table.

Not only were they trying to poach staff, but they were also threatening Leslie. They were threatening to blacklist him from the industry if he refused to join Synder Corporation.

Even Daniel came close to snapping at their ridiculous attitude.

If Synder Corporation was this audacious in front of them, one could only imagine how much harsher and dangerous their words would be in front of other newer companies.

At this moment, Leslie calmly opened the document. With a flick of his fingers, he slid it in front of Jared and Leon. “The contract is here. If it works for you, sign it. If not, you’re

welcome to leave.’

Leon glanced at the contract and widened his eyes. “70 million? Do you really think your shabby firm is worth that much?”

Jared tensed and the look in his eyes sharpened. “Mr. Leslie, one shouldn’t be so greedy.”

Leslie leaned back on the chair, his presence formidable. “70 million.”

“14 million! That’s my final compromise and I want ownership of the technology,” Jared demanded.

“70 million and it’s just going to be a sales contract,” Leslie counterproposed.

Jared narrowed his eyes and began panting heavily. “14 million!”

“70 million,” Leslie said.

Jared was instantly rendered speechless by Leslie’s stubbornness.

Leslie ignored his **rage** and pointed at the door. “Goodbye. All the best to the Synder Corporation.”

If Synder Corporation failed to launch new products again the next month, **their** stock would only drop further.

Jared stared at Leslie. His imposing presence caused Jared to hesitate.

As soon as Jared hesitated, he knew he had lost.

He took out a pen from his pocket, but Leon stopped him. “Dad, no way. This is too humiliating.”

“Do you have a better way? I told you to reach out to ML and you didn’t even manage to meet with their founder. If we wait any longer, we will all be doomed,” Jared snapped.

“But...” Leon stammered.

“There’s no ‘but’... Besides, we will get this money back soon,” Jared whispered, his glinting eyes reflecting the schemes he was planning.

Leon realized that One Technology was doomed.

After signing the contract, Leslie didn’t get up and simply said, “Have a good day, Mr. Synder.”

Together with Leon, Jared left without looking back.

Leslie lowered his gaze to the golden ring on his finger and thought of Aurelia. Her father’s blessing was indeed quite effective.

As he curled his lips, he heard a familiar voice from the neighboring room shout, “Wait!”

Leslie wondered if Aurelia was nearby.

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Leslie heard the sound and walked to the windows, where he saw a figure on the adjacent terrace. It was indeed Aurelia. She stood alone and faced everyone else, like prey

surrounded by hunters.

Leslie hesitated, then turned and headed outside.

Daniel quickly followed, but just as they were about to step onto the terrace, Leslie held

him **back**.

“Mr. Synder, aren’t we going in? Mrs. Synder seems to be in trouble,” Daniel said nervously.

“She may seem soft, but she’s not one to compromise easily. We don’t know what’s going on. What good would rushing in do?” Leslie replied.

Leslie understood Aurelia’s character well. She disliked causing trouble for others. Unless it was absolutely necessary, Aurelia would feel burdened if she got help.

This might have stemmed from her upbringing. Being an only child, her parents loved her but didn’t spoil her. They had always taught her how to face problems on her own.

On top of that, she was smart. She could usually figure things out with just a little guidance.

Daniel nodded and stood outside next to Leslie to listen to the conversation in side.

Before long, they understood the situation. A necklace worth millions had been accidentally broken.

Daniel was worried. “Mr. Synder, considering Mrs. Synder’s current situation, she might struggle to compensate a necklace worth millions.”

Leslie pondered for a few seconds, then whispered, “Find out the origin of the necklace and keep a copy of all the surveillance footage here. Also, get a list of everyone present. A nec

klace kept in a secured briefcase shouldn't break so easily. There's definitely something wrong."

"Got it," Daniel replied before he turned to leave.

Meanwhile, some time had passed on the terrace. Although Aurelia's expression remained determined, her hands paled from being clenched so tightly.

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Suddenly, Eva's triumphant expression changed as she stared at something behind Aurelia.

Before Aurelia could react, warm and reassuring hands wrapped around her clenched fist, causing her to relax involuntarily.

She paused and looked up at the person beside her.

"Mr. Synder? What are you doing here?" Aurelia asked softly.

"Business," Leslie replied casually.

"I'm sorry, did I disturb you? I can handle this myself," Aurelia said.

"No, it's done. We've signed the contract," Leslie assured her.

"Really? Well, congratulations then," she said before withdrawing her hand hesitantly.

Someone like Leslie was destined for success. To Aurelia, the thought of the 50 million dollar necklace made her scalp tingle. Even if the responsibility was shared, the compensation would be substantial. She felt like she was holding Leslie back.

Leslie looked at his now empty hand with confusion. He was about to speak when Eva lost patience.

Eva stared at Leslie, clearly enticed by his looks. "Who are you?"

"Leslie Synder. Aurelia's husband," he said.

"You are Leslie? The two of you are married?" Eva was shocked.

Wasn't Leslie the man Cynthia had been pining for? Was he married?

Leslie sensed something amiss. "Do you know me?" he questioned.

Eva regained her composure and steeled her resolve.

At this point, there was no going back.

It was even better for Leslie to find out what a mess his wife made. A mere programmer couldn't possibly pay 50 million in compensation.

Couples were only meant to be loyal when nothing went wrong. Perhaps she could resolve a big issue for Cynthia.

'As you see, your wife broke a piece of jewelry that we borrowed. It costs 50 million. Which one of you is going to pay for it? If you refuse, I will call the police," she

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threatened and raised her phone to dial the police's number.

She sighed at Leslie. "Mr. Synder, I feel sorry for you. You have a promising future, yet you'll have to bear such a big debt because of this woman. What **will you** do from now on?

She refused to believe that Leslie would protect Aurelia despite her effort in sowing

discord between them.

However, Aurelia didn't give Leslie a chance to speak and stood before him to face Eva.

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"Ms. Hanks, this has nothing to do with Mr. Synder. Call the police if you want to and settle it however you want," Aurelia declared.

Eva laughed. "Do you really think I won't dare call the police? Very well. Let's see if you can keep being so stubborn later."

Eva enjoyed watching people cave. To her, no one was untamable. She wanted to destroy Aurelia's pride and teach her a lesson.

Eva immediately called the police and emphasized the value of the necklace, hinting that Aurelia broke the necklace on purpose to seek revenge.

She thought that Aurelia would be down on her knees after hearing what she said. But when she turned around, she saw Leslie tilting Aurelia's head toward him.

He completely ignored Eva and stared intently at Aurelia. "Why did you stand in front of me?"

"What? Is this the time you want to discuss this?" Aurelia was taken aback by his question.

Leslie was so close to her that she could feel his breath caressing her nose's tip.

This was definitely not the occasion to feel shy, but her heart raced when she saw his face. Was Leslie aware of what he was doing? Everyone was watching them now.

Eva was furious that she was being ignored and yelled, "What are you doing?"

Leslie shot her an impatient look as though Eva had interrupted his plan.

Aurelia quickly grabbed Leslie's arm and whispered, "Mr. Synder, this isn't your concern. Don't get involved. I'll handle it myself."

As she spoke, a group of police officers entered.

"Who called the police?" one of them asked.

"I did." Eva raised her hand and pointed at Aurelia. "She's the one who damaged our jewelry. She refuses to admit it, so please take her away."

The officer turned to Aurelia and asked sternly, "Is what she's saying true?"

Aurelia took a deep breath and said, "I'm willing to cooperate with the investigation."

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Since Aurelia didn't resist, the officer didn't apprehend her and nodded in approval. "Please come with us for questioning, then."

Aurelia nodded. "Okay."

She made to leave, **but** Leslie held her back. He looked at her and assured, "It's going to be alright."

Aurelia felt the warmth in her palm and was momentarily speechless, so she simply mumbled in acknowledgment.

Meanwhile, Eva, Kimberly, and their group were also taken in for questioning at the police station.

Inside the police station, everyone present was on Eva's side, so their testimonies were mostly consistent. They **all** blamed Aurelia for breaking the jewelry out of resentment towards Eva.

Aurelia was the only one who insisted that she tripped over a wire at the scene.

The officer slammed down the witness statements and looked at Aurelia intently as if he was trying to break through her mental defenses.

"Aurelia, although the jewelry is valuable, honesty is what truly matters here. Lying before the law will only make things worse for you. Remember, honesty is the best response. If you lie, your punishment will be more severe," the officer warned solemnly.

"I'm not lying. I'm very sure that I tripped over a wire, and the briefcase was clearly open before this," Aurelia said.

Since she refused to cave, the officer pursed his lips slightly and said, "In that case, you better be prepared. If we find out that you're lying after our investigation, the consequences will be severe."

"I'll take responsibility for my choice," Aurelia said confidently.

With that, Aurelia signed her name on the statement.

“Your husband has bailed you out. Don’t leave Seacester in the next few days . If the magazine will hold you accountable, you’ll become a person of bad faith,” the officer

reminded **her**.

Aurelia nodded and left the interrogation room. As she exited, she saw Leslie waiting for

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her in the lobby.

Meanwhile, Eva and her group stood on the other side.

Eva smiled, lit a cigarette, and blew smoke towards Aurelia. “Have *you* figured out *how* you’re going to compensate? If you beg me for mercy, I might be able to *give you* a few

more days to figure it out.”

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“I’ll wait for the result of the investigation,” Aurelia said coldly.

Know your place,” Eva said angrily.

She stubbed her cigarette and walked over to Leslie, before speaking at a volume that Aurelia could hear. “Sir, 50 million is enough to destroy you. You better consider this carefully. You wouldn’t want to get dragged into this just because you married a disaster of a woman. If you are willing, I can...”

Eva’s gaze lingered on him. **It** was no wonder Cynthia loved this man so much . She would feel the same as well. Leslie’s looks, body and presence were simply irresistible.

However, she was soon humiliated by Leslie.

Leslie frowned in disgust and walked right past her.

Eva widened her eyes in disbelief.

“Just wait. Let’s see how lovey–dovey you can be afterward.” She glared at Aurelia viciously, before leaving with the others.

Ignore her,” Leslie said.

Aurelia pursed her lips. “Yeah.”

Just as they were about to leave, Kimberly blocked their way.

Pleased with herself, she said, “Aurelia, I’m sorry, but I told the office about what

happened. The boss and Mr. Zeller want you to return to the office after you settle your personal issues.”

“What did you say?” Aurelia asked.

“The truth.” Kimberly smiled.

“I don’t need you to say anything. I will explain myself to the office on my own,” Aurelia

said.

“Aurelia, don’t play dumb. Do you really think anyone is interested in your explanation? They are trying to cut their losses. You better consider how you are going to pay that 50 million,” Kimberly said mockingly.

Kimberly jabbed Aurelia’s shoulder with her finger, feeling smug that she finally vented

her frustration.

As she walked away, she stopped in front of Leslie and raised an eyebrow. “You really

have no taste if this is the woman you choose. It’s a pity that you won’t even have time to regret it.”

“Regret what? Regret not choosing you? Sorry, I don’t want to catch anything,” Leslie retorted coldly.

“You!” Kimberly’s cheeks flushed red in anger. “I’ll wait to see how your relationship ends up!” s he shouted before leaving.

Leslie turned to Aurelia. “Come on, let’s head back.”

Aurelia nodded silently and followed him.

Neither of them said a word on their way back, and the atmosphere inside the car felt particularly heavy,

Although Leslie didn’t blame her, Aurelia still felt like her heart was in turmoil.

Eva had clearly come after her. What if she ended up dragging Leslie down with her?

Leslie had a bright future ahead. If she caused trouble for him, it would be like biting the

hand that fed her.

Aurelia’s heart sank. Even though the sun was shining brightly outside the car window, she felt a chill throughout her body.

She shrunk into herself but then realized the air conditioning in the car had been turned off by Leslie.

She glanced at Leslie, who was driving. Sweat started to form on his forehead , but he didn’t make a single complaint.

Leslie was truly a good person. It was her who had caused trouble for him.

Upon arriving home, Aurelia went straight to her room. After a while, she dragged her suitcase and approached Leslie.

She handed him something. “Mr. Synder, I’m sorry. This is the divorce agreement. I’ve already signed it. When do you think we should go and get it done?”

Leslie took the divorce agreement, his facial expression grim as he looked at the signature on it.

He clenched his fists and asked sharply, “You’ve even prepared this?”

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"I printed it when we printed the cohabitation agreement. I figured we would need it sooner or later," Aurelia explained.

"You really are something. Should I compliment you for being so considerate?" Leslie asked sarcastically.

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Leslie, who had always stayed aloof, became extremely angry when he saw the signature

on it.

Aurelia was confused as she saw the darkening look on his face. Why was Leslie being so sarcastic?

"You don't need to compliment me. It's what it is." She lowered her gaze at the divorce agreement helplessly, feeling worse about it than about owing a debt worth 50 million.

"Aurelia Simmons!" he shouted.

Feeling like her eardrums were busted, she twitched in fear. "I can hear you."

"Explain yourself," he said darkly.

"Mr. Synder... I can't drag you down with me." She stared at him and explained, "A divorce is the best solution. You are the brightest star in the IT industry right now with a promising future. I, on the other hand, angered Eva. She will never let me go and I'm going to end up dragging you down with me."

"So you are suggesting divorce for my sake?" Leslie retorted.

Aurelia nodded. "Yeah."

Something felt off with how he phrased it, but Leslie's expression eased up and he cleared his throat. "Do you really think I can't handle Eva Hanks?" he asked.

Aurelia frowned. "She's different. She works for the media and has a powerful background. How will you deal with her? It's 50 million, not 500 dollars. Even our boss won't help."

"What do you plan to do, then?" Leslie asked.

"Let's get a divorce first. I will take **on** everything myself and fight her to the nail for this.

I have nothing much to lose, anyway..." Aurelia declared meekly, becoming increasingly unsure of herself as she spoke.

How could she possibly match Eva? She was just gritting her teeth and holding her ground. However, she would never admit to a crime she didn't commit.

Aurelia sighed and lowered her head, suddenly feeling dizzy.

A hand landed on her head.

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"Aurelia, you're really stupid. You haven't learned anything," Leslie said in a low voice. "I'm being serious with you. Why are you insulting me?" Aurelia muttered.

"Didn't I teach you not to handle everything on your own?" he asked.

Aurelia mumbled, "But..."

"No 'buts,' and definitely no divorce," Leslie said firmly.

With that, Leslie tore up the divorce agreement right in front of Aurelia.

Aurelia was stunned. She looked incredulously at the pieces on the table and then back at Leslie.

"Mr. Synder, I thought you hated me. Why won't you agree to a divorce?" she asked.

Leslie hesitated to answer. "I..."

Why wouldn't he agree to a divorce? Leslie couldn't come up with an immediate answer.

He casually came up with a reason and said, "My mom wouldn't be happy about it."

"Oh." Aurelia nodded and felt that she shouldn't have asked such a question at this moment. What was she hoping to hear?

Seeing her shoulders slump, Leslie approached her slowly and lowered his gaze. "Are you disappointed?" he asked.

"Why

Aurelia felt her heart race and tried to move away in a panic. However, she accidentally kicked a suitcase and she grabbed onto Leslie's arm to steady herself.

"Nothing," she stuttered, but her hand involuntarily clenched around Leslie's arm.

Leslie glanced at her hand on his arm but didn't brush it away. "How heartless," he said.

His breath brushed against Aurelia's nose, and her ears turned red.

Leslie straightened Aurelia up, pulled out a chair, and sat down slowly. "You don't need to worry about Eva," he assured.

Aurelia sat down and said solemnly, "Mr. Synder, I didn't break the necklace intentionally. I'm sure I tripped on a wire, but that wire disappeared afterward. I think finding that wire is key."

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Aurelia wasn't sure if Leslie would believe her explanation.

Leslie looked at her and asked, "What wire?"

“It’s the same as the one at the shoot. It should have been brought to the scene by Eva and her team,” Aurelia explained.

“Eva and her team all claim that the wires at the scene were secured with tape and no extra wires were lying around,” Leslie said in a deep voice.

Aurelia immediately became more anxious as that was the main issue. The wire disappeared, and no one could prove its existence for her. Everything was at a standstill.

She held her head in her hands, feeling agitated.

At that moment, both Aurelia’s and Leslie’s phones vibrated. They exchanged glances. and picked up their phones to check.

What caught their eyes was Eva’s Facebook post, which had become a hot topic.

It read, “Everyone, beware of some immoral schemes happening. A certain someone deliberately smashed a necklace worth millions just because her proposal was rejected. She refused to admit what she did and continues to act arrogantly.”

The post included two photos of the scene where the jewelry was broken.

However, the focus wasn’t on the jewelry.

It was Aurelia in the photos.

It was unclear what angle and photo editing software Eva used, but she managed to make Aurelia look like a rude and unreasonable woman.

Eva was a well-known figure in the industry. Once the photos were posted, the celebrities and big shots she had worked with came forward to repost and support her.

In an instant, Aurelia’s supposed arrogant and overbearing behavior spread throughout the entire internet, and it even became a trending meme.

At the same time, Aurelia’s work account, which had just over 300 followers, was exposed.

Insults flooded in, and she couldn't even finish reading a private message before being

Chapter 109

overwhelmed by more incoming messages.

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"This woman **is** so despicable! Don't you know this issue of the magazine features my idol's interview? You delayed it!" a commenter said angrily.

"Some women just think they are princesses. Do they really **think** the whole world should cater to them?" an internet troll said.

Someone else said, "I know her. Aurelia, the planner from Young Advertising. She has a really messy private life."

"So she's backed by men. It's **no** wonder she's so arrogant," another commented.

Others agreed, "With so many men backing her, she sure has a lot of resources."

A stranger offered, "Want a high-definition video of Aurelia? Let me show you a moving image first."

"Oh my! It really is her!" the others exclaimed.

Aurelia looked pale as she watched the moving image. Her hands trembled when she saw her face. She couldn't tell if it was fear or the vibration of her phone.

She finally understood how scary the internet could be. It was no wonder that ruining a woman could easily be accomplished by involving her in scandals.

It didn't matter what actually happened once scandals started spreading. How it started and what happened didn't matter. All that mattered was whether the videos and pictures were clear enough.

Within a matter of hours, photos and videos on the internet flooded Aurelia's phone.

Just then, Leslie grabbed her phone and shut it off.

With trembling lips, she said, "Mr. Synder, that wasn't me! It really wasn't me! I don't know where these photos and videos come from."

The look in his eyes darkened. "I know," he reassured her.

Though Leslie believed in her, she felt dazed, as though there were eyes around her watching.

Leslie observed the pale look on her face and clenched his fists. He stood up and said, "

Wait here."

With that, he entered the kitchen and closed the door.

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He dialed Daniel's phone and whispered, "Well?"

"I have everything here. What's on the internet is indeed related to Eva Hanks. All the scandals were spread by her, but the photos weren't released by Eva. I think someone else is trying to hurt Mrs. Synder," Daniel said nervously.

"Keep looking. Don't spare a single one of them," Leslie sneered.

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After hanging up, Leslie took something out of the fridge and stepped out of the kitchen. Aurelia sat before the desk, unmoving like she was deep in thought.

Assuming that she was terrified, he immediately handed the item to her. "Drink it."

Aurelia started the cola before her in shock, especially when she saw the rabbit-shaped ice floating on it. She paused for a moment and said, "The ice..."

"I froze another one last night," Leslie explained.

Feeling touched, she downed the cola and burped. Then, she chuckled.

Leslie shot her an odd look.

“Did you think those people would scare me witless?” Aurelia asked.

He hesitated and nodded. “Yeah.”

She tapped on her chest. “I was taken aback just now, but I won’t back down. I’m not the one who’s in the wrong here, so I shouldn’t be the one everyone condemns.”

Leslie was shocked by her declaration and looked at her in silence.

She raised her phone with resignation. “Sorry, Mr. Synder, but you will have to come with me to the police station again.”

“Why?” Leslie asked.

“Defamation is a crime. I need to protect my reputation and rights,” she said seriously.

Leslie paused. A moment later, he snapped out of his daze. He stood up and said, “Let’s go.”

Leslie trusted Aurelia without hesitation and was willing to accompany her. Aurelia felt slightly relieved from the fear that overwhelmed her earlier.

They returned to the police station, where they submitted all the evidence from last night’s testimony to the police.

The officer on duty was a woman. After examining the evidence Aurelia provided, her face wrinkled slightly. “You’re very brave,” she said.

“It’s what I should do,” Aurelia said.

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The female officer furrowed her brows and asked, “Your name is Aurelia?”

Aurelia nodded. “Yes.”

“You were involved in the case where the jewelry was damaged, right?” the officer clarified.

“Yes.” Aurelia felt a little embarrassed by that question.

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The female officer glanced at her and then at the file. After a moment of thought, she said, “We’ve already investigated the jewelry case. You should try to remember if there’s anything else you might have overlooked. That way, we can clear your name.”

The female officer was clearly trying to give her a hint.

The sudden moment of relaxation and the officer’s goodwill triggered Aurelia’s memory.

Aurelia recalled something, but she didn’t know how to articulate it at that moment.

Leslie, however, immediately read her expression and asked, “What have you remembered?”

Aurelia concentrated and tried to articulate her thoughts. “The positioning, it’s wrong.”

Leslie guided her to a nearby rest area and asked someone for a piece of paper. “Take your time. There’s no rush.”

Aurelia held the pen, feeling the reassurance of someone by her side. She quickly sketched the scene on the paper. Such drawings were easy for her as a planner. She relied on her memory and marked down the positions of each person.

“I walked from the couch resting area to the shooting area, where I tripped and fell here. If someone wanted to remove the wire immediately, only one person could have done it,” she explained.

With that, Aurelia raised her sketch and pointed to a name written on it.