Married in a Flash Embarking on the Journey to Wealth Chapter 341

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It was Kimberly. The only people who could have taken the wire behind Aureli a without her noticing were Kimberly and Eva's assistant, Flora. However, Kimberly was closest to Aurelia and the wire.

At the time, Kimberly had a backpack and a reflector in her hand as a cover, making it easy to take the wire from the ground.

Aurelia stared at the sketch, lost in thought.

Leslie immediately spotted the issue and pointed to Eva's assistant, Flora. "If i t was Kimberly who took the wire, the person behind you would've definitely s een what happened. The assistant sitting on the couch would have seen ever ything," he elaborated.

Aurelia nodded. "So Flora lied. She said she didn't see anything."

"It's not just a simple lie. You've been played by them," he said.

Aurelia paused for a moment and pointed to the sketch.

"You mean Kimberly and Eva conspired together? It's no wonder Kimberly rus hed to see Eva before me early in the morning. It's hard enough for her to arri ve on time before this,

"she remarked.

Leslie nodded in agreement.

"But the police searched our belongings during the interrogation. Kimberly was wearing a tight skirt. This section of wire could only fit in her bag, but she had nothing in it,"

Aurelia said.

If they had found the wire, she wouldn't have been condemned on the internet, let alone subjected to false rumors.

Leslie thought about it and suggested, "She could have disposed of it. The ma in focus was on Eva's group, not her. So, she just needed to find an opportunit y to get rid of the

evidence."

Aurelia hummed. "Even so, there are too many places she could have dispose d of it."

The entire hotel had **39** floors. Kimberly could have thrown it away on any floor without

anyone noticing.

"There are cameras in the elevator. We just need to see which floor she stepp ed on,"

Leslie said.

"Yeah." With that, Aurelia put away the sketch...

As she stood up, her phone rang. She was stunned for a few seconds after looking at the

caller ID.

It was from her boss.

She had been with the company for over four years and rarely received calls from the

boss.

"Sir," she greeted politely.

"Aurelia, I hope you won't blame the company. We had no choice, given the la rge amount involved and the significant impact your personal life has had on the company. We've decided to terminate your employment. Let's part ways in peace." The boss sighed.

Aurelia froze after hearing what he said.

Although the boss sounded regretful, she sensed an underlying tone.

The boss had already accepted everything said online as true, even emphasiz ing that it was all her fault and had nothing to do with the company.

The phrase "part ways in peace" carried a hint of threat. It seemed to hint that the

company would target her if she didn't comply.

Still, something else was bugging her. These matters could be handled by the company's public relations team, so why did the boss call her in person?

It was as if they were afraid of a confrontation with her.

What kind of storm could an ordinary employee like her stir up?

Aurelia understood what her boss meant. The company didn't want her anymo re. So long as she left in silence, they wouldn't do anything to her.

Before she could say anything, the boss hung **up** in a hurry.

She held the phone against her ear for a while longer until a sharp sound sna pped her out

of it.

She clicked on

the notification and saw a termination notice from her company.

Each word was meticulously written and all responsibilities were conveniently evaded. It was almost like the notice was drafted a long time ago, only to be sent to her after the

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call.

Though the notice claimed that she was fired due to personal reasons, the net izens

sniffed drama.

Instantly, her phone started vibrating.

She opened all the messages she was receiving, not expecting her phone number to be

leaked within such a short time.

Some asked, "How much **for** a night with you? Don't be a prude. We know yo u've been

with many men.

Others texted, "You wear dresses to reveal your legs so you can seduce your clients, right? Well, it worked."

"You whore..." wrote a stranger.

Each message was nastier than the last. Before she could finish reading them , Leslie snatched her phone away and shoved it into her purse.

"There's no point in reading those," he said.

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Aurelia nodded and whispered, "Go home. I want to be alone for a while."

"Are you sure?" Leslie asked.

"Yeah." She combed her hair and stared at his shoes. She dared not meet his eyes, as she was unsure of what he was thinking after seeing all the accusatio ns against her online.

Leslie didn't say anything and turned to leave.

Aurelia could sense the tension around her and felt chills all over.

By the time she looked up, Leslie had already driven away.

She felt somewhat conflicted. She had gotten used to taking care of issues alo ne. Still, she felt disappointed that Leslie left without hesitation.

She felt like a psychopath for chasing him away and then feeling disappointed about it.

Taking a deep breath, she went into the train station. To her surprise, someon e

recognized her and started taking photos of her with their phone.

"Hey, aren't you that planner from Young Advertising?" someone asked.

A few men suddenly surrounded her.

"What are you doing?" Aurelia pushed them away.

"You didn't even care about breaking a piece of jewelry worth millions here taking the train? Did your sugar daddy abandon **you**?" they jeered

They exchanged smiles and approached Aurelia.

why are you

Aurelia looked around helplessly, hoping to find someone to help. However, v asn peak hours and there were only a few people at the entire station.

Others obviously didn't want to get involved. They just glanced up and then bu ried their heads in their phones.

As the man in front of her reached out to grab her, she tightened her grip on her bag and **was** ready to strike.

"I'm recording, so strike if you dare. I'd like to see what others have to say abo ut you online," he threatened.

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"Do you think holding a phone justifies your actions?" Aurelia glared at him.

"In any case, exposing you is justified. What justice can you talk about when y ou are just a woman who has relied on men all your life? Go ahead, hit me. The angrier you get, the more it proves what they're saying online is true. Otherw ise, why would you get so worked up?" **the** man taunted.

They seemed eager to shove their phones into Aurelia's face.

Aurelia felt her blood boil as her hands trembled. She felt trapped in an endles s cycle of

trying to prove her innocence. Her anger was seen as guilt in others' eyes.

She stepped back slowly. Just as a man tried to take advantage of her distract ion, there was a crisp sound of bones cracking.

"Don't insult men. A normal man wouldn't take advantage of someone else's misfortune. "Leslie's tone was cold as he twiste d the man's arm, before pushing him aside.

The man grimaced in pain and glared at Leslie. "You're not her boyfriend, are you?"

Leslie couldn't be bothered with his nonsense and pointed to the overhead ca meras. Shall we call the police?"

The men were now afraid as they were indeed trying to take advantage of Aurelia earlier.

"Forget it, let's go. Just you wait." The injured man glared fiercely at Aurelia be fore leaving with his companions.

Aurelia held her

bag, still somewhat shaken up from the ordeal. To prevent Leslie from worryin g, she forced herself to calm down. "Why are you here?" she ask

"Where else would I be?" Leslie pulled out a tissue to wipe his hands, hi and p olite. Still, the sharpness in his eyes indicated he was very angry.

"I thought **you** had left," she said gingerly.

Leslie narrowed his eyes and stared at her intently. "Are you done being alone now asked in a low voice. It sent shivers down her spine.

Aurelia nodded. "Yes, I'm done."

Leslie motioned for her to follow him as he said, "Let's go."

"Where are we..." Aurelia raised her gaze and paused after being faced with L eslie's piercing gaze.

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The next moment, Leslie

dragged her into the train and headed towards the direction of the hotel.

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Once they arrived at the hotel, Aurelia snapped out of her daze and grabbed L eslie. "Mr. Synder, how did you know I was heading here?"

"Where else would you go?" he asked expressionlessly.

She pouted and mumbled, "And yet, you left anyway."

"You wanted to

be alone, right? I can't just park my car at the police station forever,"

Leslie teased.

Realization dawned on Aurelia and she sobered up. Staring at Leslic intently, she asked, So, you went to park your car and followed me?"

Leslie didn't bother to deny her question and replied, "Yeah."

Aurelia parted her lips to speak, but she felt like her heart was leaping out of her throat. Something was weird with Leslie, but she could say the same about herself.

Just then, the elevator doors opened and they arrived at the restaurant on the top floor.

Eva

and the others were still shooting. Once they spotted Aurelia, Eva immediately mocked, "Are you here to apologize?"

"No." Leslie pulled Aurelia to a seat nearby and said, "We are here to dine.

Eva's expression darkened and she tried to ease her embarrassment. "How st ubborn. I guess you don't know fear."

'Ms. Hanks, you are blocking the lights. We are trying to eat here.

away coldly and handed the menu to Aurelia.

Aurelia didn't know what Leslie was trying to do, but she trusted that he w

her. Hence, she smiled and thanked him before focusing on the menu.

LEval

Others had always fawned over Eva, so she had never encountered anyone a s difficult to

deal with as Aurelia.

Fuming, Eva let out a cold snort and returned to the couch in the rest area.

Aurelia wanted to gauge Eva's reaction but was stopped by Leslie. "Don't pay attention to her. The person who loses patience first is the loser."

"But... I haven't had any conflict with her at all. I don't get why she's doing this **to** me,"

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Aurelia mumbled.

"Don't you want to see who actually has a problem with you?" Leslie asked.

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Since they had been together for a long time, Aurelia immediately understood what he

meant.

In a game of

wits, the one who couldn't sit still often ended up losing the most.

After some thought, Aurelia waved to the waiter. "I'll have a steak, please. Tha nk you."

Leslie closed the menu and ordered the same thing.

Soon, their steaks were served.

Aurelia leisurely ate her steak, even commenting to Leslie about how expensive things were here.

She paid no attention to Eva's murderous glances or the occasional insults popping up on her phone.

As Eva's expression grew darker, Aurelia decided to press her luck. When Ev a glanced at her, Aurelia deliberately looked at the surveillance cameras.

Sure enough, Eva's expression changed slightly. Although she knew the filmin g location. was a blind spot for surveillance, she would be afraid of any oversight.

Eva quickly stood up and walked toward **an** empty corner.

Aurelia was taken aback and whispered, "I didn't expect there to actually be someone behind her. Could it be Kimberly?"

Leslie raised his glass and remarked with a low voice, "If Kimberly were

why would she approach Eva, to begin with?"

Aurelia thought about it before replying, "True."

If it wasn't Kimberly, then who could it be?

pable,

After turning the corner, Eva lit a cigarette and dialed Cynthia's number in frus tration. Cynthia, the man you like is a bit strange. He's too calm."

With a puff of smoke, she squinted and glanced in the direction where Aurelia and Leslie were having their meal.

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"He's always been that way. You've gone too far this time. How could you have them. taken to the police station?" Cynthia asked.

Despite what she said, it sounded like she was smiling.

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Eva elaborated, "Aurelia was acting smug. If she had been willing to apologize humbly, I might have let her off the hook. Who knew she'd make such a fuss? Don't worry, the internet is overwhelmingly against Aurelia now and she's been fired.

"Our magazine is contacting jewelry collectors as well. We're **all** in agreement, so Aurelia is definitely paying for this."

"Is that so? Well, she certainly wasn't very careful." Cynthia chuckled.

Leslie wouldn't step in to help Aurelia to pay the compensation. He couldn't ris k exposing his identity, especially after his less—than—pleasant negotiation with the Synder family. If the Synder family caught wind o f anything now, all his previous efforts would be wasted.

Given Leslie's character, he would resolve the trouble in the dark. At this moment, Aurelia herself was in trouble.

Cynthia couldn't help but praise Eva. "Eva, you did really well this time for spr eading those scandals about Aurelia."

Eva smugly responded, "It wasn't me who spread the gossip. Those guys start ed gossiping nonsensically about Aurelia just because she looked good. I only helped them trend on social media. Since there's something useful, I might as well use it."

"Besides, with so many photos, they can't all be fake, can they? I don't think A urelia was

p ever a good person to begin with," Eva said indifferently and took a of her ci garette

There was a pause on Cynthia's end before she said, "Eva, I think advantage."

Eva hesitated. "You... are you planning to go all out?"

"Some people won't be put to rest unless they're thoroughly dealt with. Ian stay by Leslie's side," Cynthia said coldly.

"Fine. Actually, I know who spread the scandals," Eva said.

"Who was it?" Cynthia asked.

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"Kimberly. Who else could have so many photos of Aurelia? She's clearly aiming to destroy Aurelia," Eva replied.

"Give her a little push, then. It's best to make sure Aurelia can't stay in Sexces ter. I don't want to see her anymore," Cynthia said.

"Don't worry, the owner of the necklace and the vast majority of netizens won't spare her even if I'm willing to let it go. I'm confused, though. She's still havin g dinner calmly with Leslie as we speak," Eva said and glanced at Aurelia and Leslie,

"They're together?" Cynthia gritted her teeth.

"Yes. Why else would I be so upset?" Eva retorted.

"Wait a minute. It's not normal for them to show themselves before you right now.

Leslie isn't a showy person. I think you've been exposed. Be careful, and if ne cessary..."

she trailed off.

Cynthia was always shrewd and she knew Leslie very well, so she immediately sensed something was amiss.

She quietly told Eva her plan.

Eva smiled. "As expected of you. I would have done the same for Leslie, thou gh. You have great taste."

"Eva..." Cynthia said warningly.

"Don't worry. I won't take my friend's crush," Eva assured her.

"Let's hang out soon," Cynthia said.

"Sure," agreed Eva.

After hanging up, Eva stubbed her cigarette and touched up her lipsti appeara nce in the mirror and texted Kimberly.

"Nice photos. I like them," Eva complimented.

"Thank you. More are coming," Kimberly replied.

Eva smirked and returned to the shooting site.

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Her assistant, Flora, ran over and informed her, "Ms. Hanks, everything is tidie d up. We can leave now."

Eva nodded and ordered **a** bottle of wine, before walking over to Aurelia and L eslie with the wine. "Here, my treat. You ought to drink some good wine befor e your last moments.

Aurelia was slightly taken aback, unable to comprehend Eva's arrogance.

Leslie accepted the bottle expressionlessly and said, "We will be sure to enjoy this."

Eva didn't get the response she wanted and turned to leave. Halfway through, she turned around. "I'm going to start discussing compensation once I get ba ck. I advise that you hire a lawyer soon or you won't have enough time, Ms. Si mmons."

With that, she left with the others, laughing.

Aurelia frowned. "Who exactly sent Eva to take me down?".

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As Aurelia ate her steak, she considered all the possibilities of how she mana ged to anger Eva; but she couldn't figure it out.

Leslie uncorked the wine, poured two glasses, and took a sip from his glass. "You will fall right into their trap if you panic."

"I'm just curious." Aurelia glanced in the direction Eva disappeared.

"Let's wait and see." Leslie elegantly savored his wine as he used his phone.

Aurelia wanted to look at her phone as well, but Leslie shot her a look and she could only set her phone down. She paused for a moment, wondering why she was afraid of Leslie.

Leslie set his phone down and asked, "Are you done eating?"

Aurelia nodded. "Yeah."

"Let's go to the security room, then," he said as he stood up.

"Wait, are we supposed to just walk right into the security room of a big hotel?" asked Aurelia.

"If you don't go through the surveillance footage, then are you supposed to se arch floor by floor?" Leslie countered.

"Is that... not what we were going to do?" Aurelia replied.

She thought she was eating that much to prepare for the physical labori allowed.

Leslie stared at her like she was strange and turned to pay the bill.

Aurelia could only follow him to the security room on the first floor.

The security guards seemed to know that they were coming and immediately offer

their seats.

"Mr. Synder, all the footage from today is here," the guards informed them.

Leslie nodded. "Alright."

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your time. We will leave now," the guards said.

Aurelia quickly stopped them and took out two ten—dollar bills from her bag to give them. "Thank you both for your help. This was my idea, and he had nothing to do with it. Take

this money and buy yourselves some cigarettes. You've really saved me a lot of trouble."

The security guards were startled and glanced at Leslie.

Leslie nodded and they accepted the money before leaving.

Aurelia turned back and sat down, sighing in relief. "Mr. Synder, you should have told me about this earlier. I could have prepared more cash. What if they go around telling others?

"That's called bribery," Leslie said seriously.

"This is not funny at all. It's just social etiquette. Do you think we're some high

born gentlemen and ladies? They didn't have to give up their seats for us. Alth ough I hate to admit it, life is just that realistic," Aurelia said, pursing her lips.

Leslie hesitated, then decided against telling Aurelia his identity. He figured she'd run away **as** soon as she found out.

After all, the hotel was co owned by his mother and someone else, but he hadn't

mentioned his mother's name to outsiders.

"Let's get back to it," he said.

Aurelia pulled a chair over and sat next to Leslie.

Leslie adjusted the time to a little after eight in the morning, just in time to see Kimberly entering the hotel from outside.

Besides that, Aurelia noticed something else that was strange.

"Wait a minute." Aurelia paused the video and pointed at the frozen fras is that you?"

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"Yes." Leslie frowned. He had forgotten to avoid the footage of himself enter the

hotel.

Would Aurelia notice anything strange?

"Why did Mr. Xenos open the door for **you** when you got out of the car? And i sn't that the hotel manager standing at the entrance? Do you really need such a grand entrance for a business meeting?" she asked.

Indeed, she had noticed something amiss.

"I was representing the boss," Leslie said.

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Aurelia looked at him before nodding. "I see."

If he was representing the boss, it seemed natural that he had to maintain a c ertain level of authority, especially since he was dealing with the Synder family.

"Let's keep watching," Aurelia said without a doubt for the truth of Leslie's explanation.

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Leslie felt

like something was weighing on his chest when Aurelia stared at him. He swit ched between the footage and asked casually, "Do you trust me that much?"

"Of course. You won't lie to me. Besides, why would you lie to me?" she replie d seriously. After all, Leslie had nothing to gain from lying to her.

He stopped typing for a moment and hummed in response, feeling increasingly uneasy.

Suddenly, she tugged at his arm. "There's Kimberly and Eva."

On the screen, Kimberly walked over to Eva. However, since there was a blin d spot, one couldn't tell what they were doing. The only thing they could be ce rtain was that Kimberly met Eva before Aurelia did.

After that, Aurelia arrived at around the same time as Jared and Leon. The foo tage clearly showed that Leon spotted her and the screen froze.

"Aurelia, is there something you didn't tell me?" Leslie asked in a low voice.

"What?" she asked in confusion.

"Why didn't you mention that Leon saw you?" Leslie questioned.

"Mr. Synder, he just took a glance from a distance. It's not a big deal," explain ed Aurelia.

Leslie tensed and shook his head. "No."

"Why?" She tilted her head and stared at him.

"He's not a good person," he said.

Aurelia pursed her lips to prevent herself from laughing.

Leslie raised an eyebrow. "Am I wrong?"

She shook her head. "Let's keep watching the footage."

Despite his **cold** exterior, Leslie could be quite amusing at times.

Aurelia had never imagined that the word "amusing" could be applied to a mat ure man.

It was **a** bit of a contrast used to describe Leslie. But soon, her attention was d rawn to the surveillance footage.

After Aurelia had gone upstairs, she entered the blind spot. Still, Aurelia made a new

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discovery. "Mr. Synder, look here. It's Eva's assistant, Flora."

"Yes, I see her," Leslie said.

Flora was tasked with watching the briefcase and had been sitting in the loung e area to

protect it.

Although the lounge area was in a blind spot for the cameras, it seemed that the couch had been moved slightly for filming. Hence, half of Flora's body and the briefcase were captured by the camera.

Aurelia thought that with such a significant discovery, they would surely find something.

However, it turned out Flora was exceptionally diligent and responsible. She n ever once left the briefcase unattended before handing it over to Aurelia.

"Could it really be because of my fall?" she asked in disappointment.

The look in Leslie's eyes sharpened. "Not necessarily."

With that, he started typing on the keyboard to quickly enlarge the footage. "L ook at her hands."

"Her hands?" Aurelia focused on the screen.

The image had been relatively small before, making it hard to see clearly, but now it was unmistakable.

When Flora handed over the safe to Aurelia, her fingers were turning the combination

lock.

Leslie explained, "This type of briefcase unlocks automatically after turned. It may seem ordinary, but in reality, the briefcase was already un you fell, the ne cklace fell out of the box."

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Realization dawned on Aurelia. "That's right. I remember when I fell, the bric: case opened mid–air. So the box was intentionally opened by someone."

"This is an antique necklace from the auction house, and the inlaying technique isn't as secure as modern ones.

So if a little force is applied, it's easy for it to break due to gravity, "Leslie continued.

Aurelia understood the situation a little more now. "Flora is just an assistant. S he wouldn't dare to do such a thing. She must have been acting under Eva's o rder and Kimberly cooperated with them. I couldn't have prevented it no matter how careful I was.

n in charge of this shoot, Eva couldn't have escaped all responsibility even he who dropped the necklace. Isn't she afraid of something happening to

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"As the person in charge of this shoot, Eva couldn't have escaped all responsi bility even if I was the one who dropped the necklace. Isn't she afraid of somet hing happening to herself as well?"

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Leslie shook his head and explained, "She's not afraid of that. People are inherently selfish, especially when facing a 50 million dollar compensation. Ev eryone present knows how to **save** themselves.

"Besides, she immediately went online about this incident and shifted all the bl ame onto you. This way, the magazine will go along with this to avoid angerin g the jewelry owner and use it to increase your responsibility."

The more Aurelia listened, the more grim her expression became.

She felt powerless when compared to Eva. Perhaps she should learn to apolo gize and beg for mercy like others. At least she wouldn't have to bear such a h eavy burden.

Still, she couldn't do it. She was a person, not a pet to be tamed by Eva. On to p of that, it wasn't even her fault.

If she compromised today, Eva would just go on to harm more people in the future.

This struggle might be difficult, but she hoped that others facing similar situations would stand up for themselves as well in the future. The more people stood up, the sooner individuals like Eva would be exposed.

With these thoughts, Aurelia's expression eased somewhat.

"I don't believe Eva can cover up everything. We'll keep investigating. As long as we find that piece of wire, we'll prove my innocence," she said firmly.

Leslie looked at her with surprise.

"What's wrong?" she asked.

"I didn't expect you to adapt so quickly," he said.

Aurelia rested her chin on her hand helplessly. "Not really. My palms are still not cool from being calm. You didn't see how fast a person can really adapt.

"There was a senior colleague in our company before. She caught her husband cheating in the morning, divorced him in the afternoon, and appeare d at the meeting table an hour later to give a presentation."

She continued, "We all praised her for being so impressive, but she bitterly sai d there **are** no capable people, only those who have no options. She still has t wo children to support.

"My mom hasn't woken up yet, and the follow up treatment will cost a lot of money. Every month, most of my salary goes to t he caregivers. I can't stop, and 1 shouldn't stop. If I can't prove my innocence, I won't even be able to find a job in Seacester."

She turned to Leslie and elaborated, "Mr. Synder, do you know how hard it is to find a job. now? It'

s even harder for women. Your distant personality may be described as focus ed at work, but do you know what a cold woman is called in the workplace? Ar rogant with bad attitude.

"I've noticed that your company's key decision makers are all men except for the two receptionists and Ms. Whitlock, who just returned to the country. You don't seem to like female employees, do you?"

Leslie furrowed his brows and realized that he had indeed been generalizing the

employees in his company.

"So, I can't afford to lose," Aurelia concluded. With that, she returned her gaze to the screen to review the surveillance footage.

Leslie watched Aurelia for a long time without her noticing, until she tugged at his sleeve.

"Mr. Synder, look! It's Kimberly," she pointed out.

Leslie snapped out of his daze and stared at the screen. "That's when you wer e heading to the station to have your testimony taken. Kimberly was at the bac k.

"She

is going into the elevator." Aurelia stared at the screen nervously and unconsciously grabbed his hand.

Leslie was slightly taken aback and lowered his gaze to her hand.

Aurelia was quite tall, but her hands were small. They were slightly chubby an d hen compared to women who maintained their looks well, her hands weren't that pretty

Still, her palms were soft and cold because of stress. It was a stark contrast to the w of his hand. He couldn't decide how to feel. Instead of shaking her hand off, he he her hand gently.

Aurelia didn't pay any attention to it and stared at the screen unblinkingly while holding

his hand.

The elevator stopped once in the footage. People went in and out, but Kimberl y didn't get

off.

She remained there proudly and seemingly not guilty the entire time.

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Aurelia was in **a** complete daze. "Am I wrong? Maybe Kimberly didn't take the wire."

"Or maybe not." Leslie rewound the footage and paused the screen.

Aurelia leaned closer in confusion. "There's no difference."

"Look at the strap of her purse," he said.

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Aurelia narrowed her eyes before getting a clearer look at the strap. "How can your eyesight be so great when you stare at computer screens every day?"

He shot her a glance. "You have such a weird view of things. Looks like Eva chose the wrong person to mess with."

She

pursed her lips and focused on Kimberly's strap. "Hang on. Both straps were on her shoulder ten seconds ago but one ended up under her arm ten seconds later. That means she opened her purse."

Kimberly was wearing a black dress that was the same color as the straps of her purse. Hence, when the strap slid down, one couldn't tell unless they paid close attention.

"Look at who's standing in front of her." Leslie pointed at the screen.

Aurelia stared at the hotel staff in uniform. "That's a hotel staff."

Someone had likely ordered room service and the hotel staff was delivering or ders.

"Hang **on**." Aurelia thought about it and took a closer look.

The hotel staff was playing with his phone and didn't notice Kimberly stepping closer to

him.

After taking this step, Kimberly looked visibly more relaxed.

"The cart," Aurelia said confidently. "There's usually a trash can underneath the cart."

"Yeah," Leslie agreed.

She sighed a breath of relief upon finding a way out.

"But what if that cart wasn't in the same elevator? Kimberly would have go: en caught right away," Aurelia said.

"Who did you think ordered room service?" Leslie asked.

Aurelia fell into silence. She had the answer in her mind.

When Eva and her team came for the shoot, they would need to book rooms **to** accommodate the models for changing and makeup. T here was no way all those tools. could be crammed into the top floor restauran t.

Kimberly could easily dispose of the wire as long as someone ordered room s ervice at the

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right time. This would have gone unnoticed if they hadn't watched the surveilla nce footage frame by frame.

Aurelia bit her lip and immediately stood up. "Let's go. We need to find that wire."

Leslie held her back. "You can't go. You're a suspect now. If you tamper with evidence, it could easily lose its credibility. It's more convincing to leave the re st to the police."

Upon hearing this, Aurelia slapped her forehead. She panicked to the point th at she forgot about such an important matter. "Then I'll find the police first."

With that said, she tried to free her hands to go through her bag. It was then th at she realized Leslie had been holding her hand the whole time, and that ther e was a temperature difference between their hands.

"What's wrong?" Leslie asked.

"Um... could you let go of my hand first?" Aurelia asked.

He loosened his grip casually. "Sure."

Feeling a bit embarrassed, Aurelia quickly turned away to find her phone in he r bag.

Little did they know, there was another storm brewing online while they focuse d on the surveillance footage.

Aurelia considered herself ordinary and it took four years for her to gain a little over three hundred followers. Yet, Eva's actions brought her tens of thousand s of followers in one fell swoop.

By now,

the online focus had completely shifted. It used to be about the 50 million dollar necklace, but now it was all about her personal scandals.

It was getting more outrageous, with many men claiming to have had dealings with he

One of the latest posts, which was just posted not long ago, caught her attenti on.

She clicked on it and

was shocked to see a video of her being harassed at the train station. Howeve r, the video had been cleverly edited to make it seem like she was welcoming the advances. She was even seen negotiating prices and hitting someone wit h her purse.

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In the video, the men discussed Aurelia with disdain

"Guys, this woman demands a high price for her services! She's not impressive at all."

"I've seen her in person. She doesn't look as good as in the photos. She wore a lot of makeup."

"In **a** society governed by law, she dares to behave so recklessly in public. We were just aslding her about the rumors online to see if they were true."

"We didn't expect her to discuss prices with us right away. We're all decent yo ung men, so of course we turned her down. But then she got angry and wante d to hit us with her purse."

"I feel like her mental state might not be that stable. She seems a bit like some one on drugs."

The comments below started to go wild with speculation.

Aurelia was quickly becoming known as the "Venomous Woman of Seacester"

She stared at the video and forgot about calling the police.

If she weren't the person involved, she wouldn't have noticed any flaws in the video. Most importantly, the voice negotiating the price was really hers.

"This..." Her mind went blank.

Leslie leaned over to glance at the video, then quickly accessed it online us computer.

"It's edited," he said.

"But why is there no trace of editing?" Aurelia pursed her lips.

"Because it was actually your voice," Leslie explained.

Aurelia listened carefully to the audio.

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It was indeed her voice, especially the mention of "500 dollars." It was unmista kably her

tone.

She felt so overwhelmed that she couldn't calm down. So, she forcefully pinch ed her arm, letting the pain snap her out of her fear.

"What are you doing?" Leslie grabbed her hand and frowned at the bruise for ming on it.

"I'm fine. I'm just trying to snap out of it. Also, I know where this voice came from," she

said.

Aurelia opened her own account, which was now flooded with private messag es. Regardless, her previous work videos were still on the homepage.

One of them was her recommending a small themed hall for a client. "The rent al fee for this small hall is 500 dollars. Listen to my voice," she said.

Aurelia clicked on the

video, and the voice matched exactly with the one in the videos. posted by tho se men.

This was enough evidence to prove that the audio had been edited.

Leslie couldn't help but admire Aurelia's composure in the face of such a situation.

But then, he thought about her earlier comments regarding her former colleague and immediately noticed her trembling shoulders.

She was only in her 20s. Her father passed away and her mother was criticall yill. On top of that, she was being swarmed by false accusations that targeted her as a woman. How could she **not** be afraid?

She was just faking it. According to what she once said, she had no choice.

Leslie didn't console her and said, "Call the police first. I will help with the rest."

She nodded and called the police.

The police soon arrived at the hotel and found a wire in the kitchen disposal.

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The officer who took Aurelia's testimony walked over with a bag of evidence. Is this what tripped you?"

Aurelia nodded. "Yeah, that's the right color."

"It's a good thing the garbage bag was sealed, so the evidence was not conta minated. The fingerprints on it should remain. By the way, do you recognize th is symbol?" The officer pointed at a symbol on the wire.

Aurelia nodded again. "It belongs to IN Magazine. All their wires have the sam e symbol. Ms. Hanks **said** so herself."

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"Alright. We will send this to the lab. Since a large sum of money is involved in this case, we will handle it with care," the officer said.

"Wait," Leslie

called out. "We were hoping that the evidence wouldn't get published in the m eantime. IN Magazine hasn't revealed the owner of the necklace and we don't want them shifting the blame."

"Don't worry. Please trust us. Until we have the truth, we won't leak any inform ation. We will be taking the surveillance footage and the wire away with us," the officer said.

"Okay." Leslie nodded and let them go.

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Aurelia felt relieved that the truth of the matter was coming to light.

Suddenly, the police thought of something else and stopped to look at Aurelia. "By the way, Ms. Simmons, you mentioned that you wanted to accuse more than one person of defaming you, right?"

"Yeah. I've gathered all the evidence. I will submit everything right away," Aurelia said. seriously.

"Alright. I will need you

to come over a few more times in the next two days. We will reach out to ever yone involved one by one," the officer informed her.

"Thank you," she said.

As everything was settled, Aurelia felt her heart settling down as well.

Night fell as they stepped out of the hotel. Worried that the same incident from the train station would happen again, Aurelia suggested that they take the tax i to where Leslie's car was parked.

Leslie agreed and they hailed a taxi.

As they got in, Aurelia said in bafflement, "Despite all that we've done, the hot el didn't even try to stop us. It's so strange."

Leslie leaned against the window with his hand on his forehead.

Of course, the hotel didn't interfere. He had everything arranged.

"The hotel doesn't want trouble, so they will definitely cooperate," he lied.

"That's true." Aurelia chose to believe him once again.

Just as she was about to ask something else, her phone rang. It was a call from Eva.

She showed Leslie her phone screen and hung up. "I know that whoever lose s patience first will lose. You taught me that, Mr. Synder."

"That's right." He nodded with approval.

"You won't get **to** say that I never learn now," she mumbled.

Leslie fell into silence, wondering if Aurelia thought he couldn't hear her.

Leslie's gaze fell on Aurelia's face. Against the backdrop of the neon lights out side the window, she had a look of indescribable **beauty**.

A few seconds later, Leslie blinked and snapped out of his daze. He had start ed to pay too much attention to Aurelia without even realizing it.

Just then, Aurelia's phone rang again. It was Eva calling once more.

This time, Aurelia didn't let the phone ring for even three seconds before hang ing up.

Sure enough, this provoked Eva into posting on her Facebook with Aurelia tag ged.

"Aurelia, I hope you found yourself a very good lawyer. We'll meet on Friday, rain or shine." Eva wrote.

She wanted to meet on Friday?

Aurelia puzzledly showed Leslie the Facebook post. "They've asked to meet me on Friday. They've already pinned all the blame on me, so why would they still want to see me? Are they trying to force me to pay?"

Leslie explained, "It is just a form of coercion, but not to make you pay. They want you to confess. Right now, you're refusing to respond to the whole matte r and actively cooperating with the police investigation.

"Eva is worried that your lack of fear might lead to unexpected consequences. If you refuse to confess, they can't explain themselves to the owner of the jewelry.

"Borrowing jewelry is a common practice in the fashion industry, but others ar en't fools and wouldn't lend it out casually. Eva probably wants to take advant age ignorance of the rules, force you to confess, and thus completely exclude

from taking any responsibility."

"How is it that you know everything?" Aurelia asked in surprise.

"I've heard the boss mention it," he replied casually.

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"Your boss is indeed very knowledgeable. If you hadn't told me, I wouldn't hav e known all this. Thanks," Aurelia said innocently with a smile.

Leslie nodded somewhat casually, but he felt conflicted on the inside.

He

suddenly realized that lying was becoming easier and easier for him, even tho ugh he used to dislike lying.

Aurelia didn't notice the change in Leslie's expression. She lowered her head and replied

to Eva's post.

"Alright, I'll be there. Rain or shine," she said.

Since she couldn't escape, she might as well stir up trouble.

Sure enough, Aurelia's provocative response caused a stir.

Eva rallied everyone she could to share her post, then waited for the trial on F riday.