

## Mogul 261

### [Chapter 261 He Knew I](#)

"What would you like to eat?" Ethan had just finished a video conference. He stood in front of the floor-to-ceiling window, gazing at the scenic night view of the city.

In the horizon, he could see the thousands of lights that brought the city to life. The window reflected his tall figure in suit. His hair was combed back neatly. He was looking down, gazing at the city with sharp eyes, as though he was its ruler.

"Honestly, I want to have fish right now, but chicken sounds great too. Oh, and some steak would be amazing! What should we do? I can't decide..." Janet mumbled over the phone. While she was speaking to him, she sounded like an adorable teenager.

A gentle smile appeared on Ethan's lips as he stared at his watch and replied, "I'm getting off work in a half hour. Wait for me, okay?"

"Yup! I'll be waiting for you."

After the phone call, he returned to his seat, but he was no longer in the mood to work. He couldn't keep his eyes off his cellphone.

This afternoon, Ethan heard about the news that Janet had gotten replaced. He had planned to do something about it, but he soon learned that the Perkins Group insisted on having her lead the project. He was really happy for her.

When the thought crossed his mind, he smiled again. 'That's the woman I love. She's such a talented designer. She doesn't even need my help with her career,' he thought.

But Ethan resolved that he had to investigate why exactly Janet almost got replaced.

He shot a cold glance at his assistant and said, "Tell Adolf Pierce to my office. Now."

Not long after, Adolf arrived and stood before Ethan. He was trembling and sweat was running down his back.

"Who told you to replace Janet Lind this afternoon?"

'Normally, a senior executive like Adolf should be focusing on more important work. Why on earth would he notice Janet?' Ethan wondered.

Adolf wiped the beads of cold sweat breaking out on his forehead, unable to look Ethan in the eye.

He couldn't dare tell him that Charis was the one who asked him to do so. And because he didn't want

to offend Charis and the Turner family, he had to take the blame himself.

"I'm so sorry, Mr. Larson. I just happened to find out that a mid-level designer was set to lead an important project, and I didn't think it was a good idea. That's why I interfered. I was merely looking after the company's best interests. If news of this broke out, the other employees would feel it's unfair. Not only will this matter hurt Janet Lind, but it will also damage the company as a whole."

Ethan stood up, towering over Adolf. When he looked down at the man, the latter was so daunted that a shiver ran down his spine.

"Is that so?" Ethan could tell that this wasn't as simple as it seemed.

Adolf swallowed the lump in his throat. "Mr. Larson, it really was my idea. I wouldn't lie to you, would I?"

"Adolf, you've been working here for years." Ethan lifted his chin; his eyes, filled with animosity.

'It seems that Adolf plans to keep his mouth shut, but I don't have any evidence to prove that he's lying. I can't punish him, because in all fairness, he gave me a perfect excuse,' he thought.

He decided not to say another word and just let Adolf go for the time being.

Just as Adolf reached the door, it was opened from the outside.

"Brandon, I have a document here that needs your signature," Charis said with a calm smile.

The moment she learned that Ethan had called Adolf to his office, she was so nervous. She feared that Ethan might find out what she had done. Thus, she came up with an excuse, so that she could see what was going on.

"Mr. Pierce, what brings you here?" Charis nudged Adolf, and the latter winked at her, implying that he didn't rat her out.

She heaved a sigh of relief inconspicuously before walking into Ethan's office, only to find that he was on his phone, seemingly chatting with someone. There was a rare smile printed on his face.

### [Chapter 262 Stalling Ethan](#)

At first, Charis was stunned. She froze on the spot as her mind drifted, back in time, to her high school days.

When she was sixteen years old, she thought Ethan was a cold, emotionless young man who kept everything to himself, living in his own world. She yearned to see him smile.

Now that the dream had come true, it didn't bring her any joy. Strangely, she felt depressed. Any woman would kill to see the smile on his handsome face. However, the doting look on his face and tender eyes broke Charis's heart, because she knew it wasn't for her, and it probably never would.

Charis blinked and returned to her senses. She quickly strutted toward Ethan and dropped the file before him, stealing a glance at his phone. Just then, new messages popped on the screen.

"Ethan, when will you come? I'm starving."

"Be patient. I'll be there soon," Ethan replied.

Charis had never seen him behave this way before. She knew who Ethan was texting. After all, who else would he text other than Janet?

Jealousy reared its ugly head. Charis clutched the document in her hand. Ethan's tenderness and the undisguised love and care in his eyes infuriated her. Her blood boiled with rage.

After sending the message, Ethan quickly flipped through the document Charis brought and signed his name.

Seeing that Charis had no intention of leaving, he looked up at her and said, "Anything else? Hurry up. It's almost time to get off work."

Ethan shut down his computer and gathered all his things, preparing to leave.

Charis guessed that Ethan was hurrying to leave work because Janet wanted him home. Judging from the conversation, it looked like he had a date with Janet tonight. "You can't leave now. I heard from the financial department that there is a huge loophole in our overseas capital chain. It's a critical situation. We have to deal with it right away," she said, pretending to look anxious.

Originally, Charis didn't plan to mention this issue. She knew how to solve it and didn't want to bother Ethan.

But she changed her mind and deliberately mentioned it to Ethan to stop him from going on a date with Janet.

After all, it was obvious Ethan wouldn't like her regardless of how good she was at work, so why bother?

"What exactly happened?" After a moment's hesitation, Ethan put down the file and looked at her.

He had always trusted Charis's working skills and potential. Ethan knew she was well-organized and competent enough to deal with any problems. She wouldn't turn up to him unless it was a complicated problem she couldn't solve.

Seeing the anxious look on her face, Ethan thought it was a critical situation.

"Why don't we go to the financial department and let them tell you more? If we can't handle it well from here, we might have to go on a business trip abroad to solve the problem." Charis knew Ethan well. He was workaholic and valued the Larson Group above everything else.

After a moment's hesitation, Ethan nodded. "You go to the financial department first. I'll be there in a few minutes."

Ethan took out his phone and sent a short message to Janet, telling her that there was an emergency at the convenience store and he wouldn't be able to join her tonight for dinner.

After that, Ethan went to find Charis and began dealing with the problems.

### [Chapter 263 Car Acciden](#)

Janet's mind slipped out of focus when she read the message from Ethan.

What had happened? He had already agreed to have dinner with her. Why did he now suddenly say that he couldn't make it?

"That sucks!" She put her phone aside and began packing her things up in an unhappy mood.

Gerda noticed that she looked unhappy so she nudged her and said, "We have all heard the exciting news! You're going to be the chief designer of a project, why do you look so down?"

"I'm not unhappy. You're just imagining things!" Janet pinched Gerda's chubby face gently and made a face at her.

Regardless of what Ethan had said, she was in a good mood today so she didn't let it get to her. Perhaps he really was caught up with some kind of emergency.

When Gerda noticed that Janet was about to leave, an idea popped into her head. "It's your first time in charge of a project. Would you like to celebrate the achievement perhaps? There is a new pizza place downtown. I heard the pizza from there is amazing. Do you want to give it a try?"

Janet blinked her eyes with confusion. After due thought, she nodded and said, "Sure, I'm free tonight anyway."

In any event, it didn't seem like Ethan would be home any time soon.

Gerda was happy when she heard Janet's answer. But then she replied with a crestfallen expression on her face, "But I don't know if I have the time to get pizza. I have to finish my last design draft urgently today. That pizza place is really popular, we might have to wait in a queue for a while."

Janet was amused by the sad look at Gerda's face. She responded, "Take it easy. I'll got ahead of you and wait in the line, then you can come join me later. How does that sound?"

"Janet, you are an angel from heaven!" Gerda hugged her and kissed her appreciatively. "I love you so much."

"Alright, alright. Go finish your design quickly, or the pizza might get cold by the time you get there!" Janet smiled and said. Then she lifted up her bag and made her ways to the elevator.

Meanwhile, Charis was standing on the higher level of the building, waiting for Ethan to complete his perusal of the financial statement. From her vantage point, she looked through the window and her eyes fell on a woman standing on the roadside.

Judging from the woman's figure, she guessed that the woman was none other than Janet. She seemed to be waiting for a taxi to pick her up.

Fiona had asked Charis to inform her immediately when she saw Janet get in a car.

Charis's phone was a luxury, smart phone sporting a high-definition camera. Even at a distance, she could take remarkably clear photos of the cars on the road. She clicked two pictures of the car when Janet got into it. The license plate number and the appearance of the car were captured clearly in the photos.

She secretly sent the photos to Fiona, together with a text letting her know that Janet had got into the car and looked like she was headed up north from the Larson Group.

Janet felt so fortunate that there weren't too many people in the pizza restaurant tonight and she managed to get a table within mere ten minutes. Gerda joined her shortly after.

Janet learnt from her previous experience and decided against the idea of alcohol. Instead, she just ordered juice. By the time they had eaten their fill, it was almost ten o'clock at night.

"Lind, where do you live? My place is up that direction. Would you like to take a taxi with me?" Gerda burped and asked.

"I live near the company, in the opposite direction to your place." With a smile, Janet hailed a taxi and asked Gerda to get in it first. "I will wait for the next one. Send me a message when you arrive home safely."

After sending Gerda off, Janet got on another taxi soon.

It was already late at night, but the streets were still bustling in the city.

Janet felt full and sleepy. She leaned against the car window and noticed the car was driving towards a bridge. The river was glistening under the moonlight. The bright, crescent moon was slowly rising higher into the sky.

Just when she was about to close her eyes for some rest, something rather odd caught her eye. She opened her eyes wide and saw an old, beat up truck headed directly towards them.

Before she had a moment to react, the truck hit them head on.

The taxi was knocked over the railing of the bridge, and the two vehicles fell into the river, stirring up a huge wave on impact with the water...

### [Chapter 265 Rescuing Jane](#)

Ethan had hired Laney to secretly protect Janet. Her everyday mission was to follow Janet around and make sure she reached home safely.

Today, after Janet and her colleague finished dinner and parted way, Laney followed Janet in her motorcycle.

Seeing the truck collide with Janet's taxi and both vehicles tumble into the river at high speed, Laney came to her rescue.

Laney took off her helmet and jumped into the river without hesitation. Janet was in danger, and Laney had to save her right away.

Ripples of water exploded on the surface as she plunged into the river.

The moonlight penetrated the tranquil, icy river, and the car slowly sank into its deep recesses.

Laney dove into the water and quickly swam to the window. The windows were locked on either sides. She peered through the window and saw that the car wasn't filled with water yet.

The driver was stuck in the driver's seat as the airbag had expanded; his eyes were tightly shut. Janet was lying in the back seat. The huge impact had knocked her unconscious.

Laney swam around, picked up a stone from the riverbed, and smashed the window. Then, she slid a hand inside, opened the door, and pulled Janet out the surface of the water.

Her ability was limited, so she could only save one person.

Laney wiped the water from her eyes. Her pink lips had already turned pale because of the cold water. She was gasping for breath. Laney gripped Janet's waist and swam toward the riverbank.

Fortunately, Janet wasn't heavy, and Laney had been working out for years. Otherwise, the two would have drowned in the turbulent river.

Laney looked around and found that the river was broad, and the tide was growing stronger. Unfortunately, they were in the middle of the river.

"Miss Lind, can you hear me?"

Janet was unconscious, and Laney had trouble waking her up. Laney reasoned it was impossible for her to swim to the river bank with the unconscious Janet on her back.

The flowing current carried them downstream. Laney tried her best to prevent them from getting isolated. Fortunately, the water washed them to a sand bar in the river a couple of meters away, so they narrowly escaped death.

Laney dragged Janet to the sand bar and scrambled to her feet. She took a deep breath and blew into Janet's mouth.

Moments later, Janet spat out a mouthful of water and began coughing violently. Her pale lips gradually regained color.

"It's all right. Any discomfort or difficulty in breathing is absolutely normal because the water got into your lungs," Laney said calmly as she gently patted Janet's back and looked around for help.

It was a quiet night. They were stuck in the middle of the river, and no one could find them until the sunlight illuminated the surroundings.

After Janet's coughing fits ceased, she took a deep breath and braced her trembling body. Then, she looked at the woman beside her and examined the surroundings. "Miss, who are you? What am I doing here? What happened?"

Janet didn't remember anything after the truck hit her. She could only recall the blinding flashlight after which she had passed out.

#### [Chapter 266 Asking For Help](#)

Ethan forbade Laney to reveal her true identity to Janet, so she responded quickly, "Oh, my name is Laney Garcia. I was on my way home from work. When I passed the bridge, I saw a truck crash against your car and plunge into the river. I come from a family of fishermen, so I'm a good swimmer. I jumped into the river to save you."

The young lady had a slender physique. Her benign face and gentle aura gave Janet the assurance that she wouldn't harm her.

Janet's heart swelled with gratitude. The fact that she had survived a disaster brought tears to her eyes.

Janet held Laney's hand and sobbed uncontrollably. "Miss Garcia, thank you for saving my life. I'm forever indebted to you."

Janet remembered traversing the high bridge. It was cold, and the river was flowing fast. It was brave of Laney to dive into the river to save her, ignoring the danger. After all, she looked frail and delicate.

"You're welcome." Laney tried withdrawing her hand, but Janet held her in a vice-like grip. Her skin prickled with goosebumps when she saw Janet's eyes gleaming with gratitude.

Laney cleared her throat and forced an awkward smile at her.

"You dove from a high bridge into this treacherous river to save me -- a stranger you've never met before. If not for you, I would have died today. Even friends and family may think twice before offering help, but you risked your own life to save me. By the way, my name is Janet Lind. I will properly express my gratitude once we get out of here." Janet couldn't stop thanking Laney. The fact that the woman had saved her despite being a total stranger moved her.

No one had bothered to offer Janet kindness, let alone save her life. She had always felt lonely and desolate in this world.

Laney's face flushed with embarrassment. She bit her lip and looked away guiltily. After all, she was merely doing her job and didn't deserve Janet's praise and gratitude.

It was winter, and the cold wind whipped them.

They were shivering with cold. It was freezing, and the two were soaked in water. They had no place to shelter from the cold.

Janet sneezed three times in a row. She squatted on the sandbar; her nose had turned red.

"Miss Lind, please hide in the grass or stand behind me. It's cold here. I'm afraid you'll fall ill." Laney walked up to Janet.

She looked around worriedly and said, "We have to find a way to ask for help as soon as possible. It's not even the coldest hour of the day, yet we are freezing. The temperature would drop to zero at around two in the morning. We are soaked, and I'm afraid we might freeze to death if we don't leave this place soon."

Upon hearing that, Janet hurriedly took out her phone. The water had damaged her screen.

Meanwhile, Laney's phone was fully damaged, and she couldn't even turn it on. She glanced at Janet's phone and said, "I think it might still work. Although the screen is broken, you should be able to make a call."



If Janet could get through to Ethan, things would get much easier. Laney knew the man who had hired her was very resourceful. If Janet asked him for help, he would arrive faster than the resources.

After a moment's thought, Janet immediately picked up her phone and called Ethan.

#### [Chapter 267 Hang Up The Phone](#)

After sending the message to Fiona, Charis returned to Ethan's office.

Ethan was sitting on the leather sofa, carefully examining the documents, his lips pursed in concentration.

"Brandon, how do you think we should deal with this problem?" Charis sat beside Ethan as a blush flamed her cheeks.

After a moment's thought, she asked, "Are you hungry? You've been studying it for so long and haven't eaten anything yet. Shall I ask the servants to bring some soup here?"

When they started their business in the past, Ethan seldom ate a full meal because of his busy schedule.

Ethan's entire focus was on the documents. He carefully read and re-read every word, analyzing every bit of it. "No need. I want to deal with the problem first," he grunted impatiently, without taking his eyes off the document.

Ethan was not as familiar with the overseas business as Charis. It took him a long time to fully understand the situation.

Charis hid her emotions and tucked a strand of hair behind her ear. "I'm just worried about your health."

Seeing that Ethan was silent, Charis was sensible enough not to disturb him.

Just then, Charis's phone vibrated.

It was a message from Fiona.

Charis stole a glance at Ethan, walked out of the office, and checked on the message.

"Charis, Janet's car fell into the river, but someone jumped into the water to rescue her. It was too dark out there. I couldn't see what was going on."

Charis immediately deleted the message on her phone.

Just as she was about to go back, her phone beeped with a few more messages.

"I guess Janet might still be alive." "Do you have any way to prevent the search and reduce the possibility of Janet's survival?"

Charis's lips curled up into a sneer. She turned off the phone and put it into her pocket as if nothing had happened.

Both Fiona and Jocelyn were stupid. The traffic police usually carried out the rescue operations of road accidents. Charis didn't have the ability to stop it. Even if she did, she wouldn't get involved in unnecessary issues and cause trouble for her family.

Charis quickly rearranged the expression on her face and returned to Ethan's office.

"You should get some rest. I'll help you sort out the points you might have missed," she said softly. Then, she picked up the files on the desk and sat down to deal with the issue. Since Ethan didn't want to talk to her, she decided to silently carry on with work.

"Thank you." Ethan looked up and massaged his throbbing temples. "I've already read it. It doesn't seem like a big problem. We'll discuss it in detail when I come back."

Ethan stood up and went to the bathroom.

Charis should have thought that it would be a piece of cake for Ethan to deal with this matter even though he didn't know the overseas market as much as she did.

Her jaw tightened; there was a glint of malice in her eyes. At that moment, Ethan's phone on the desk lit up, and Janet's name flashed on the screen.

"Damn it! She is still alive!" Charis sneered. She understood Janet had called Ethan for help.

Charis arched an eyebrow and looked at the phone. Her body seemed to react faster than her brain. She quickly hung up the call.

#### [Chapter 268 Wait For The Rescue Team](#)

Charis remained calm the entire time. Killing someone's chances of survival didn't seem like a big deal for her. To Charis, it was no different from accidentally stepping on an ant.

Anyway, if Janet died, only Fiona and Jocelyn would get caught. No one would suspect Charis.

A moment later, the bathroom door flew open, and Ethan walked out.

He returned to his seat and glanced at his phone as if something had occurred to him.

A pang of jealousy settled in Charis's heart when she saw the concern in his eyes. He was obviously

thinking about Janet, and probably even wanted to call her. She didn't want him to think about anyone else when he was with her. 'What's so great about Janet?' Charis thought. Except for her pretty face, she couldn't think of any other strong point.

"Are you worried about your wife? Have you planned a date with her? I'm sorry to make you stay and deal with business. Let's finish it as soon as possible so that you can go back."

Charis smiled apologetically and leaned closer to him. Men liked considerate women, so she decided to distract him without garnering his suspicion.

"By the way, what did you want to discuss with me now?"

Ethan didn't sense anything wrong. He picked up the documents and continued to discuss the problems and loopholes with Charis. "You know a lot about the overseas market. I've analyzed a few reasons. Have a look at these.

Can you find a solution based on this?"

It was getting late. A thick layer of mist enveloped the river.

"What happened? Didn't you get through?" Laney moved around to keep her body warm. Breath vapor came out of her mouth as she spoke. She frowned and saw that Janet's call got disconnected.

Janet was equally surprised; she didn't expect Ethan to hang up on her. He had always picked up her call regardless of the circumstances.

Her heart sank with dejection.

"I guess my husband is busy." Her face turned red with cold as another sneezing fit seized her. She rubbed her nose and said, "I'd better call the police for help."

"Hurry up." Laney's teeth chattered. "I feel your phone might get turned off any time."

Janet rubbed her palms together that had turned numb in the cold. Just then, her phone suddenly turned black.

"Well, you're right," Janet grunted with frustration and squatted on the ground. Her phone was fully broken now.

Janet and Laney tried their best but couldn't turn on their phones. They were fully damaged.

"All we can do now is wait for the rescue team to arrive," Laney said, staring at the boundless river and the endless stretch of darkness.

It was a road accident, so the police team would check the river. However, considering they were washed away and now at the far end of the river, Laney wasn't sure if they could find them anytime soon.

However, the cold was the biggest problem at the moment. The temperature had dropped drastically, and it would get colder with time.

Janet was trembling. The cold seeped into her skin and was gnawing at her bones.

### [Chapter 269 Brink Of Death](#)

Laney gently grabbed Janet by the wrist and helped her up. She said, "Miss Lind, you should take off all your wet clothes so they don't make you colder. And don't sit still. Otherwise, you will get frozen easily. Stand up and exercise to generate some heat."

Janet had seen movies and heard stories of how people got frozen to death. She didn't want to end up that way, so she stood upright and took off her coat with difficulty. She suddenly began to feel dizzy. However, she remained standing.

"Are you sure someone will find us? What if no one comes?" Janet's teeth clattered against each other after she finished asking that question in a weak voice. She was speaking to Laney because she wanted to remain awake.

Laney took off her wet coat and wrung it dry. She then replied, "You need to keep your hope alive, Miss Lind. Someone will definitely come. Look over there."

There were lights on the bridge in a distance. It meant that the rescue team was there already. But due to their distance, the rescuers couldn't spot them easily. They would have to ride a boat towards them before they could be rescued.

Janet's hope was dwindling fast as her strength began to fail her. She had just put one of her hands on her waist when she saw Laney waving her coat above her head. It was a white windbreaker, so it was a little conspicuous in the darkness.

"We might be stuck here for a long time. You'd better save your strength," she said in a worried tone. She was afraid that Laney would break down before help came. After all, she had a petite and seemingly weak body.

Laney didn't utter a word, nor did she stop waving her windbreaker. This wasn't the first time someone was mistaking her for a weak woman. Janet, like most people, had no idea that Laney had been training since childhood and that she was much stronger than ordinary women. With great agility, she continued to wave her coat in the air to attract the attention of the rescuers in a distance.

"Not to sound pessimistic, but you are wasting your energy. It's so dark here. I don't think they would

see the tinge of your coat from there." Nonetheless, Janet decided not to stand by and do nothing. She mustered up strength at this moment. Cupping her hands around her mouth, she shouted, "Somebody help! We are here. Help!"

She called out for help more than a dozen times before her voice became hoarse and she got exhausted. The sound of the flowing water had drowned her shouts, so it occurred to her that her efforts were in vain.

In the dark night sky, there were only a few stars and a crescent moon. Time passed by quickly. The wind blew and the temperature dropped further. The water drops on the grass had already turned to ice due to the cold weather.

Janet and Laney were forced to hug each other tightly just to feel a little warmth.

This barely helped Janet. Her body was an inch away from getting frozen after a few hours. She was also trembling uncontrollably. She had no strength to talk and move anymore. Instead, she felt tired and sleepy.

Laney was stronger than her, so she still had some resistance to the harsh condition they were in.

"Miss Lind, please don't fall asleep. The cold would get into you faster if you do. I believe that the rescue team will be here in an hour." When Laney saw that Janet was dozing off, she called her name weakly and patted her face to wake her up. She knew from the paleness of Janet's face that she might not be able to hold on any longer.

Janet was subconscious at this time and her eyelids were frozen shut. She had only her underwear on and the wind was blowing harshly on her. Although she could hear Laney's voice, she was so weak that she didn't have the strength to respond.

Before she fell asleep, Ethan's handsome face appeared in her mind. He was smiling at her. It seemed very real.

Laney was at her wit's end now. She had never been in such a difficult situation, so she didn't know what else to do. She knew that they would both die here if help didn't come soon. Her hope dwindled when she looked up and saw that the rescuers were still far away from them.

### [Chapter 270 Missed Call](#)

It was well past midnight, but the building of the Larson Group was still lit up on all fours.

Up in the CEO's Office, the fragrant aroma of broth permeated the room.

Charis slowly wiped her lips and told the servant, "You may take this back now."

She then turned to Ethan and smiled. "I'm sorry, about that. I guess I'm just used to it."

"It's fine," Ethan replied as he continued to type on his keyboard. "Take a look at this and see if the plan is feasible after the modifications I made."

He ignored Charis' comment about her habits, and all but shut down her attempt to intimate at their shared past. Back when they had just started their own business, Charis did like to drink some soup whenever they had to work overtime. To her credit, she would also ask her servants to prepare a decent midnight snack for the rest of the staff. She was quite finicky like that, but it never affected her work. Besides, Charis was already much better than most rich ladies.

She leaned over and read his revised plan over his shoulder. She made a point of being meticulous about it, and was pleased to find that it was perfect, down to the finest detail.

Charis glanced at the clock in the bottom right corner of his laptop screen. It was just two in the morning. This was surprising, since she hadn't expected him to finish the revisions so quickly.

She turned to Ethan and grinned. "You're still an ace at your job! You managed to itemize the problems and their corresponding solutions in just a few hours. If it were Garrett, it would probably take him until morning."

Ethan began the process of shutting down his computer and methodically packed up his briefcase. When he spoke, his tone was cool and business-like. "Since there is no problem, I will be handing the new plans over to our tech guys as well as the financial department so that they can start working right away."

He paused then, as a thought occurred to him. "But Charis," he said, his eyes narrowed. "These are all very simple loopholes. We've encountered things like this in the past, some even trickier. You used to solve them in less than two hours. You should have been able to take care of this easily without my help."

Charis faltered under his piercing gaze. She took a second to compose herself before answering. "Well... I've been learning a lot about the domestic market recently. I suppose I was overwhelmed by so much work all at once. Come on, Brandon. Surely, I'm allowed to take a break every now and then."

Ethan considered this for a brief moment. She had a point, so he decided to drop the matter and said nothing more. He grabbed his briefcase and suit jacket. He was done for the night.

Ethan hadn't even risen from the couch when the door to the office suddenly burst open.

Garrett rushed inside, his forehead beaded with sweat, his eyes wide with panic. "Ethan! Janet got into a car accident. The taxi she was in was hit by another car and fell over the bridge. The rescue team is still on the river. We have no way of knowing whether Janet survived or not."

"What did you say?" Ethan jumped to his feet. All the color drained from his face.

He snatched his phone, intending to call his people to lead the search, but then he saw the notification on the screen.

He had missed a call from Janet.

Ethan frowned and tried to put the pieces together. The only time he had been away from his phone was when he had gone to the bathroom. Janet must have called then.

A heavy, suffocating silence fell into the room.

Garrett recognized the fury brewing in the other man's eyes, and he instinctively stepped back. "What is it, Ethan? Don't just stand there. We have to do something!"

But Ethan whirled around to glare at Charis. He held up his phone to her face and demanded, "Why didn't you inform me that my wife called?"