

Mr Conrad 641

Chapter 641-Sitting in the car, Stella could hear the pitter-patter of the rain.

There came Archer's voice from the phone.

Caesar had been in a relationship with a woman for many years and they were supposed to get married earlier. However, the members of the James family were not satisfied with that woman's family background and tried to separate them.

But Caesar had been insisting on marrying her.

Nonetheless, out of some unknown reasons, when the members of the James family were about to agree to the marriage, Caesar broke up with that woman.

Several days later, that woman died because of a car accident.

Ever since that, Caesar had disappeared from the James family.

The James family had been telling outsiders that Caesar died in that car accident with that woman.

Soon after this accident, Franklin and Caesar's father, namely Elaine's grandpa, suffered an illness and died after struggling for half a year.

Rumours had it in the James family that that woman approached Caesar for the sake of the James' family's power. However, as she couldn't get the thing she wanted from Caesar, she dumped him and prepared to find the other man.

Caesar couldn't suppress his anger and arranged the car accident to kill that woman. Then he felt so embarrassed to stay in the James family and secretly left Riverside.

To prevent the public's discussion, the James family declared that Caesar was dead.

Archer commented, "Although they said so, I think it's not that plausible."

Stella asked, "Why?"

"In terms of the position in the James family, Hilbert is only inferior to the patriarch. Although Bancroft was the patriarch of the James family back then, Franklin and Caesar still had a high position in the family. If that woman really approached him for the sake of powers, Caesar was indeed the most suitable candidate at that time."

"But didn't you say that the members of the James family had been objecting to their marriage even though they had been in a relationship for several years?"

"Yes. But they broke up when Caesar's father was about to agree to it. It's so ridiculous."

Stella clenched her phone, remaining silent. She thought what Archer said just now made sense.

She also thought the whole thing weird.

Archer continued, "I've asked Darnell about this. This is probably a secret of the James family. As Hilbert suppressed the spreading of this news and Bancroft helped keep it a secret, the outsiders hadn't heard anything about this. I guess only the people involved know what had happened."

"Even Darnell is not clear of it?"

"Yes. The senior generation has been keeping it a secret and it has been a long time, so it's hard to investigate this. But rest assured, I will tell you if there's any news."

Stella nodded her head, "Okay."

She put down her phone after ending the call.

Sherry couldn't help but click her tongue, "A big family is indeed different. There are always complicated and ridiculous things in big families."

Stella also thought so. She then started the car.

When they arrived downstairs of the apartment, the rain became heavier.

Stella walked out of the lift and said, "Sherry, you can go back first and have a rest. I want to have a look at Elaine."

"Okay. Call me if you have any problems."

Stella pressed Elaine's doorbell. Several minutes later, Elaine opened the door while rubbing her eyes.

She had been sleeping since coming back.

If it wasn't because of the doorbell, she could sleep until tomorrow.

Elaine greeted her, yawning, "Stella."

Stella asked, "Did you have dinner?"

Elaine leaned lazily against the door, "Not yet."

"Come to my house. What would you like to eat?"

Elaine immediately became energetic and followed behind her happily.

Stella opened the refrigerator and then cooked a dish that Elaine liked the most.

When the fragrance spread out, Elaine stood at the door of the kitchen.

While having the meal, Elaine took a small bite of the sparerib and asked tentatively, "Stella, may I ask you a question?"

Stella nodded her head, "Say it."

"Don't you... Don't you like my uncle?"

Although Elaine sometimes looked dull and silly and she never thought over those things, she was somehow sensitive. After coming back, she pondered it when lying on the bed, From Stella's reaction and her attitude towards other people in usual time, she could vaguely see that Stella didn't like Caesar.

Stella replied, "It isn't that I don't like him. It's just that we're not familiar with each other and it was the first time that we met. But you're right. I don't have any good impression of the members of the James family."

Elaine immediately became upset, "What?"

Stella chuckled, "You're not included. If I don't like you, why did I cook for you?"

Elaine thought it plausible and then lowered her head to eat the sparerib again.

When Elaine almost finished the meal, Stella called her name, "Elaine."

Elaine looked up at her, "What's the matter?"

"Do you have a deep impression of your uncle?"

“Hmm... I almost forget his appearance and there’s no photo of him at home. I just have a vague impression of him.”

“Then how did you recognize him today?”

Elaine replied, “It was him who recognized me first. If it wasn’t that he told me about the condition of my family and mentioned about my dad and grand-grandfather, I would think he’s a swindler.”

Elaine sighed emotionally, “I haven’t told my father about this. If he knows about this, he will be very happy.”

Stella stood up and cleaned the dishes, “I will help you apply medicine later. Have a good sleep tonight.”

Seeing this, Elaine hurriedly snatched the plate from her, “Stella, leave this to me. You treated me a meal and I should help you.”

Stella didn’t refuse it. She walked to the living room and took out a medical kit from the drawer of the tea table.

There came some clattering sound from the kitchen, but Stella, who had gotten accustomed to it, didn’t change her expression.

At night...

Lying on the bed and listening to the sound of the rain outside, Stella took out her phone and took a glance at the time.

It was already 1 o’clock. Would Clarence come back tonight?

Stella pondered for a while and decided to dial him.

The call was only answered when the ringtone was going to come to an end.

But it was Nathan who answered the call.

Nathan said, "Ms. Radomil, Mr. Conrad is at a meeting with several managers of our subsidiaries."

Stella paused when she heard the words and asked with confusion, "It's not the end of the year. Why does he have a meeting with them?"

Although the managers of the subsidiaries would go to the Conrad Group to report their work at set intervals, they would only have a meeting for an annual report.

It was now July. Why was the meeting advanced for several months?

Nathan replied after a while of silence, "Mr. Radomil, Mr. Conrad..."

Stella asked nervously, "What's wrong with him?"

Before Nathan could answer the question, there came some noises from the other end of the phone. Several seconds later, there came Clarence's calm voice, "I'm fine. It's late, why don't you sleep."

"It's raining outside. And I want to ask you will you come back tonight?"

"I'm still having the meeting. I don't know when it will be over. I guess I won't come back tonight. You can go to bed." Clarence said in a low voice, "Good night." ??????????????????????

Chapter 642-Stella put her phone back. Looking at the rain outside, she felt sleepless.

She always felt that Clarence was quite weird recently. It seemed like he was upset. But she thought maybe it was because he had too much work to deal with that he was so tired.

However, judging from Nathan's tone of voice, it seemed like this was much more serious than she had imagined.

Stella heaved a long sigh and lay down on the bed.

At seven o'clock the next morning, Stella prepared breakfast after getting up and put it into an insulation bottle before leaving.

It was still drizzling outside and it was misty. There were also many puddles on the road.

Luckily, it was still early. As it was raining, there were few people on the road. It seemed like the whole city was still sleeping.

When Stella arrived at the Conrad Group, it was almost eight o'clock.

The employees hadn't come to work and there were only two security guards at the door. There were few people in the hall.

When Stella walked out of the lift, she found there were several people in the assistants' office.

Stella recalled what Nathan said last night and walked over.

The several assistants greeted her simultaneously when seeing her, "Ms. Radomil."

Stella slightly nodded her head and looked around, "Where's Nathan?"

"Nathan left half an hour ago. Ms. Radomil, if you have any problems, you can tell us."

Stella chuckled, "Don't bother. Is Clarence here?"

"Mr. Conrad is in his office."

"Okay, thank you."

After leaving the assistants' office, Stella directly walked to the CEO's office.

Stella knocked at the door and then gently and slightly opened the door.

Through the gap, Stella found Clarence was dealing with some documents. His features appeared to be indifferent and she couldn't read any expression from his face.

It seemed like he didn't sleep last night.

Stella walked into the office, "Have you had breakfast?"

Clarence looked up when hearing her voice and slightly raised his brows, "Oh, you woke up so early."

"Didn't you say that I can't sleep without you by my side?"

Clarence curled his thin lips into a light smile when he heard the words. He stood up and walked towards her, "That's true."

Stella opened the insulation bottle, ladled out the chicken porridge and put it in front of Clarence, "Hurry up to eat it."

Clarence sat down on the sofa, grabbed Stella's hand and pulled her into his arms, "I want to eat it later. It's hot."

“It has been cooled down before I put it into the insulation bottle. It’s warm.”

Clarence remained silent and just hugged her,

After a short while, Stella asked, “Did Maxwell tell you what happened yesterday?”

“What?” Clarence explained, “I had had a meeting for the whole yesterday and I required them to deal with the insignificant matters themselves.”

“Not a big deal. It’s just that... When Elaine delivered the goods to a customer, she encountered a small accident. Then she was sent back by her uncle.”

“Uncle?”

Stella nodded her head, “I’ve asked Archer. He told me that Elaine’s uncle had been in a relationship with a woman for many years, but the members of the James family had been objecting to the marriage. However, they broke up when they were about to agree to it.”

Clarence put his chin on Stella’s shoulder and said blandly, “Then?”

“Then... Short after that, that woman had a car accident. The James family told the public that Caesar, Elaine’s uncle, also died in the car accident. But the fact is that he left Riverside alone.”

Stella continued, “Archer told me that there were some rumours in the James family. But these rumours were not plausible. As for the details of this matter, only the several people involved are clear of them. I think now that Bancroft, who has died, and Hilbert, all suppressed the spreading of this news, it would have a great impact on the whole James family.”

Clarence’s mother left the James family even though she had to be removed from the family tree and then left Riverside. This was serious.

But Stella thought Caesar's matter was more serious.

Clarence asked, "Have you met him?"

"Yes. We met when he sent Elaine back yesterday." Stella recalled it, "How to say it... Although his appearance is not that stunning, his temperament is quite outstanding. He will still stand out even if he's among a group of people. He's not a person that others would neglect."

Stella then added, "Moreover, I guess he comes for you."

"Oh?"

"He told me that he was curious as some things happened in Riverside recently, so he came to City N to have a look."

"Did he say anything else?"

Stella replied, "Nope. Maybe he perceived that I don't like him, so he left after a small talk."

Clarence nodded and said, "I will let Nathan investigate him later."

Stella recalled something when mentioning Nathan. She tried to say something but swallowed the words she wanted to say in the end.

Never mind. Maybe Clarence didn't want her to know about it.

Even if she asked about it, he wouldn't tell her.

Seeing that Stella was silent, Clarence asked, "What's wrong?"

Stella pulled herself together, “Nothing. I just feel that many matters had happened recently and there was no stop. Moreover....”

Stella always thought that they were led by an invisible string and there seemed to be no end.

Clarence rubbed her head and comforted her, “Don’t think too much. Everything will come to an end soon.”

Stella pressed her lips into a straight line, remaining silent.

She broke the silence after a short while, “Well. It’s late and I have to go to my studio. Eat the porridge.”

Clarence said, “I will ask a man to send you.”

“Don’t bother. I drove here.” Stella stood up from his embrace, picked up her bag and reminded him again, “Eat the porridge.”

Clarence smiled, “Okay.”

Short after Stella’s leaving, an assistant sent some documents into the office.

Clarence asked, “Has Nathan come back?”

“Not yet. Mr. Conrad, do you have any problems.”

Clarence paused for several seconds, then he ordered blandly, “I want you to find a person.”

...

It was during the rush hour in the morning when Stella drove to her studio and the road was crowded.

Stella slowly drove along with the traffic flow, gradually became impatient.

Right at this moment, her phone that was put aside rang.

Stella pressed a button of the car to answer the call. Then there came a woman's voice, "Hello, this is a children's educational institution. Does your child need any..."

"No thanks."

Stella directly ended the call.

But as her attention was distracted, she didn't notice the red light. Plus that it was raining, the road was wet and slippery. Even she stepped on the brake, her car still real-ended the car in front of hers because of inertia.

Stella stopped the car and hurriedly unbuckled her seatbelt and got out of the car.

The driver of the car Stella real-ended got out of the car and criticized her in a bad mood, "Can you drive? Didn't you see it was red light? Why did you start the car? You're wasting my time."

Stella apologized to her, "I'm sorry. It's my fault. I will be fully responsible for it. What would you like to deal with it? To claim for insurance or would you like me to compensate for you?"

"My car is very expensive. Can you afford the compensation?"

Just as the driver finished the words, the door to the backseat was opened. A man who was holding an umbrella walked to them and checked the condition of the car, "It's not that serious. It just peeled some paint."

He was surprised when he saw Stella, "Ms. Radomil?"

Chapter 643-Stella was stupefied as she didn't expect to see him, "Mr. James."

The rain became heavier.

"But your car..."

"Only some paint was peeled. It's not a big deal. But Ms. Radomil, your car..."

Stella looked over following his gaze and found the left light of her car was broken.

Caesar said, "How about this? I will ask the insurance company to deal with this and I will send you back first. There will be a heavy rain later."

Seeing that there was a long traffic jam behind her car, Stella nodded her head, "Then I will drive my car to the roadside first."

Holding the umbrella, Caesar sent Stella to her car and then looked towards the driver and said indifferently, "Stop the car by the roadside."

The driver wiped away the sweats on his forehead and hurriedly got into the car after receiving the order.

After parking her car, Stella called the insurance company and reported the condition. Then she picked up her things and got out of the car.

Caesar, who was waiting for her at the door, stepping forward when seeing Stella going out.

Looking at the umbrella above her head, Stella said, "Thank you."

Caesar smiled, "You're welcome. It's what I should do. Ms. Radomil, please get into the car."

Stella declined, "Don't bother. I can hail a taxi."

She took out a name card from her bag and handed it to Caesar, "This is my phone number. Mr. James, if you need any compensation later, you can contact me."

Caesar took the name card from her, "All right."

Stella nodded at him, "I'm sorry for what happened today. Sorry, I wasted your time."

"Ms. Radomil, don't be so serious. It's not a serious matter and it didn't waste my time."

After finishing the words, Caesar handed the umbrella to Stella, "Ms. Radomil, now that you don't want me to give you a ride, please keep this umbrella."

"No need. I..."

Before Stella could finish the words, Caesar had pressed the umbrella into her hand, "Ms. Radomil, please don't be courteous to me. For a beautiful girl like you, I will feel distressed if you catch a cold because of the rain."

Before Stella could say anything, Caesar smiled at her, walked to the black car in strides and then got into the car.

What Caesar said was true – there was a heavy rain after a short while.

It was summer, a season during which it rained frequently.

Stella stood there and waited for half an hour. Only when the staff of the insurance company came did she leave.

She then came back to her studio. Because of the rain, there were few guests in the store and it looked less vivid than usual time.

Elaine ran over, "Stella, it's raining heavily. Where have you been?"

"I went to the Conrad Group. Didn't I ask you to stay at home for rest in the next few days? Why do you come over?"

"It's boring. I would rather stay here."

"Well. Go to the lounge if you feel tired. I will go to my office."

"Okay."

The rain lasted for three days. Until the morning of the weekend, the sun finally broke through the clouds.

Stella was drawing the design on the sofa, while Elaine and Sherry were all lying on the sofa.

After a long while, Sherry suddenly stood up, "We can't be like this. It's good weather and it's also the weekend. We can't lie at home like this. We should go out for a walk."

Stella asked, "Where do you want to go?"

Sherry took out her phone, "Let me see."

She then browsed the web pages. But she didn't find a satisfying place.

Lying on the sofa, Sherry sighed emotionally, "Is there any relaxing and interesting outdoor exercises that can improve my mood?"

Sherry suddenly thought of something and hurriedly took out her phone.

Several minutes later, she abruptly sat up from the sofa, "Stella, Let's visit Winnie. I want to see her filming the variety show."

Stella turned around, "That room escape show?"

"Yes. The filming begins today and it's not in a hurry. I've asked Winnie and she said we can go over."

Elaine also became excited, "Can we go there? Really?"

Looking at the sparkling lights in their eyes, Stella nodded her head, "Let's go."

Elaine had been City N several times, but she only commuted from her apartment to the studio every day and Stella hadn't taken her to any place.

Now that she was interested in this, Stella decided to take her there.

Hearing Stella answer, Elaine and Sherry immediately went back to their house to change their clothes.

Stella also tidied up the drawings in front of her.

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In the filming studio....

Winnie was in a dressing room, and after a short while, several entertainers walked into the room and greeted her.

They were all the honoured guests of this variety show, who would film the show with her later. One was a male star who was very popular in recent two years, one was an actress who suddenly became popular because of an online soap opera, and one was an entertainer who always attended various kinds of variety shows.

Winnie greeted them one by one. After their leaving, she asked her assistant, "Isn't there six honoured guests? Where are the rest two guests?"

Her assistant replied in a low voice, "I haven't had time to tell you about this. A guest that they invited before couldn't take part in the filming, so the program production team turned to Flora Alvin. I only received this notice an hour ago..."

Winnie was rendered speechless.

Flora and Winnie debuted onto the stage in the same period. She had many resources in the soap opera community and starred many operas that had accumulated a solid fan base. Her popularity was not inferior to Winnie's.

It was just that she didn't have many resources in the movie community.

In terms of this, Flora explained that Winnie had many high-class resources as the Conrad Group was her back-up and claimed that she was not inferior to Winnie at all and it was just that she wasn't as lucky as Winnie. She kept satirizing Winnie, explicitly or inexplicitly.

When Winnie was trapped in the slander, saying that she was a homewrecker, Flora's team spread many negative rumours about her. It was well-known among the practitioners in the entertainment circle.

If they would attend the same program, it would be very interesting.

Winnie asked after a while of silence, "Where's the other guest?"

Her assistant was stunned, and then she immediately came to her own sense, “The program team said he’s an unknown entertainer who just debuted to the stage. He isn’t popular. But I heard that he’s very smart... As for his name, I’m not clear about it. I will ask them about this.”

“Never mind,” Winnie stood up, “I want to go out for some fresh air.”

When thinking that she would meet Flora later, Winnie felt breathless.

Winnie walked to the corridor. Several staff greeted her and she responded to it with a smile. She then walked aside, preparing to find a quiet place that no one would bother her.

Winnie heaved a sigh of relief when she walked to the stairs.

However, just as she prepared to sit down, she heard some small noises.

Winnie froze and subconsciously looked over.

At the same time, the man in the stairwell also looked over.

Several seconds later, Winnie broke the silence, “You...”

Channing had a cigarette in one hand and a lighter in the other. It seemed like he was going to light up the cigarette.

He finally pulled himself together several seconds later and hurriedly put the cigarette and lighter together and put them into his pocket.

Winnie blinked when she witnessed this. She was suddenly lost for words.

Chapter 644-After a moment of silence, Channing asked, "Aren't you supposed to be in the dressing room?"

"I've done makeup, so I came out for a walk." Winnie asked, "Why are you..."

Before she could finish her words, she suddenly recalled that her assistant mentioned another unknown guest who was quite brilliant would also join the program's filming.

She realized that her assistant might be referring to Channing.

Winnie felt a bit surprised, "I got it. Is this job the program that your company has given you?"

Channing nodded, "Yeah. I forgot to tell you."

Winnie was taken aback for a moment. She said, "Oh... It's alright. I just didn't expect to see you here."

Channing recalled what had happened earlier when they met. He pressed his lips together in silence.

Winnie didn't mention it either, "Well, have you told Stella about this program? She will come here with Sherry later. Will you..."

"I've told them already."

"All right. The program will start soon. See you later."

"See you."

Winnie smiled at him, took a few steps back, and quickly turned away.

After she had gone far, the staircase was overwhelmed by silence again.

Channing leaned against the wall, pulled out a lighter and a pack of creased cigarettes, getting lost in thought while lowering his head.

Back to the dressing room, Winnie sat down and heaved a sigh.

Her assistant asked, "What's up, Winnie?"

Winnie said, "I... I met Channing."

Her assistant's eyes lit up, saying, "Is he also here? Part-time or..."

"He's the sixth entertainer in this program."

The assistant was shocked, "It turns out to be him. He hasn't told us before, has he?"

Winnie heaved a sigh, holding a cushion in her arms. She was lost in her thoughts when recalling the scene earlier.

She hadn't expected that this young man would smoke behind others' back. She didn't perceive it before.

However, Winnie believed that it was normal. Stella used to tell her what had happened in her family. Channing only smoked to release his pressure caused by such a family and his father, but he didn't turn into a person with a twisted character. It was a good thing.

Also, Channing was an outstanding man with a handsome face, excellent performance in study, and good manners. He was low-key, modest, and quiet.

"Hiss-" Winnie felt that life was too tricky for Channing.

Her assistant was studying her expression, seeing that Winnie frowned from time to time and looked quite sorry for someone.

After ten minutes, all the entertainers had arrived at the filming studio of the program.

Flora stood there while holding her arms, looking quite impatient. Her assistant was holding a small fan and a cup of coffee for her aside.

Seeing Winnie coming in, Flora snorted and said to her assistant, "I'm not famous enough, so I have to come here early to wait. Some popular actress must come out at last. I guess she thought she was attending a movie festival, saving the best for last, huh?"

Actually, there was plenty of time before the filming. Since Winnie and Flora were supposed to be seniors, other entertainers dared not to arrive later than they did. Hence, they had arrived earlier while waiting there.

In this case, the last one to arrive truly seemed to be a prima donna.

Upon hearing it, the other entertainers and staff held their breath, afraid that they would get into a fight.

Although it was indeed a highlight of their program, the filming would be pretty difficult if the two women started arguing before the filming began.

Winnie didn't answer, so Flora was pushing her luck. Looking at her assistant, she continued, "Sure enough, a powerful backer is so important. She has the right to be late. Unlike us, we are just working for the company. I do envy her...."

Before she finished bitching, an upright figure came in from the outside.

Channing asked the deputy director, "I'm sorry for being late. Has the filming started yet?"

The deputy director hurriedly answered, "Not yet. There are still five minutes left."

Channing said indifferently, "I see. I thought my watch was broken."

Because of his interruption, the quiet atmosphere became weird.

The deputy director coughed and started to call the staff, "Come on. Don't just stand there. Check the props. We can't let anything unexpected happen later."

The staff separated and went back on their work. Finally, the atmosphere in the filming site returned to normal.

Flora snorted unhappily, turned around, and sat on the sofa for a rest.

Her assistant hurriedly followed her.

Looking at Channing not far away, she raised her chin and asked, "Who is that?"

"I've never seen him before. It seems he's one of the guests for filming as well. He should be a green hand from an entertainment company."

Flora sneered, "How can a newcomer be so arrogant nowadays? Does he think he could save that bitch?"

Her assistant lowered her head in silence. However, she couldn't help glancing at Channing from time to time.

A staff member was talking to the filming details with Channing, who slightly lowered his head. While listening, he nodded slightly and occasionally answered.

Channing was relatively young and infamous. However, when he was standing there, all girls' gazes were glued on him unconsciously.

Winnie's assistant whispered, "Channing cannot be hidden any longer after this program is on."

Winnie withdrew her gaze. She couldn't quite understand, "Hide?" she asked.

"He's not popular so far, so he only has a few fans, including us. After the program is on, he must become popular and get a great many fans. He's my treasure boy, but he'll be found by the public soon."

Winnie was shocked.

She asked, "Since when you've become his fan?"

Her assistant grinned, "When he acted in your last movie, a lot of girls in the crew had crushes on him. They also set up a fan group."

Winnie was speechless.

The assistant said, "By the way, Winnie, do you know what kind of girl he likes? Does he like the cute and obedient or the enchanting and hot?"

Winnie raised her eyebrows, meaning she also didn't know.

On the other side, after talking to the staff member, Channing walked aside to get something.

Winnie looked around, only to find that Channing had come here alone without an assistant.

Shortly after, the filming started.

All the entertainers were locked up in a big room. Within the limited time, they must find the clues left by the program team. Then they would resolve the puzzles and enter the next room.

If the time was exceeded and they still hadn't left the room, they would receive the automatic punishment in the room.

However, none of them knew what exactly the punishment would be.

After entering the room, Flora sat on the sofa and closed her eyes. She looked pretty superior, not in the mood to talk to others at all.

Except for Winnie and Channing, the other three entertainers automatically formed a group. They started looking for the clues in the room.

Winnie walked to Channing. After a thought, she asked, "Hasn't JH Film Company assigned any assistants to you?"

Channing looked around and answered, "Yes, they have. I'm not used to being followed."

Chapter 645-When Stella and Sherry arrived, the filming had started for half an hour. Only ten minutes were left for them to leave the room. All the entertainers here were still looking for the clues in confusion.

They only resolved something that was not important at all.

Since Winnie had informed the program team earlier and also sent her assistant to wait at the gate, when Stella and Sherry arrived, the director directly asked them to sit on the sofa and watch the screen.

There were no cameramen in the room but only cameras, so the tense atmosphere was evident.

Obviously, this was the first time Elaine watched such a filming scene, so she was scared by the filming set. She had been holding Stella's arm all the time as if she was watching a horror movie.

Sherry gazed at the screen and said in a low tone that carried some excitement, "Ah! Isn't he the most popular actor? He's also there! May I ask him for an autograph later?"

The director smiled and said, "You are friends of Ms. Truman. Of course! No problem."

Sherry nodded. For the first time, she felt proud.

Suddenly, the camera focused on Winnie.

Channing was standing next to her. They were taking off the books from the bookshelf.

Sherry suddenly grabbed Stella's hand in excitement.

Stella looked at her in confusion.

Sherry said, "Look! Doesn't this scene look like the school idol drama? The hero and heroine met in the library. The heroine took away the book that the hero wanted to borrow. When they turned around and looked into each other's eyes, there were sparkles of love in the air."

The director and Stella were agape.

After coughing, the director explained, "Our program is the program of a secret room escape. It has the horror elements but has nothing to do with the school idol drama..."

Besides, all the decorations in the filming set were quite real. He wondered how come Sherry would see the sparkles of love.

However, he had to admit that the two were pretty eye-catching in the same frame.

Recently, soap operas about the romance between a woman with a younger man were quite popular. The director believed that if Channing and Winnie acted in one, it would also be quite popular.

Stella pressed Sherry, suggesting her to calm down.

On the screen, time was almost up. The other three entertainers became panicked, but they failed to find any clue.

Flora, who had been sitting there for half an hour, finally stood up. She proudly walked around the room a few times and randomly checked the things on the desk, meaning that she had looked for the clues. Also, the program team could have her filming for the post-editing.

When there were only three minutes left, an alarm sounded in the room. Upon hearing it, the actress who acted in an online drama series burst into tears in fear. Subconsciously, she grabbed the arm of the actor next to her and said between sobs, "What should we do now? We can't escape, can we?"

The actor was panicked as well. After all, before they came in, the director said that it was a reality show, and he wanted to guarantee the realness, so the punishment would be more severe than any previous season.

He comforted her, "We still have another three minutes. Don't give up."

The actress said, "We're just in the first room, but it's already so difficult. What should we do next?"

Flora chimed in unhappily, "Stop crying! What's the use of shedding tears? I truly don't like the newcomers. Too fragile, sometimes too arrogant. They haven't done anything yet, but they've already thought themselves A-list. What unhealthy tendencies there are!"

The actress was quite frightened. After hearing Flora's blame, she felt so aggrieved. However, she dared not to cry out aloud, so she only sobbed in silence.

Flora wasn't panicked about the so-called punishment at all. She didn't believe that the program team would trap all the show guests here forever.

Upon her experienced, the reality show always had a play script behind it.

If they couldn't resolve the puzzle, the program team would definitely come in and help them.

When there was only one minute left, they heard a sound next to the shelf. An invisible door slowly appeared in front of them. The alarm also stopped.

Winnie walked to the sobbing actress and handed her a pack of tissue, "It's alright. We can leave this room now."

The actor praised happily, "Ms. Truman, you are indeed awesome!"

Winnie smiled and said, "I did nothing. He resolved it."

The next second, all people's gazes fell on Channing.

Channing kept calm and said, "Let's move on."

He turned around and walked into the invisible door first.

Winnie followed him.

Sobbing, the actress trotted to Winnie and followed her in.

The male star and the actor also walked in.

Flora looked quite annoyed. She stood motionlessly in the empty room for a few minutes. Then she lifted her foot and stepped forward.

After they came out of the door, they saw the program team waiting outside.

The entertainers would take a break and fix their makeup before continuing to shoot.

Later during the post-editing phase, they would look as if they entered the next one right after they had escaped this room.

The actress failed to control her grievance, crying more loudly.

Her assistant and the deputy director rushed up to comfort her.

They had seen what had happened in the room. However, Flora was a famous senior, so they couldn't criticize her at all.

When Flora was blaming the actress, she was actually implying Channing just for venting her anger earlier.

The male star standing next to Channing, patting him on his shoulder, "Good job, bro."

Channing nodded slightly in response.

Right then, Winnie walked to Stella and picked up a glass of water. While drinking, she asked, "When did you gals arrive?"

Stella answered, "A few minutes ago. How do you like it so far?"

Winnie said, "Ah! In the short forty minutes, almost a billion of my brain cells have been killed. If it weren't for Channing, we might not be able to escape today."

When they were chatting, Channing came over.

As soon as he stopped, before speaking, a girl from the program team trotted over and handed him a bottle of water, "It... It seems you don't have an assistant. Please drink this water."

Channing said, "No, but thank you."

The girl didn't insist, leaving in disappointment.

Channing sat next to Stella. He opened a bottle of water in front of her, raised his head, and gulped down.

Stella asked, "How is it going?"

"What?"

"Filming. Are you OK with it?"

Channing put down the water and hummed, "Yeah. Not quite difficult."

The program team should have investigated Channing before, so they had upgraded the difficulties. Targeting Channing, they also increased some misleading clues to trouble him so they couldn't escape from the room so quickly.

Otherwise, they would have come out a long time ago if the difficulty was the same as before.

Winnie said, "I was so worried my intelligence would be exposed on the program. Thank God! I can group with Chan! I'll rely on you, Chan! I believe you forever!"

Channing was choked up by the water suddenly. He coughed.

Stella curled up her lips into a smile. She changed the subject, "I've brought you some fruits and cakes. Please have some."☺☺☺☺

Chapter 646-After half an hour, the filming continued.

Stella and others also stayed on the filming site for the whole afternoon. They planned to wait for them to knock off and have dinner together to celebrate Channing's first shoot.

The filming didn't finish until midnight.

Elaine fell asleep while leaning against Stella's shoulder.

Sherry also continuously yawned, waiting impatiently while staring at the screen.

When it was one o'clock in the morning, the filming finally finished.

Flora came out first. It was evident that she had already run out of her patience.

The director said, "Thank you all for your hard work. We've called some take-outs. Please have some before leaving."

Flora didn't answer. Instead, she looked at her assistant and said, "Why are you standing there? We won't eat. Hurry up and go."

Her assistant immediately took her belongings and helped her to put on the coat.

Flora pulled her coat and left arrogantly on her high heels.

The director ignored her. Looking over at Winnie, he asked, "Ms. Truman, would you like to have some food?"

Winnie said with a smile, "No, but thank you very much. My friends have been waiting for Channing and me all the time. Maybe next time."

"Okay. I won't be holding you any longer then. See you next time."

Winnie nodded at him and said to Channing, "Tell Stella I'll go after removing my makeup and changing my clothes. Please wait for me outside."

Channing said, "All right."

Winnie then left. When Channing prepared to leave, the director pulled him and asked, "Chan, is that lady named Stella your older sister?"

"Yes, she is."

"She's quite good-looking. Why doesn't she work in the entertainment business?"

Channing smiled, "She wouldn't consider about it."

The director said while feeling sorry, "That's a pity. Could you please ask your sister?"

"Not necessary. She needs to take care of her baby. She's a designer. I don't think she has any spare time yet."

The director was quite shocked, "Has she got married already?"

Channing was silent for a moment. Then he answered, "Yes, she has."

"I see. All right."

Channing said, "Director, I'm taking off then. Bye."

The director patted him on the shoulder and said, "You performed pretty well today. I hope we will have chances to work together in the future."

Channing slightly nodded.

He walked to Stella and said, "Okay. We can leave now."

When Elaine heard his voice, her head slid from Stella's shoulder. She asked sleepily, "What? Time to eat?"

Stella laughed and patted her head. Removing things from her lap, she stood up and said, "Let's go for the midnight snacks."

Earlier in the evening, the program team had offered them supper, so they were not hungry.

Sherry also stood up and walked a bit. She asked, "Where is Winnie?"

Stella said, "Let's wait for her outside and get some fresh air."

Elaine yawned while rubbing her eyes.

Out of the filming set, they were overwhelmed by the heat.

It was already summer. Even the breeze at night would make people feel humid and hot.

Standing outside, Stella said, "Channing, I'll take them to the restaurant first. You can take Winnie's car."

Channing slightly hummed.

After twenty minutes, Winnie finished changed and came out. She asked, "Where are Stella and others?"

"They went to the restaurant first, asking me to wait for you."

Winnie said, "Let me call a taxi then."

"Where are your driver and assistant?" asked Channing.

"Something happened to Bella's family. I asked the driver to send her back home earlier."

As Winnie answered, she pulled out her cell phone.

Channing was silent for a moment. Suddenly, he said, "The restaurant isn't far away from here. Let's walk there."

Winnie paused and answered after a few seconds, "Okay."

There was nearly no pedestrian on the street at this moment, so she took off her mask and put it in her purse.

She asked, "Is the entertainment business the same as you've imagined?"

Channing answered, "It's just a job, the same as others. Not much difference."

Winnie bent down her head and walked. After a thought, she said, "I actually want to ask you a question for a long time."

"Ehn?"

"Why would you agree to work in the entertainment business? I don't think your character fits in such a job." Winnie continued, "Please don't misunderstand. I didn't mean anything else. I just think you are only a college freshman and a straight-A student. You were the first place of the province in the university entrance exam. You have a bright future. After graduation, you can choose a job you like. Why do you now..."

Channing answered indifferently, "Because I don't want to be a burden all the time."

Winnie didn't quite understand, "A burden?" she asked in confusion.

"Since childhood, Stella always protects me. She always considers my priority higher than hers. She has given a lot of things because of me."

They kept walking. It was quiet around them. Occasionally, there was a car roaring away.

Channing continued calmly in a flat tone, "I can't do anything right now. This is the fastest way."

Winnie gradually understood what he meant.

However, she agreed with Channing. As long as a person had fame and wealth, he could have the right to speak.

She wasn't surprised at Channing's decision then.

Winnie said, "If Stella knew your thoughts, she wouldn't have agreed with you. She has always thought that you work in the entertainment business because you like the job."

“Please don’t let her know.”

“No worries. I won’t...”

Channing added, “Also, please don’t tell her what you’ve seen this afternoon.”

Winnie instantly understood what he referred to.

She asked, “Since when did you start smoking?”

“Quite a long time ago. I can’t remember.”

Winnie nodded, “Okay. I won’t tell her. No matter what, you are willing to tell me all those things. I believe you also treat me as an elder sister. I won’t rat you out.”

Channing was speechless.

He paused his pace.

Winnie looked back at him, “What’s wrong?”

Channing looked at her and asked, “Do you indeed want to be my elder sister?”

Winnie probably didn’t expect that he would ask so. After being taken aback for a moment, she laughed out, “Stella is my friend. I’ve always been treating you as my younger brother. If you’re not happy about it, I won’t speak that way next time.”

“I’m not unhappy.” Channing continued, stressing each syllable, “I’ve never treated you as my elder sister.”

For some reason, upon hearing his words, Winnie felt an emptiness in her heart. She didn't know what to respond. Lowering her head, she stared at her shadow on the road and subconsciously nodded, "Okay."

Channing added, "In the future, please don't treat me as your younger brother. I'm a normal man."

Winnie raised her brows, feeling that his last line was quite weird.

She kept wondering that the emptiness in her heart had just now faded away.

Winnie coughed and changed the subject, "Well, we must move fast. Stella must be waiting for us for a long time."

After that, she strode forward as if she was about to run.

Channing gazed at her figure and slowly followed her.

Chapter 647-At this time, most of the restaurants had closed down, so they chose a sidewalk snack booth.

It was a clean booth with delicious food. Earlier, Sherry had always come over to dine with the employees of their studio, so the booth owner was quite familiar with her.

After making orders, Stella found her phone was ringing. She checked the caller ID, only to discover that it was Clarence.

Stella stood up, walked aside, and swiped to answer the call, "Hello?"

Right then, a car roared past the booth on the street.

Clarence paused a bit on the other end of the line and asked, "Aren't you home?"

“Chan and Winnie are filming a program today. We waited for them and planned to have dinner together.”

“Have you finished yet?”

Clarence added, “Give me the address.”

Stella asked, “Have you knocked off?”

Clarence said, “Yeah. I’ll go pick you up.”

Stella curled up her lips and said, “Okay.”

After hanging up the phone, she sent the location to Clarence and walked back to her seat.

Stella looked at Elaine, who couldn’t help yawning, and asked, “Sherry, how long will it take Winnie and Chan to arrive?”

“I just called them. They’ll be here in ten minutes. When the dishes are served, they should be here.”

Stella nodded. Then she said to Elaine, “If you are too sleepy, go ahead to nap in my car. I’ll bring you some food later.’

Elaine rubbed her eyes, “No, thanks, Stella. I’ll be better while eating.”

Sherry smiled and said, “I do envy you for getting asleep easily. I used to be like you before. As soon as I closed my eyes, I could fall asleep.”

Elaine asked in confusion, “Aren’t we supposed to sleep as soon as closing our eyes? Why can’t you sleep?”

“When you are older, you’ll know what insomnia is.”

Elaine was relatively young. With her current sleep quality, Sherry didn’t think she would understand what insomnia was.

Sherry looked at Stella, “Who has just called you, Stella? Mr. Conrad?”

“Yeah. He’ll come here later.”

“Mr. Conrad is always busy. When will he have a break?”

Stella was silent for a moment. Then she curled up her lips into a faint smile and said, “Probably soon.”

After ten minutes or so, Winnie and Channing arrived. The barbecued dishes they had ordered were served as well.

Sherry looked over at Winnie and said, “Why were you arranged to shoot the same program with Flora?”

Winnie raised her eyebrows, “Probably I’ve done a lot of wrong things.”

“That’s too ridiculous. Why did the program team hire her? All through the filming, she didn’t do anything. Wouldn’t she be scolded when the show is on?”

“I heard she was hired to save the viewing rate of the program. They would put more sense of hers during post-editing. Besides, she’s smart. She knows when to appear on the camera. She didn’t do anything, but she had enough filming.”

“No wonder. She has a lot of negative news, but her fans still keep defending her and try to whitewash her,” said Sherry. She added, “Did she make trouble to you?”

Recalling the few minutes before filming, Winnie subconsciously looked over at Channing, who opened a can before putting it in front of her. He met her gaze.

Winnie immediately withdrew her gaze and said thoughtfully, "Nothing serious. Her tricks don't work on me."

Winnie kept chatting with Sherry. After putting a tin of drink in front of Winnie, Channing opened other cans and put them in front of Stella, Sherry, and Elaine.

Elaine took it over and blushed slightly, "Thank you," she said.

Stella asked, "How long will this filming last?"

"Till the end of this month," answered Channing.

"After this show, will your company assign you with other jobs?"

Channing nodded and answered, "Yes."

When Stella was about to speak something, a black minivan parked next to them.

Flora got down from the minivan a few seconds later.

Looking at Winnie, she held her arms and curled up her lips, "Your friends have been waiting for you for such a long time. How can you invite them to eat these things? If I were you, I wouldn't be able to do it."

As she spoke, she pulled out a business card from her purse and continued, "Well, my friend has opened a restaurant nearby. Take this and tell them I ask you to go there. This dinner is on me. After all, we've been working in the entertainment business for so many years. We are old friends."

Winnie was expressionless. She said indifferently, "I don't remember when we've become friends."

Flora wasn't angry. Instead, she covered her lips and smiled, "How can you still remember the thing that happened so many years ago. I'm a person with integrity. I hate those women who destroyed others' families. That's why I was quite excited back then. I understand why you have made such a choice. We work so hard just for money, don't we? The shortcut is always good. However, you should have the luck to enjoy it, right?"

She had thought that she would disgrace Winnie in front of her friends and Channing. However, they all lowered their head and enjoyed the barbecue, ignoring her.

Flora put away her smile. Looking at Winnie, she continued, "I've said that out of my kindness. You can be so arrogant just because Mr. Conrad always likes you, isn't it? Mr. and Mrs. Conrad are getting well right now. How could he have any chance to fool around with you? You'd better give up as early as you can. Don't always destroy others' families."

Channing frowned slightly. When he was about to stand up, Winnie pressed his arm.

Stella raised her head, looking over at Flora, "Do you know you should take the legal responsibility when speaking?"

Flora snorted, "I didn't create those rumours out of nothing. All people in the entertainment business know she gets popular because Conrad Group is her backer. Why didn't Conrad Group make others but only her popular? It's because she's good at tricks. She was the most famous one among so many stars and models in the Conrad Group. Isn't she Mr. Conrad's favourite one?"

Sherry chimed in, "Then, according to your logic, Mr. Conrad has done the right thing. He needs to make an actress popular by spending money, so he must choose a beautiful, capable, and hard-working one. Of course, he wouldn't support an ugly, mean, and jealous bitch like you."

Flora instantly looked annoyed, "Who do you think you are speaking to?"

"You know who I'm speaking to. If you still haven't heard it enough, I can repeat it. Jealous bitch, jealous bitch, jealous bitch!"

Elaine watched the scene and saw Sherry was so brave, so she also didn't want to be defeated. Obviously, she hadn't cursed others in this way. She followed Sherry and stammered, "Jealous... Jealous bitch!"

Flora was so furious. She cursed aloud, "You lunatics! Sure enough, birds of a feather flock together. Just wait and see, Winnie Truman. I heard Mrs. Conrad is a tough nut to crack. If she knew you have hooked up with Mr. Conrad, you would be so doomed!"

Chapter 648-"Who have I hooked up with?"

Right after Flora finished cursing, they all heard an indifferent voice from her back.

She instantly was stiffed. After a few seconds, she turned around, put away her arrogance, and looked at the man in front of her. She stammered, "Mr... Mr. Conrad..."

Clarence stood there, staring at her calmly, "Tell me. Who has hooked up with me?"

Flora dared to speak those words to Winnie's face, but no matter how bold she was, she dared not to say it to Clarence's face.

Her face changed between livid and pale. She couldn't help clenching her fists. With a wry smile, she explained, "I was just... kidding with Winnie. A lot of people said so..."

Clarence asked calmly, "Kidding? A lot of people?"

Flora felt a gust of cool wind and a chill on her back.

She stammered, trying to wash her hand in this situation, "I forgot where I heard it from. Occasionally someone would... But I firmly believe there's nothing between Winnie and you, Mr. Conrad."

"Hence, you've just heard the rumours and dared to talk nonsense in my wife's presence, didn't you?"

Flora noticed his cold tone while he stressed each syllable. Her lips went purple. She hurriedly explained, "Mr. Conrad, I truly didn't mean it. I was kidding... Oh, no... I shouldn't have believed in the rumours. I was just... But I didn't mean it..."

Clarence cast her a glance, "Your boss recently came to me for cooperation. I don't think it's necessary now."

Blood drained from Flora's face. Although she had become quite famous in recent years and her company was willing to financially support her, if the company would lose the critical cooperation with Conrad Group because of her, she didn't think her boss would let go of her.

"Mr. Conrad..."

Clarence had already run out of patience. His thin lips parted, and he uttered a word coldly, "Leave."

Flora dared not to stay any longer, afraid that she would make more mistakes if she kept speaking. In a hurry, she turned around, sat in the minivan, and said to the driver, "Hurry. Drive!"

After the car left in the distance, Flora finally calmed down a bit. It wasn't until then did she recall that Clarence mentioned "talk nonsense in my wife's presence."

She looked paler. In a hurry, she pulled out her cell phone and searched Clarence's wife online.

Among limited photos, Flora found a photo on which Clarence was kissing his wife in the rain, which used to be in trends. However, there was only Stella's side face on it.

She tabbed on the photo and zoomed in. Finally, she collapsed in her seat.

The woman on the phone was one of the women who came to visit Winnie this afternoon.

However, she was like a fool and slandered Winnie in their presence. She guessed that Winnie must be mocking her inwardly.

Flora tabbed to close the explorer page, gritting her teeth.

A few minutes later, she picked up her phone again and dialled her boss's number.

She couldn't just sit and wait for the end of her career.

...

On the other side, after Flora had gone, Winnie, Sherry, and Elaine were all gaped at Clarence, scared by the coldness and pressure that emanated from him.

Clarence glanced at them, "What are you looking at?"

They withdrew their gazes in unison, lowered their heads, and ate.

Stella knew that he wasn't fond of barbecued food, so she said, "Why don't you wait for me in the car? It may take us longer."

Clarence strode forward and sat next to her, "I haven't eaten, either."

"Okay... I'll order a rice wine dumplings for you."

"Sure."

Stella looked at others and asked, "Who else want it?"

Elaine raised her head, "Me, please. I haven't tried this before."

Stella answered, "Okay."

Then she ordered two bowls of rice wine dumplings.

The rice wine dumplings sold here were actually rice wine stick-rice-balls. She used to like them a lot when she was in college.

She paid and turned around. When she was about to go back, she saw Clarence sitting at the table. His suit jacket was put on another stool, and the sleeves of his white shirt were rolled up. He looked pretty different from the surroundings, where the diners were chatting aloud under the dimmed yellow light of the street lamps.

However, he added an aloof aura to the environment, making this barbecue booth different from others. He also naturally melted into the surroundings.

Watching the scene, Stella curled up her lips into a smile.

Who would imagine that Clarence would sit in the street booth and eat barbecue food with her one day?

Shortly, the rice wine dumplings were served.

One for Clarence and one for Elaine.

Stella gave them the spoons. Elaine couldn't wait and took a bite. While she was burned, she praised, "Yummy!"

Stella laughed, "Slow down," she said.

Then she looked at Clarence, "Do you like it?"

Clarence put down the spoon expressionlessly, "Just so-so. There's too much sugar. The sticky rice power isn't of good quality. Not soft or sticky enough."

Stella was speechless.

She shouldn't have hoped to hear any compliment from a picky diner.

Clarence added, "I can still finish them. After all, I need to eat something."

Stella heaved a sigh in silence, "You can leave it alone. I will cook them for you after going home."

"I'm not that picky."

"Aren't you?"

Clarence looked over at her expressionlessly.

Stella smiled and lowered her head to eat to avoid this subject.

Since there would be another filming the next day, they didn't have much food. Soon, they were about to leave.

Stella asked, "Channing, where are you staying now?"

"I rent an apartment off-campus," Channing answered.

She nodded and said, "What about this? Chan, drive my car and give Winnie a ride home."

Winnie waved her hands, "No, not necessary, Stella. I can take a taxi."

Sherry said, "How could we do that to you? It's so late, and your driver isn't here. It's better to let Chan ride you home."

"We'll have another filming tomorrow. If Chan came back and forth, it would take him a lot of time," said Winnie.

Channing took over the car key from Stella's hand, "My rented apartment is in the same direction as your home. Let's go."

Winnie was taken aback, speechless for a moment.

Sherry pushed her, "Hear it? He said in the same direction. It wouldn't take him much time. Go ahead."

Winnie couldn't refuse again. They were all friends, after all. She waved at Stella and others, "Okay. We're taking off then. Good night."

Watching them go far, Stella said, "Let's go."

On the way back, Sherry and Elaine were sitting in the back seat, enjoying Clarence's treatment as their driver. Feeling a bit awkward, they felt quite excited.

They could brag about it to their friends in the future.

There wasn't traffic on the way, so it only took them more than ten minutes to arrive downstairs of the apartment.

Sherry dragged Elaine away after getting down from the car, leaving Clarence and Stella a private space.

Chapter 649-Looking at the convenience store that ran twenty-four hours, Stella said, "I want to get a bottle of water. Do you want one as well?"

"No, thanks. I'll wait for you outside."

"Okay. I'll be right back."

Then Stella trotted towards the store.

After she came out, she saw Clarence standing on the roadside and looking ahead, lost in thought. His figure looked aloof and proud.

She enjoyed looking at him for a moment before gradually going over.

Feeling her approach, Clarence came back to his senses and said, "Let's go."

Stella asked, "Are you sleepy?"

Before he answered, she continued, "If you are not sleepy, let's have a walk nearby. I've overeaten just now. I want to digest."

Clarence hummed in a low voice. He walked forward steadily.

Stella walked next to him and asked, "Last time you promised to take me on a trip after finishing your work this month. Is it for real?"

"Yes."

"I can make time for it. Where do you want to go?" asked Stella.

Clarence faintly smiled, "I'm fine with anywhere. It's up to you."

Stella said, "Okay, I'll choose a destination at random then. You can't be too picky later."

"When have I been picky on you?"

Upon hearing it, Stella felt a bit weird.

Amusement increased in Clarence's eyes. He grabbed her hand and gripped it tightly, "I can go wherever you want to go."

"Then... How long will it take you to finish your work?"

"A week or so."

Stella nodded slightly, "I see."

There were nearly no cars on the street at this time. They were walking on the street hand-in-hand, the light of the street lamps elongating their shadows gradually.

After a while, Stella suddenly stopped, "Clarence," she called him.

"Ehn?"

"Let's go registered for marriage tomorrow, shall we?"

Clarence stiffed and stood motionlessly. For a moment, he didn't answer.

Stella said, "It will just take you a short while to get the certificate. You may leave your company for a short while."

Clarence turned to look at her with his ink-black eyes, "Why do you suddenly want to get registered?" he asked.

Stella looked away, pulling out her hand from his grip, and continued to walk forward, "Nothing. I heard that someone said I'm your wife, but legally I'm not. I can't be taken advantage of in vain. If you are unwilling, just forget it."

Clarence followed her and explained, "I am willing to. It's not been a good time recently. Can we go registered later?"

"What do you mean by later? One month later? Three months later? Or a year later?" Stella tilted to look at him, "Or, can you tell me why not recently?"

Clarence didn't answer.

Stella asked solemnly, "Tell me the truth. Are you hiding anything from me?"

After a few seconds, Clarence answered, "I'm not hiding anything from you. I want to tell you after all things are finished."

Stella fell into the silence and gave up asking him again, "All right. Forget it. But this time, you've rejected me. Next time, it'll depend on my mood."

Clarence was shocked.

He asked, "One month later? Three months later? Or a year later?"

Stella raised her eyebrows, "Not sure. You should have a long-term vision. Let's say, three or five years later."

Clarence was speechless.

Stella said, "All right. I'm sleepy now. Let's go back."

After entering the door, Clarence still hadn't given up, "Can we just negotiate about the time?" he asked.

"No."

"Okay. Let's do it tomorrow."

Stella took out her pyjamas and walked to the bathroom, "No."

Clarence said, "Didn't you say..."

"Don't you know a woman is constantly changing?" said Stella.

Clarence just couldn't utter a word.

Stella waved at him and closed the bathroom door.

Clarence stood motionlessly, resting his arms on his waist. Suddenly, he snorted with a smile.

...

When Stella lay on the bed, she stared at the moon outside the window sleeplessly. She became soberer and soberer.

As she had expected, Clarence was hiding something from her.

Also, she could sense that the matter was a big one.

It might have something to do with the whole Conrad Group. Clarence was afraid that she would be dragged into the mere, so he refused to register for marriage with her the next day.

When Stella was lost in thought, Clarence wrapped her waist from behind, "What are you thinking about, baby?" he asked.

"Nothing. I'm just sleepless."

Clarence raised his eyebrows slightly, "Sleepless?"

Stella didn't answer.

Somehow he looked quite spirited sometimes.

Stella closed her eyes, "Don't speak. I can fall asleep gradually."

"I didn't sleep earlier, but you still couldn't fall asleep, could you?" he said.

Stella pressed his reckless hand on her waist and opened her eyes, "I want to ask you a question."

Clarence kissed her gently behind her ear, "Ehn?"

"Hiss-" Stella meant that she was serious.

Clarence behaved himself, "Okay. Go ahead."

"You said you had noticed that Chan had a crush on Winnie quite a long time ago, right?"

“Yep.”

“If a twenty-year-old boy has a crush on a girl, will he choose not to confess? Doesn’t he want to be with her?”

Clarence asked, “Where is your theory from?”

Stella said, “I can tell Chan likes Winnie, but sometimes, what he does makes me puzzled. It’s like... he has a crush on her, but he just wants to have the feeling instead of progress with her.”

“What kind of progress do you mean?”

Stella was speechless.

She said in anger, “Can’t you be more serious?”

Clarence stopped his restless hands, meaning that he was listening to her carefully.

Stella continued, “I just want to know if all boys his age are like this. When they’ve met girls they like, they don’t dare to confess.”

“This kind of possibility can’t happen to him.”

“But...”

“Do you mean when Horace Jason was twenty, he didn’t confess to you either?”

Stella couldn’t stand him. She kicked him and cursed, “Get out of here!”

Clarence answered, "Well, I'm analyzing this matter with you rationally. Horace Jason didn't confess to you because he knew you liked him as well. He wanted to have a brighter future with you. Channing hasn't confessed because he knows there will be no future for him and Winnie."

Stella was still angry, but upon hearing it, she was taken aback for a long while. Then she asked, "Why not?"

"Do you think you are the only one who hates Jeffrey Radomil?" asked Clarence.

Upon hearing it, Stella was stiffed as if the words were smashed on her head.

She sobered up instantly.

Channing didn't only hate Jeffery but also felt ashamed because Jeffery was his father.

Jeffery had done so many evil deeds. Although he died, the things that he used to do were like curses that pestering Channing. He couldn't get rid of them all his life.

Chapter 650-Seeing that Stella was taken aback, Clarence kissed her on her forehead, "All right. Don't worry about him. It's his own business. He's a grownup now. It's the psychological disorder that he needs to overtime it by himself."

Stella shook her head gently, "It's not a psychological disorder."

"Jeffrey Radomil and Channing are different individuals. Jeffrey Radomil has nothing to do with what Channing was doing. Since Channing can't let go of it, he always feels he has owed you a lot, and his existence is an error. He also feels that he's a filthy man because of Jeffrey Radomil's blood in his body. He must overcome those thoughts," Clarence explained.

Stella looked at him. She asked after a long while, "What if he can't?"

Clarence said, "If he can't, he'll be trapped by those things and never make any progress again."

“Hence, he has pushed all the blames of those things that have happened in the past and have nothing to do with him. Then he wants to give up all he has to make up for everything, right?”

Meeting her gaze, Clarence hummed to answer after a long while.

“Do you think he will let go of it after he has finished doing all things?” asked Stella again.

“Probably he can.”

Stella was silent for a moment. Then she continued, “I got it. I will make time to talk to Chan.”

Clarence said indifferently, “Those thoughts had already rooted and sprouted in his heart. Your conversation might not work.”

“I have to try anyway.”

Clarence pulled her into his arms, “All right. Your question time is up. Let’s go to bed.”

Stella nestled her head on his chest in silence.

People were always like this – they could always see the nature of other people’s matters.

However, when facing their own matters, they couldn’t convince themselves at all.

That was why a bystander saw through everything.

...

After Channing drove Winnie home, Winnie got down. She said, "Hurry up and go home. It's almost dawn."

Channing gripped the steering wheel and turned to look at her, "Will your drive come back tomorrow?"

Winnie didn't understand what he meant. She nodded and answered, "Yes, he will."

Channing didn't say anything else, "See you tomorrow." He started the engine.

Winnie waved at him, "See you tomorrow. Be careful when driving home."

After that, she turned to walk into the community.

Channing gazed at her receding figure for a long time. Then he drove away.

As soon as Winnie walked out of the elevator, she saw the man waiting at her door. She frowned, "Why are you here again?"

The man put off the cigarette in his hand, "I've asked the program team. Your filming finished a long time ago. Why are you back so late?" he asked.

"None of your business."

As Winnie spoke, she was about to unlock the fingerprint lock.

The man grabbed her arm and said, "Winnie, please give me one more chance, OK? I've divorced her already. I didn't mean to hurt you back then. I didn't know she would be so crazy..."

Winnie looked at him expressionlessly, "I have no interest in your family business. Please leave. Or I'll call the police."

The man snorted, "If you want the topic that you and I went to the police station together at night to go on the trends, I don't mind."

Winnie frowned more deeply, "What is wrong with you?"

"Yes, I'm sick. Do you know how I spent my past few years? I've been thinking about you all day long. I also wondered what was wrong with me."

"You should go to the hospital instead of coming to me."

The man said, "I know Conrad Group has given you a lot of resources in the past two years. I always met Clarence Conrad. Between you and the interest, which one do you think is the most important? Besides, many newcomers enter the entertainment business every year. There are so many young and pretty actresses. Do you think Conrad Group will never make others popular?"

Winnie said calmly, "I don't mind who Conrad Group wants to make popular. You can go to talk to Mr. Conrad as you like. You can ask him to ban me. I don't mind. But please leave. Now!"

The man slightly squinted, "Think you can fight against me just because you are a bit famous, huh? In the entertainment business, you'll be doomed when I moved my fingers."

"Just do it. What are you waiting for?"

Seeing that his hard and soft tactics didn't work, the man was angry. He rudely pulled Winnie's arms, "Are you playing cool with me? You know what. Even I fuck you here today, no one can do anything to me. You won't get rid of the scandal as a few years ago."

Winnie slapped him across his face violently. She laughed in anger, "Good! Let's die together!"

The man probably didn't expect her movement. He was taken aback for a few seconds.

Right then, the door of the elevator was opened.

A figure showed up in front of them.

When the man was in a daze, Winnie instantly withdrew her hands. Then she turned around and pulled up the collar that slid to her shoulder during the fight.

The man's face darkened. He wanted to blow up, but there was a stranger.

He wanted to wait after the young man left and get even with Winnie.

Much to his surprise, the young man walked towards them directly.

Channing stood in front of Winnie and pulled out something from the pocket of his trousers, "You've forgotten your lipstick in my car," he said.

Winnie reached out and took it over, pressing her lips slightly, "Thank you. Hurry up and go home."

Obviously, she didn't wish him to meddle in.

The man looked at them meaningfully, "What's your relationship?" he asked.

Winnie snapped in a cold tone, "None of your business. Get out of here!"

The man laughed weirdly. After tidying up his collar, he turned around and walked into the elevator.

After he left, Winnie randomly put the lipstick into her purse. She said, "Chan, it's quite late. Be careful when driving."

Chan nodded.

Winnie pressed the fingerprint lock again. She walked in quickly and closed the door.

Channing withdrew his gaze and strode away.

Downstairs, the man was smoking while leaning against his car. Seeing Channing coming out of the apartment building, he asked with interest, "Are you a new actor from Winnie's agency? It's so late now, but you deliberately came to her apartment to give her the lipstick. What's your intention?"

Channing didn't answer, striding forward him.

The man clicked his tongue and continued, "Winnie is good-looking with a nice shape. She's quite good in bed. No wonder a young man like you would be so obsessed. Just..."

Before he finished speaking, Channing threw a punch on his face.

The man was hit off-guard. The next second, he was pressed on the ground. Channing continuously hit his face and body with his fists.

The man couldn't fight against such a desperate attack at all, only letting outcries in pain.

Finally, the security guards from the community found what was happening. Several of them came over and pulled Channing away.

The man covered his face, making a call excitedly.

Channing, however, was standing there with a gloomy look. He gazed at the man coldly and threatened, "I dare you to find her again."

"Who do you think you are? How dare you speak to me like that?"

“I’m nobody. My life is worthless, but you should be reluctant to die,” said Channing.