

Mr. Edwards' Unraveled Life chapter 21

Chapter 21

Paulina quickly took the suit out of the bag. "I was worried that Norah would be too busy, and since it was on my way, I asked someone to bring it back first."

Kevin's eyes narrowed as he looked at the suit.

A man's suit.

He suddenly thought of Steven. It seemed that Norah had met Steven at the exhibition and brought this bag back. At that time, he hadn't thought much about what was inside. It turned out to be Steven's suit.

Kevin clenched his fist without realizing it.

Paulina noticed Kevin's expression and, while he tried to hide his feelings, she could tell he was bothered. She asked, "Mr. Edwards, should I leave it here?"

Kevin pursed his lips and replied coldly, "Put it there."

Paulina gave a slight smile. "Okay, I'll leave now."

After finishing her task, Paulina left, curious to see how long Norah could handle Kevin's scrutiny.

Kevin was annoyed by the sight of the suit while he was working.

Norah entered the office only at the end of the workday. She was heading to a class reunion and didn't want to stay late.

Seeing Kevin still in the office, she approached him to say hello. She expected him to be working, but instead, she found him sitting on the sofa, staring at her with a cold gaze. It felt like he was waiting for her.

Norah found Kevin's behavior strange but didn't say much. "Mr. Edwards, it's time to leave."

Kevin suddenly stood up.

Norah was confused but noticed Kevin approaching her step by step, like a predator.

She instinctively took a few steps back.

“Mr. Edwards, what are you doing?” she asked cautiously.

Kevin’s face was cold. “I’ve never seen you so active before. Is something going on today?”

Norah saw that his expression was serious. She backed away again and said, “It’s personal time after work...”

Kevin grabbed Norah’s chin.

Norah winced in pain and looked up at him. Seeing his intense gaze, she was worried. “Mr. Edwards...”

“Do you have a date?” Kevin asked angrily. “Are you seeing someone after work?”

Norah put her hands against the wall for support and replied, “Mr. Edwards, you’re overreacting. It’s just a party. Even if I did have plans, it’s my personal business. I hope you won’t pry.”

Kevin’s grip tightened, almost pressing her against him. He gritted his teeth. “You’re so close with Steven that you even wash his suit for him!”

Norah looked at the bag on the coffee table and realized it had been in his office. She had asked Tessa to drop it off and planned to pick it up after work.

She asked, “Who brought it?”

Kevin turned her face back to him. “You still haven’t answered me.”

Norah looked at his angry face and explained, “I accidentally soiled Steven’s suit. I washed it and brought it here. There’s no problem.”

Kevin snapped, “Doesn’t he have an assistant? Why does he need you to wash his suit?”

“I made a mess, so I thought it was polite to clean it.” Norah felt Kevin was being unreasonable.

Kevin continued, “You smile so easily around him. It’s suspicious.”

Norah pushed his hand away and said, “You’re reading too much into this. Let me go.”

Kevin sneered. Seeing her resistance, he mentioned Steven’s patience and became even angrier. “Norah, be clear. We haven’t divorced yet, and you’re thinking about seeing someone else. Who gave you the right?”

His words insulted Norah. She retorted, “Mr. Edwards, be clear yourself. I won’t interfere with you, so don’t interfere with me... Um...”

Seeing her lips, Kevin’s anger flared, and he kissed her abruptly.

Norah was shocked and widened her eyes, surprised by his actions. His kiss was harsh, almost punishing, and it took her breath away.

She struggled and tried to push him away, but his strength overpowered her, trapping her in his arms.

Kevin’s possessiveness drove him to a dangerous edge. His hand slid up her leg and reached under her skirt.

Norah was overwhelmed by his warm breath and felt his hand unbuttoning her shirt and moving under her skirt.

With people outside and the situation feeling frightening, Norah bit Kevin’s lip in desperation.

The pain made Kevin release her. Seeing her swollen lips, messy shirt, and fearful eyes, he realized she was distressed and hated being touched by him.

Kevin took a deep breath to calm himself and said coldly, “Norah, remember your place until the divorce is final. Don’t embarrass the Edwards family!”

He slammed the door and left, leaving Norah alone, feeling humiliated and hurt. She wondered why Kevin, who was with Bianca, would treat her this way.

If he cared so much about his family's reputation, why didn't he just divorce her instead of humiliating her like this?

After a while, the warmth faded, and she felt only a chill. She gathered herself, tidied her clothes, and went to her appointment.

"Norah."

Steven had been waiting for her at the door. Seeing her, he waved.

Norah's face showed her distress. Before coming, she had reapplied makeup to hide her pale complexion. She forced a smile. "I'm sorry I'm late. Have you been waiting long?"

"I just got here a little while ago. Let's head up; I think everyone is already there."

Steven said this, though he had actually been waiting for nearly half an hour.

Norah followed him inside.

Steven said, "I remember you like quiet places. It's a bit noisy downstairs, so I booked a private room upstairs."

Norah was surprised. "You remember that?"

"I have a good memory," Steven smiled. "I remember all my junior high classmates, especially you. I even remember that you used to drink sweet milk before exams."

This brought back memories for Norah. "I used to drink it because it helped me relax when I was nervous."

Norah smiled sadly. "But I don't drink it anymore."

Kevin had disliked sweet milk, and Norah had stopped drinking sweet things when she joined the Edwards family. Kevin had said such things were not allowed. So Norah never drank sweet milk again.

Mr. Edwards' Unraveled Life chapter 22

Chapter 22

When Steven and Norah reached the second floor, they found it much more elegant and less crowded than downstairs.

The door opened, and people inside of the private room shouted excitedly, “Mr. Lord! Mr. Lord is here!”

“Steven, you’ve really changed! You’re so handsome and successful now. There must be a long line of girls who like you.”

Steven joked, “I don’t know about that. I’ll have to check when I get back.”

“Well, you’re still single, so pay attention! There are plenty of ladies here. Steven, you’re a catch—make sure you take advantage of it!”

They chatted with Steven for a while, then noticed Norah standing behind him. It seemed Steven had anticipated her arrival, and with a smile, he said, “We have a special guest today—Norah is here too.”

Norah said, “Sorry I’m late.”

“Norah, you’re not very considerate. You rarely come to these gatherings. If it weren’t for Steven, I doubt we’d see you at all.”

“But Norah still looks as beautiful as ever.”

“Being beautiful is an asset. She’s the secretary of President Kevin Edwards from Edwards Group, so it’s quite something for her to come with him.”

As they hadn’t seen each other for a long time, they began catching up.

Though some comments were unpleasant, Norah took them in stride. Having worked for many years, she had developed a thick skin.

Her job might seem glamorous, but she knew she was just an employee.

Steven, sensing Norah might feel uncomfortable, smiled and tried to ease the situation. “Everyone is here now. I’m treating tonight, so feel free to eat as much as you want. Don’t worry about the cost.”

“Steven, you’re the big boss. Of course, we won’t hold back.”

Norah looked around at her old classmates. Some hadn't changed much, while others had changed drastically—some had gained weight, some had lost weight, some were now housewives, and others had become more composed with life's experiences.

Norah wanted to find a quiet corner and sit down, but Steven said, "Norah, sit next to me."

He took the spotlight at the party, sitting in a prominent spot, and Norah was right beside him, drawing attention.

With many old classmates eager to build connections with Steven and advance their careers, drinking and chatting were inevitable.

It seemed there were only two seats available.

Norah had no choice but to sit down.

Seeing Steven's attention on Norah, someone couldn't help but tease, "Steven, I didn't expect you to still care about Norah so much after all these years. It's nice to see you taking care of her at the party."

"Do you remember when Steven wrote that love letter back then? I saw it. I wonder if he ever sent it to Norah."

Everyone turned their gaze to Norah.

She became the center of attention, but she didn't quite understand why. Her relationship with Steven back then wasn't very close.

Even if he had written a love letter, it couldn't have been for her.

Norah smiled slightly. "That's impossible. If Steven had a crush on someone, it definitely wouldn't be me."

Steven poured a cup of hot tea for Norah and said, "Stop drinking for now. Have some tea to warm up."

"Norah, you and Steven aren't together, are you?" Seeing how attentive Steven was to Norah, someone boldly guessed, "You're just not admitting it because you're afraid we'll gossip."

Norah was startled by the question and quickly denied, “No...”

“I bet you two are together!”

They enjoyed stirring up drama, ignoring Norah’s denial, and shouted in unison, “Hurry up and kiss her! Kiss her!”

Everyone cheered and clapped loudly.

This was why Norah disliked attending these gatherings. It was fine to compare salaries, but they also enjoyed gossiping and spreading false rumors.

The loud cheering was audible outside.

“Kevin, this restaurant is excellent. You should try it later. If you like it, we can come back next time.”

At that moment, Bianca followed Kevin up to the second floor.

She was pleased. She had initially planned to dine the next day, but decided to invite him out that evening, and he agreed right away.

At this moment, a loud voice could be heard.

“Steven, if you’re a real man, tell us now if you and Norah are a couple.”
Someone, influenced by alcohol, boldly asked.

Kevin froze when he heard this.

The room wasn’t fully closed. There was a screen and antique décor, with curtains partially drawn, making the figures inside somewhat obscured.

But Kevin immediately spotted Norah sitting next to Steven.

She was sitting so close to Steven at the party, which seemed to confirm the rumors that they were a couple in the eyes of others.

Kevin’s gaze was sharp as he looked through the curtain, feeling very uncomfortable. He irritably pulled at his tie.

The mention of a “kiss” made his anger reach its peak.

Bianca, overhearing the conversation, smirked slightly. "Isn't that Norah? Why is she with another man? She has a family, and yet here she is, attending a party with someone else. Isn't that inappropriate? People might misunderstand and think they're a couple."

Bianca glanced at Kevin's face, knowing her words were meant to provoke. She wanted Kevin to see that Norah was not denying any relationship.

Kevin's face darkened, and he said coldly, "Don't worry about her."

Seeing his displeasure, Bianca said, "Alright, let's go eat."

They walked into the private room.

Inside, Norah was overwhelmed by the noise.

Steven, who had been abroad for years and was used to such teasing, could handle it. But Norah, a woman with a reputation to maintain, found it uncomfortable. She didn't want to be seen as a bad person. Seeing the commotion, Steven set down his cup and, no longer as kind, said, "Stop speculating. Norah and I just reconnected as friends. What do you think our relationship is?"

The joke seemed to have gone too far, and a classmate said, "So that's it. We got all excited for nothing."

"Norah, we were just joking. I hope you don't take it too seriously," another classmate added.

Although Norah felt uneasy, she maintained her composure and smiled. "You were too loud earlier. If you had heard my explanation sooner, there wouldn't have been any misunderstanding."

Seeing the situation was defused, the other women became intrigued. "If Steven isn't married yet, we single women should make a move."

Steven, playing with a small object in his hand, smiled slightly and said, "I have someone I like."

The room fell silent. Steven's serious tone indicated how much he valued this person.

Norah turned her head, surprised that Steven really had someone special.

“Steven, you really like someone? Who is it? Do we know her?”

Everyone was eager to hear his answer.

Mr. Edwards’ Unraveled Life chapter 23

Chapter 23

Steven paused for a long moment, under the gaze of everyone, and then said quietly, “She’s not here; you don’t know her.”

Everyone lost interest immediately.

“Oh, I thought it was Norah, but it turns out it’s not. We must have overthought it.”

Norah hadn’t thought it was her they were referring to.

Their relationship was more familiar now than before. It seemed everyone liked to speculate too much.

After that, the focus shifted away from her. Norah felt relieved and no longer needed to join their conversations.

At the class reunion, the men chatted among themselves and discussed work and business while holding their drinks.

Norah had a few glasses of wine. It had been a while since she last drank, so she soon felt dizzy and tipsy.

She vaguely heard someone mentioning her name.

“Out of all our junior high classmates, Norah is the best. She must be making a lot of money dealing with two big bosses.”

“I don’t want to be the best. It would ruin my reputation. Haven’t you heard? Norah is a rich girl. Even if she comes from an ordinary family, how can she afford a Hermes bag? She’s probably the boss’s mistress.”

A few women whispered deliberately.

They had already judged Norah. She wore luxury brand clothes and carried a Hermes bag worth hundreds of thousands. If she were just a secretary, she wouldn't have reached this level. They were simply guessing.

When Norah was in school, she didn't fit into their small groups.

She didn't like gossiping and wasn't interested in other people's affairs. They didn't enjoy studying and had been in the workforce for a long time. They couldn't relate to each other's perspectives.

"Isn't Norah a secretary for Mr. Edwards of Edwards Group? Are they having an affair?"

"Look, Norah has been at Edwards Group for six or seven years without changing jobs. Mr. Edwards must have given her many benefits."

"I think she still wants to marry into a wealthy family!"

"Her?" One of the women sneered. "That's impossible. The bar for wealthy families is high. How could she marry into one with such a lowly status? Mr. Edwards must have gotten nothing from her, so he turned to his old classmates. Now he's eyeing Steven, but Steven already has someone he likes and isn't interested in her. She's just a joke."

They all laughed.

Norah tightened her grip on her wine glass but didn't get angry.

"Yes, it's strange. My dad and Norah's parents live in the same community. I heard her dad owed a lot of money and later paid it back. Could Norah have used her body to settle the debt?"

"She seems serious on the surface, but she's very loose underneath..."

Bang.

Under the influence of alcohol, Norah walked up to them and threw the wine in her glass at them.

"Ah—"

They yelled in shock.

Turning around, they saw Norah's angry face and quickly stood up. Several classmates said with shared hostility, "Norah, are you crazy? We didn't provoke you, yet you come here to splash us!"

"Stop talking!" Norah commanded.

One of the women, who had disliked Norah since junior high for being too self-important, sneered, "You've done shameful things and don't want us to talk about it. Everyone knows you're someone's mistress. You don't associate with us old classmates because you're afraid we'll expose your dirty deeds. What's so great about you?"

Norah slapped her face.

"You dare hit me? I'll kill you!"

The woman was furious and tried to attack Norah.

Norah didn't move. She had drunk some wine and was too dizzy to react quickly.

But a figure stepped in front of her and stopped the woman from attacking.

To everyone's surprise, the woman was thrown aside.

"Mr. Edwards..."

Everyone was shocked to see the man they had been discussing suddenly appear.

When Norah heard their surprised exclamations, she looked up and saw Kevin, who had a cold expression. He spoke in a chilling tone, "Who gave you the nerve to spread rumors here?"

Kevin's presence naturally exuded authority and pressure.

The women, who had been so bold, now dared not speak and lowered their heads, trembling. They were scared. Despite their dislike for Norah, they had to humble themselves in front of Kevin and said, "Mr. Edwards, we were wrong. Please don't take it personally."

Mr. Edwards' Unraveled Life chapter 24

Chapter 24

Even the person who wanted to hit Norah could only cover his face and hold back his anger.

Kevin glared at them coldly. "Do you understand the situation? Apologize now!"

They immediately rushed to Norah, humbled. "We're sorry, Norah. We shouldn't have made assumptions. We were wrong, and it won't happen again."

They knew how powerful Kevin was. No matter how capable they were, they wouldn't dare cross him. They had families, children, and parents—they couldn't afford to make an enemy of him.

Norah didn't care much about their apology. She stared at Kevin in confusion and asked, "Why are you here?"

Kevin looked back at her, his eyes full of frustration. He grabbed her arm, still angry, and said coldly, "Come with me."

Norah pulled her arm away. "Why should I? I have nothing to do with you."

Their conversation baffled everyone around them.

Everyone knew Norah was Kevin's secretary, but this wasn't about work.

Kevin smelled the alcohol on her breath. "What else do you want to do?"

Emboldened by the alcohol, Norah stared back at him. "Can't you see? The class reunion isn't over yet."

Kevin's patience was running out. He loosened his tie and said coldly, "Class reunion? Haven't you been bullied enough? Come with me!"

He frowned and grabbed Norah, pulling her toward the exit.

Just then, Steven rushed over. He gently grabbed Norah's other hand. "Mr. Edwards, Norah is off work now. Isn't this a bit inappropriate?"

Kevin sneered at Steven. “And what would you suggest? Letting her be talked about by everyone?”

Steven felt guilty. He hadn’t taken good care of her. “I’m sorry, Norah. I should’ve been there for you. This is my fault.”

Norah looked at him and said, “It’s okay. It’s just a few words; it’s not your fault. There are too many people in this world, too many mouths. I don’t care what they say.”

Her words annoyed Kevin. He had just defended her, and now she was defending others.

Norah remembered why she came and handed Steven the suit she was holding. “Here’s your suit.”

Steven took it and offered, “Let me take you home.”

“No need,” Kevin interrupted, glaring at Steven. “I’ll take her home.”

“Mr. Edwards,” Steven reminded, “Norah is off work. She’s free to do what she wants.”

Kevin glanced at Norah, feeling a surge of irritation. His voice turned colder as he said to Steven, “This isn’t about work. My relationship with Norah is much closer than you think. Taking her home is my responsibility.”

“I’ll go with Mr. Edwards,” Norah said, not wanting to cause a scene. She looked at Steven. “He’s going the same way. You should stay with your classmates.”

Steven looked at her with concern. “Are you sure?”

Norah reassured him. “I’m fine. And you should drink less. If you can’t drive, call your driver.”

Kevin didn’t want to hear anymore. He hoisted Norah onto his shoulder and commanded, “We’re going home!”

Norah felt sick and started to panic. She kicked in his arms. “Kevin, stop! I’m going to be sick. Put me down!”

The two of them left, out of sight from everyone else.

“Are they really just boss and secretary? It seems like there’s more to it,” one classmate speculated.

Steven frowned. “Don’t jump to conclusions. I trust Norah.”

With that, they dropped the topic.

Outside, Kevin put Norah down. He frowned at her flushed face and said angrily, “Who gave you permission to drink?”

Norah was too dizzy to respond.

Seeing that she was silent, Kevin’s frown deepened. His voice turned colder. “Why won’t you talk? You only drink tea with me, but with Steven, you’re drinking alcohol? Do you even know your limit? Or did Steven give you the courage?”

Halfway through his rant, Kevin felt something warm on his chest. His shirt was wet.

He lifted Norah’s head and saw that she was crying. All his anger faded, and he felt lost. His voice softened. “What’s wrong?”

Kevin rarely saw Norah cry. She was always so strong, handling everything without breaking down.

“Why do you treat me like this?” Norah’s voice was hoarse. Maybe it was the alcohol, but she finally let her guard down. “Why do you always bully me? Kevin, you’re a jerk!”

She hit his chest, venting her frustration.

Kevin couldn’t be tough anymore. He pulled her into his arms, the sharpness in his eyes melting away. He didn’t know how to comfort her, so he just said, “Norah, don’t cry.”

But Norah couldn’t stop. She needed to let out all the hurt she’d been holding in. “Why can’t I cry? Only Bianca can cry? My crying bothers you? If you’re so bothered, why did you come looking for me? Just leave me alone!”

She pushed him away and squatted down.

Kevin watched her, curled up like a wounded puppy, crying softly.

He had never seen her like this—so vulnerable, yet a bit stubborn.

He squatted down beside her and placed his hand on her back. “Okay, I won’t make a big deal out of what happened today. Let’s just go home.”

“I’m not going back,” Norah said, turning away. “You’ll just bully me again. I don’t want to be bullied by you!”

Kevin tried to coax her. “I won’t bully you anymore. Come home with me, okay?”

Norah shook her head.

“What do I have to do to make you come home?” Kevin asked, trying to be patient.

“You can’t just coax me that easily, Kevin. I’m really mad at you,” Norah said, her tears falling again. “You never even try to make things right with me.”

Mr. Edwards’ Unraveled Life chapter 25

Chapter 25

Thinking about all the wrongs she’d suffered, Norah cried even harder, attracting the attention of passersby.

“Hey, did you make your girlfriend mad? She’s really upset!” a passerby commented, seeing her in tears.

Kevin, uncomfortable with the public scene, tried to play it down. “She’s just throwing a tantrum. She’ll be fine in a bit.”

He tried to pick Norah up, but she resisted, squirming away from him and crying even louder.

“You need to be patient when calming down your girlfriend,” the passerby advised. “She’s upset for a reason—no girl gets mad for nothing.”

Kevin had no idea what had upset her. He was the one who wasn't angry, so why was she? But seeing her cry so hard, he felt lost for words.

Kevin was at his wit's end. He'd never had to calm a woman like this before. It felt harder than negotiating a business deal. He asked, "Norah, what do I need to do to make you stop being angry?"

Norah looked up and saw Kevin bending down. She opened her arms. "Carry me on your back, and I'll tell you."

"Told you she was upset," the passerby said with a smile.

Kevin didn't quite understand, but he did as she asked. He squatted down and carried her on his back.

Norah leaned against his shoulder, tears still streaming down her face, dripping onto Kevin's neck. "Stop crying," he said. "You're too old for this."

"I wouldn't cry if you didn't make me upset," Norah grumbled from his shoulder.

Kevin didn't respond.

Norah, seeming half-drunk and half-awake, tightened her arms around his neck. "Kevin, this is the first time you've carried me on your back."

Kevin: "Yeah."

Norah: "Aren't you supposed to be with Bianca? Why did you come to find me?"

Kevin: "I didn't want you to get hurt."

Norah smiled bitterly. "Well, it's worth it to get a piggyback ride from you for once."

"Do you like it?" Kevin asked.

"I do," Norah replied. "It feels like we're finally close."

They had been married for so long but had never had a normal couple's relationship, so even a small gesture like this felt sweet. But Norah knew it

wouldn't last. "This might be our last moment like this. When we divorce, you'll carry someone else."

Hearing this, Kevin frowned and held her tighter. "Norah, if you don't want to get divorced—"

Before he could finish, Norah suddenly vomited all over him.

Kevin's frown deepened, just as their car pulled up.

The driver, Kian, who had been called in last minute, was shocked when he saw Norah vomiting all over Kevin. "Mr. Edwards, your clothes are dirty. Norah's drunk; she didn't mean it. I'll get you a change of clothes."

Kian couldn't believe what he was seeing. Kevin wasn't angry—he gently placed Norah in the passenger seat, looked back at Kian, and said, "I'll drive. You can head back."

Kian glanced at Norah. "Don't you need me to take her home?"

"No," Kevin replied. He sat in the driver's seat, took off his dirty clothes, tossed them in the back, and used a wet tissue to wipe Norah's mouth.

Kian was stunned. Was this the usually cold and distant Mr. Edwards? Was this the typically composed Norah? He couldn't believe what he was seeing.

As Kevin drove away with Norah, Kian stood there, still in shock, wondering if he'd imagined the whole thing.

Kevin brought the drunk Norah home.

Siena was still awake and immediately complained when she saw them. "Kevin, where has Norah been? She hasn't even come home yet. What does she think of the Edwards family?"

But when she saw Kevin with Norah, reeking of alcohol, she was shocked. "Norah's drunk? How can she be the daughter-in-law of the Edwards family!"

Kevin shot Siena a cold look. "Shouldn't you be in bed? What are you doing here?"

“Kevin, I’m not gossiping. But how can a girl get drunk like this outside?”
Siena replied, disgusted.

Kevin carried Norah upstairs, saying, “Mom, if you don’t like it, you can move out.”

Siena watched him go, feeling upset. “How can you talk to your mom like that, all for Norah?”

In the bedroom, Kevin gently laid Norah on the bed.

“It’s itchy... so itchy...” Norah mumbled, scratching her arm.