

Read Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 1291 [Eleven Jewell]

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Stella blinked in surprise and quickly clicked on the entry.

The Food Safety Department had conducted a surprise inspection at Sunlight Kindergarten's cafeteria today, and someone had shared images from the scene. They found numerous spoiled meats in the kitchen fridge and a thriving colony of mold in the dough mixer.

Moreover, the cooking oil they used was not a brand that had been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The bottle was unlabeled, and the content was darker than normal brands, resembling reused oil.

Just as Stella was about to take a closer look at the images, they vanished. She exited the page and refreshed the list, but she noticed that the hashtag was dropping from the trending list. When she refreshed the list once more, the entire entry was gone. The speed of its disappearance made Stella question if it was all just a dream.

Keegan saw Stella's bewildered expression and asked, "What's wrong?"

"I just saw Sunlight Kindergarten trending due to food safety issues, but the posts are all gone now. Am I wishing for their downfall so much that I'm imagining things?" Stella asked in a low voice.

Keegan nodded in understanding. "It's possible." He then pushed the candle on the dining table in front of Stella. His

tone was gentle, as he suggested, "Close your eyes and make a wish. It might come true, you know?"

Stella chuckled and said, "How silly!"

Keegan's expression remained earnest. "Trust me."

"Fine," Stella agreed. She shut her eyes, put her hands together, and said, "I wish... for all of Keegan's wealth to become mine."

With that, she blew out the candle.

Then, she blinked and asked, “So? Are you going to transfer the funds to my bank account or pay me in cash?”

Keegan was speechless. He picked up a lighter from nearby and rekindled the fire. “You were mumbling. Here, give it another shot.”

Stella playfully shot him a glare and said, “Cheapskate!”

Her phone was flooded with notifications just as she said that. When she picked up her phone, she found that multiple people had tagged her in the comments. Stella tapped into them and discovered a new topic. [Sunlight Kindergarten Failed Health Inspection]

She refreshed the page and saw that the entry had skyrocketed to the top of the trending list. It had quickly become viral.

After a couple more refreshes, a [trending] tag appeared in the entry. Stella clicked on it and read that the spoiled food was from home. A child’s grandmother had placed the rotten food on the table with the intention of throwing it

away, but the child ate it.

While the kid was asked to throw up the food, they remarked that the meatballs at the kindergarten tasted the same. The child’s parents found the situation to be severe and contacted a local media outlet to expose the issue. The media was uncertain about the parent’s speculation. So, they disguised themselves as a maintenance worker and infiltrated Sunlight Kindergarten.

When nobody was watching, they managed to take pictures of the cafeteria’s interior. The images were shocking. Upon opening the cafeteria refrigerator, a strange smell hit the undercover media person. They noted that the color of the meat stored in the freezer appeared off. Some of them even had production dates from over six months ago.

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Meat could be frozen for preservation, but it was generally not recommended to be stored for more than three months. Even if the meat was not rotten after

that timeframe, it would have lost a lot of its nutrients. Considering that it was meant for kindergarten children, the use of such poor-quality meat was quite concerning.

Other than that, the freezer contained bags of low-quality shrimp. The cutting board used for vegetables was covered with dark spots resembling mold. There were also visibly sprouted potatoes and half-rotten oranges in the cafeteria's kitchen.

The media person took photos of these disconcerting scenes and promptly reported them to the FDA.

Consequently, it caused a fury among the netizens.

[Good grief. Are these people even human? I bet adults might not be able to stomach those, let alone children... Have any of the kids fallen ill?]

[I pay almost two thousand dollars per month for my children's meals at the kindergarten, yet they're using such ingredients? Do they even have a conscience? @ SunlightKindergarten]

[Don't play dead. Come out and address the issue! @ SunlightKindergarten]
One of the comments read.

[No wonder so many parents on the forums have been talking about the sour meatballs served at the kindergarten. Isn't that a sure sign they've gone bad?]

[These people are despicable! My son used to attend their school. He never had any issues with food from home, but once he ate there, he started having diarrhea. However, when I asked his teachers about the quality of the food, they accused me of making a fuss. When I insisted on inspecting the kitchen, they flat-out refused, claiming that outsiders weren't allowed due to the risk of tampering. I was dissatisfied with their attitude and transferred my child to another school. It's clear that they had something to hide.]

[The last time I took my daughter to visit her grandmother, my mother-in-law gave me some pesticide-free homegrown corn. While husking them after returning home, I discovered a few worms in one of the cobs. I called my daughter over to have a look, and she mentioned seeing something similar in the soup at school. At that moment, I thought she was referring to the rice...]

[Have y'all seen that post about a child who transferred schools multiple times because he had issues sleeping during nap time? It was said that he slept like a log at Sunlight Kindergarten. Does no one find it strange that so many teachers weren't able to get him to take a nap, yet Sunlight Kindergarten succeeded so easily? It's terrifying when you think about it...]

[I had the same thought! It's so weird. Could they be drugging the children?]

[If they could do that to the children's food, it wouldn't be surprising if they spiked it.]

[My baby just started attending there this fall. Reading this news gives me shivers. My baby has a sensitive stomach, and we go the extra mile to prepare his food separately, avoiding additives like soy sauce. How dare they feed children rotten food! This heartless kindergarten needs to face severe consequences! @RiveraDepartmentofHealth @ RiveraFDA]

[They're cancer in the industry!]

The comment section below the post blew up.

[Even if they're not using expensive ingredients, the food should at least be fresh, especially since it's meant for children. We pay around a thousand dollars for our children's meals each month. The kindergarten receives tens of thousands of dollars from hundreds of children in their institute. Yet, they still choose to use bad quality and spoiled ingredients.]

It was no wonder the netizens were furious.

Numerous users began tagging the official accounts of relevant departments and demanded a thorough investigation into the incident.

Soon after, the official account of Rivera's FDA issued an update. [Our team has returned from Sunlight Kindergarten with evidence. Relevant samples have been sent for testing. We will work hard to keep everyone updated with the investigation results as soon as possible.]

Netizens cheered upon seeing the statement.

[It's rare to see such a swift investigation right after an expose. Good job! @RiveraFDA]

[There shall be no leniency for (@SunlightKindergarten!)]

[Parents of Sunlight Kindergarten children, please make sure your kids undergo medical examinations. If there are any issues, keep the medical records and gather evidence for potential legal action and compensation!]

Aside from the raging parents, other netizens also expressed their views.

[It's weird how this incident surfaced while the kindergarten has a legal battle with a certain celebrity. The timing of it all is quite uncanny, isn't it? It really makes you think, is something much more sinister going on?]

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[You know how celebrities are,] someone replied.

[How was she able to directly involve the officials?] [It's a classic distraction technique. She clearly wants us off her case. The two incidents don't even correlate.]

At the same time, a few people were making insinuating remarks saying, [Exactly. Stella must have secretly placed that rotten meat in their cafeteria freezer during the night! I bet she planted those sprouted potatoes and oranges! And she must've chucked their cutting board into the toilet before putting it back!]

[You guys are making things up. Do you think she would resort to partaking in online drama to obtain the kindergarten if she had such power? And would she go as far as putting herself under public scrutiny and ruining her career?]

"I'm neutral toward both parties. But food hygiene is much more serious than pulling publicity stunts. We should really separate the two topics. The kindergarten could be subjected to criminal charges!"

Comments continued to flood in, showing the public's outrage over the food safety in Sunlight Kindergarten. In their eyes, Stella had not actually infringed upon the public's interests, even if she was doing it for publicity. However, the kindergarten was undoubtedly compromising the health of the children.

After reading this news, many parents grew concerned about the sanitation standards of their children's kindergarten cafeterias and the healthiness of their daily meals.

Consequently, officials from both the Health Department and the FDA found themselves swamped with work. They were receiving numerous complaint calls about the incident. Some reports were purely speculative, but it was not entirely the parents' fault. The severity of the matter warranted a vigilant approach from everyone.

Stella kept scrolling through the comments while Keegan leaned on the table with his elbows. He looked at her and asked, "How's it going? Did your wish come true?"

"What?" Stella hesitated. Then, she suddenly realized something. "You did this?"

"One must gather intel on the enemy to be prepared to counter their next moves," Keegan casually replied. It was his customary approach.

While Stella had been strategizing with Ted about what to do next, Keegan had already sent individuals to interact with the kindergarten staff.

Keegan's investigation focused on two areas, which were food safety and fire safety. Any deficiency in either category could be exploited. Even if the food hygiene at Sunlight Kindergarten was up to standard, they could find problems with fire safety if they tried hard enough.

The illicit profits earned by Sunlight Kindergarten had not translated into better treatment for their staff. Keegan's men were able to expose the issues after a few probing questions to the workers at the kindergarten.

Following that, Keegan arranged for people to impersonate concerned parents and contact the media. Naturally, the media did not pass up the opportunity for such a scandal and got right to work.

Stella pursed her lips and told Keegan she had just paid someone to have Sunlight Kindergarten investigated for fire safety.

Keegan clicked his tongue and said, "Looks like you've wasted your money. I guess it's karma for not getting your husband involved."

Stella's mouth twitched. "Don't flatter yourself! You're still on probation!"

Keegan chuckled softly and leaned forward slightly. His voice deepened, as he said, "When are you going to promote me? I've already reached the required score."

Stella paused. "How is that even possible? How many points do you have right now?"

Keegan pulled out his phone and handed it to her. Stella glanced at it and immediately frowned. "Over a thousand? Did you add some points to yourself behind my back?"

Keegan glanced at her and said, "I knew you'd try to back out. Don't worry, I meticulously record every point on here."

He opened his notes that listed each time points were given or taken away from him.

"Why did you start with -10000 when I asked you to start with -100000!" Stella immediately pointed out the problem.

Keegan was baffled.

Stella handed the phone back to him and confidently stated that he cheated.

Keegan clenched his teeth and said, "You said to start with - 10000! You can't just raise the bottom score now that I've achieved your requirements!"

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"That's impossible! I definitely said -100000. Don't think you can pull one over on me just because I have a bad memory!"

Keegan was getting mad. "Since you know your memory isn't that great, how can you be so sure you're not remembering things wrong?"

"Because I have proof." Stella immediately began to present her case.

Keegan did not buy it for a second. He remembered clearly that Stella had said to start with -10000 when they were in the car. 'There's no way I'm mistaken.'

He waited for Stella to produce her evidence and was ready to see her embarrassed. However, instead of showing him an audio or video recording, she pulled out an entry in the notes app on her own phone.

"See for yourself." Stella pointed at the text and said, "I was giving you a discount when I said to start with a negative of a hundred thousand."

Keegan frowned and took the phone. As he read the list on the screen, his face turned pale.

[Keegan:

Good-looking +10

Short tempered -1

Pleasant voice +100

Forgot to call when he was out late -10

Gave me a birthday present +10000

Said I'm not his first love -100

Called out another woman's name when he had a fever – 10000

Threw out the food I cooked -10000

No longer likes me -100000...]

The list went on and on.

Keegan had experienced a fair share of ups and downs before, but Stella's list was one of his lowest. He never imagined that he would be scored like this. 'This is absolutely ridiculous!' he thought.

With a dark expression, Keegan gritted his teeth and said, "Called out another woman's name when I had a fever?"

Weren't you the one who misheard that?"

Stella hesitated and cleared her throat, "Well, let's not count that one."

Keegan pressed on. "Threw out the food you cooked? The food was spoiled!"

Stella fell silent. "...Alright, let's not count that either."

Keegan kept looking for loopholes. "You are my first love."

Stella quietly crossed out that item as well.

"Since when did I stop liking you?" Keegan pointed at the one with the most deducted points.

Stella quickly responded, "We've only been married for a short while. How well do you even know me? What do you even like about me?"

Keegan felt like he was going to explode. "Do you mean to say you chose our wedding day as the day I don't like you?"

"That date was just randomly chosen. It doesn't have anything to do with the points." Stella started to evade the questions.

Keegan stayed silent.

Stella glanced at him and asked, "Why aren't you saying anything?"

Keegan's face was expressionless. "Is there anything left for me to say?"

Stella stifled a laugh and continued, "Alright, alright. I'll end your probation, okay? You're such a petty person."

'Clearly, you're the one who remembers things wrongly, yet I'm the one being accused of being petty,' thought Keegan. 'But since I've been promoted...'

"About the remarriage..."

"My brother has my household register. If you want to remarry me, you'll have to figure out a way to retrieve the register from him," said Stella.

Hearing that, Keegan was at a loss for words.

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Sunlight Kindergarten shot to the top of trending topics due to the food safety incident. Parents started bombarding the school's group chat and demanded answers. Teachers remained clueless and were hesitant to respond. Lydia was a coward who proved herself as a money-minded opportunist. She did not dare show her face now that things were not going well.

Regardless of how the parents asked for an explanation in the group, Lydia remained silent and avoided the heat.

Unable to locate Lydia, the parents somehow managed to get hold of Hylda's number.

Hylda had just caught wind of the news about the school cafeteria, and she was still processing the shock. She could not believe that Lydia did not bother to give her a heads-up when the kindergarten was under inspection.

One minute, she was strategizing with Sophia about how to counter Stella's next move; the following minute, news about the kindergarten's kitchen safety was blowing up on social media.

As the parents flooded her with calls, Hylda was also on the hunt for Lydia. Hylda did not know what was going on at first. After picking up a call, she was met with harsh words from the parents.

"You heartless, low-life scum! What the hell have you been feeding my son?! You're making a fortune from this shady business. Aren't you afraid that it'll come back to haunt your own child?! Why don't you just kill yourself?"

Hylda's face turned dark, as she hung up. Before she could catch her breath, her phone rang again, displaying yet another unfamiliar local number.

Hylda hesitated to answer. But the parents were not willing to let her off the hook. Soon, a flurry of enraged messages showed up on her phone.

The parents were fuming, and their messages were highly unpleasant. Hylda's face turned pale from anger. She switched off her phone and

swapped it with another one. She then dashed out of the house without considering her recent miscarriage and incomplete physical recovery.

She hopped into the Audi A6 she had taken from the Jewell family and zoomed off toward Greenwood Grove.

At that point, there was no need to fight any more public opinion battles. Whether they won or lost against Stella was no longer important. The real urgency lay in the fact that Lydia's recklessness might lead to Hylda facing jail time.

Hylda's anger grew, as she drove to her destination. Back when they were co-managing the kindergarten, Hylda had proposed hiring a principal to oversee things.

Naturally, a principal would demand a higher salary than the average teacher. But, Lydia, the penny-pincher, did not want to cough up the extra cash. Instead, she volunteered to run the school.

She bragged about managing a relative's kindergarten before and being well-acquainted with the operations." Handling the kids will be a breeze," she claimed. "We only have to take care of their meals and entertainment."

Lydia also boasted about running a restaurant and being an excellent chef. She guaranteed that the children would be well-fed.

Hylda was skeptical but decided to give her a shot. She agreed to let Lydia manage the kindergarten for two months, with the understanding that if things did not pan out, they would immediately find a new principal.

Lydia eagerly agreed to the terms.

During those two months, Lydia's performance was commendable. However, Hylda noticed that she was being overly frugal with the ingredients. Moreover, she frequently asked the teachers to turn off the dormitory air conditioner during the summer. She claimed that she did not feel hot.

These two issues irked Hylda. She was practical and believed that they should not skimp on minor expenses when running a business. She was convinced that parents were willing to spend good money on their children's wellbeing. Even if tuition and meals had to be slightly more expensive, it would prevent complaints about their services.

Lydia promised to upgrade the ingredients and did so in no time. At that time, Hylda would inspect the cafeteria every now and then to ensure that Lydia was not lying behind her back. Satisfied, she began focusing more on her life after her marriage to Albert in the latter half of the previous year. Thus, her visits to the school cafeteria became less frequent.

Who would have guessed that the issue she had initially been concerned about would end up in such trouble?

'Lydia is such a nearsighted simpleton! I wouldn't have teamed up with that dim-witted liability if I wasn't lacking funds,' thought Hylda.

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'I can't believe we have to face all this trouble just to save a few thousand bucks on ingredients for a month!' Hylda's frustration bubbled up, as she contemplated the mess she was in. The thought of possible legal consequences and imprisonment had her blood boiling.

Soon, she made her way to Sunlight Kindergarten and saw a swarm of parents surrounding the school entrance. Hylda parked her car at a distance and put on a pair of sunglasses and a mask before getting out of her vehicle.

While she was approaching the commotion, she overheard parents hurling insults and profanities. With her mask firmly in place, Hylda moved past the distressed parents and headed toward a yard adjacent to the kindergarten.

She knocked on the door, but no one answered. Unfazed, Hylda pulled out a key from her bag and entered the building.

After closing the door behind her, she removed her mask and fiercely walked into the place. Meanwhile, Lydia was helping her daughter and husband pack their belongings. She remained oblivious to the commotion outside.

Pack up everything valuable. A car will come for them tonight," she said.

Hylda had a stern expression, as she inquired, "And, just what do you think you're doing?"

Startled, Lydia clutched her chest dramatically and stared at Hylda with wide eyes. “Oh, my God! You scared the life out of me!” she said.

Hylda looked at the bags that were all over the floor, and her tone turned cold. “You’re planning to leave when things go south? No strings attached?”

Lydia’s gaze wavered slightly, as she responded, “Hylda, aren’t you supposed to be resting at home? Why are you suddenly here?”

“Why am I here? If I hadn’t shown up, you’d probably be fleeing with your whole family, leaving me to clean up this mess, right?” Hylda sneered.

Swiftly, Lydia protested, “It’s not like that. The parents are overreacting and causing a fuss. I want to escape the chaos and live a quiet life.”

“A quiet life? Do you really think that’s possible right now? I distinctly remember warning you about your use of ingredients. Why did you have to cut corners?”

Naturally, Lydia refused to admit her mistake. “You can’t just pin this on me, Hylda. Why would I care about a small amount of money when I already have a house and a car? It’s definitely one of our runners.”

Hylda sneered and said, “They wouldn’t dare to do something like this without your instructions. Should I call in the finance team to clear things up?”

Lydia felt guilty upon hearing that, but she quickly resumed her defense.

“Come on, these parents are just making a fuss out of nothing. The kids have been eating the same food for so long, and they’re perfectly fine. Besides, my family and I have been eating cafeteria food too. Why would we do that if there was something wrong with the ingredients?”

Hylda chuckled in annoyance. “It’s fine if you find this shit tastes good, but don’t sell it to others. You’re a foolish woman, Lydia. The samples from the cafeteria have been sent for testing. Once it is found that the harmful ingredients exceed the limit, this won’t be something apologies and compensation could solve. By then, you can look forward to jail time!”

Lydia turned pale at the mention of being locked up. “I-I-Is it really that serious? Please don’t scare me.”

“Would I have come all this way if it weren’t? Would I have repeatedly reminded you not to cut costs from the food? Just think about it!”

Hylde was not entirely righteous either. She had intentionally chosen small, narrow beds for the school’s dorm so that the children would complain to their parents about how uncomfortable the beds were. This would then lead to increased facility fees to accommodate the children’s needs. Even the toys and classroom chairs were specifically designed for the same outcome. However, she drew the line at their meals.

Lydia knew that Hylde had recently suffered a miscarriage and had not fully recovered. ‘Her swift arrival is undoubtedly triggered by this crisis,¹ she thought. Soon, the realization sent panic coursing through her veins.

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“I got caught up in the moment. I never thought that things would escalate like this. Hylde, you know a lot of influential people. Can you find someone to help with the situation? I can’t go to prison,¹” said Lydia.

Hylde gave her a skeptical glance and sighed, “I came here to deal with this matter. I’ve already reached out to a friend who might be able to do something. He suggested I gather information about who was involved, who you instructed to buy the ingredients, and who else was aware of it. We need to deal with these individuals first.”

Although Lydia might appear assertive, she lacked decisionmaking skills. Upon hearing that Hylde had someone on the job, she immediately spilled the beans. Hylde listened intently. But little did Lydia know that Hylde was secretly recording the conversation with her phone tucked away in her bag.

Sunlight Kindergartens food safety had gained nationwide attention at that point. The case warranted immediate action and a thorough explanation to the public.

Related departments in Rivera worked overtime to get things done. By 8:00 a.m. the next day, an official statement detailing the testing results was released.

The investigation revealed that the samples from Sunlight Kindergarten had exceeded permissible levels of aflatoxin, E. coli, and benzopyrene. Additionally, there were elevated counts of bacteria in the commonly used kitchen utensils, along with unacceptable levels of mold and pesticide residues.

The netizens were immediately woken up by the shocking results.

This isn't just a kindergarten cafeteria; it's a toxic chamber fit for evil people,' many thought.

The city authorities swiftly formed a dedicated task force to handle the Sunlight Kindergarten food safety crisis.

As Lydia waited for Hylda's friend to aid in the mess, she received an invitation from the police to go to the station.

During Lydia's interrogation, Hylda published an edited version of their recorded conversation online. The recording caused another round of heated discussion on the internet.

Meanwhile, Stella was lying in bed and scrolling through the comments. Her expression grew darker by the second.

Hylda's cunning and deceitful ways had become evident. Seeing the irreparable she distanced herself from the issue and made Lydia the scapegoat.

Lydia is just a pawn now,' thought Stella. She was certain that Hylda, who ruthlessly eliminated any obstacle in her path, must have had a hand in Rainee's accident.

When Keegan entered the room with a glass of water, he spotted his girlfriend sulking on the bed. "What's wrong?" he asked, as he placed the water on the bedside table. He then sat beside Stella and held her hand.

"Hylde is pinning everything on Lydia and removing herself from the matter," Stella sighed.

Keegan let out a brief chuckle.

Stella was confused. "What's so funny?"

Keegan looked at her and said, "I find it amusing that you're missing the point when you're usually so perceptive. The drama will only continue if she stays out of this. Your stepmother is smart. You have to be quick on your feet;

don't give her room to breathe. Once she gets involved in the food safety case, the land issue will cool down. And, she will have to join forces with Albert. Then, how are you going to proceed?"

Stella let out a sigh and said, "I get your point, but it's just infuriating that she's getting away with such a vile act."

"Remember the driver Marshall mentioned? It's now his time to shine," said Keegan.

The thought of Hylde's current predicament brought a fleeting smile to Stella's lips, brightening her mood. Just as she was about to speak, her phone rang.

It was Trevor on the line.

Stella sat up and answered the call. "Hey, Trevor."

Trevor's heart melted when he heard her voice. Jaylene's voice was much softer and gentler than Stella's, but there was still a distinct difference between them. Whenever

Stella called him, he felt an intense urge to provide the best for her.

"Stella, are you available tomorrow? It's Jaylene's birthday, and we've organized a celebration at a countryside spa resort. She'd love to have you join us. Would you be

interested to attend?" Trevor's voice carried warmth, as he spoke.

Perhaps sensing Stella's hesitation, Trevor added, "You know most of the guests. And, of course, it's completely okay to reject the invitation if you're not comfortable with it."

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Jaylene probably sees me as part of the family. Maybe that's why she invited me.' Stella pondered for a moment and said, "Tell her I'll be there and help me wish her an early happy birthday."

"Alright. Don't worry about the gift. I'll take care of it. I'll swing by to pick you up tomorrow afternoon," said Trevor.

Stella felt a mix of emotions. Sounds good," she said.

Once she hung up, she noticed Keegan sitting on the edge of the bed, observing her. "What's on your mind?" Stella inquired.

"I want to go with you," Keegan replied.

Stella raised an eyebrow and grabbed the glass of water on the side. "Are you close with Jaylene?"

"I'll attend as your family member," said Keegan.

Pfft-" Stella almost choked on her water. She looked at the confident man across from her and wiped off the water droplets from the corner of her lips. She narrowed her eyes and asked, "She didn't send a separate invitation to you?"

Keegan frowned and said, "Why would she personally invite me?"

"Come on, don't you remember the whole blind date incident where you lied to me and said that you were working late?"

"When did I..." Keegan paused, and it dawned on him. It was the day when Aurora had scalded Leighton with hot water. Dahlia had tricked him into believing that his father's old friend had arrived in Rivera, and she asked him

to come along. Much to his surprise, he discovered that it was a setup for a blind date.

Thinking back, Keegan could not help but smile. “Your memory is so selective. Why do you remember this incident so vividly?”

Stella snorted, “I have an excellent memory for grudges! You tricked me into thinking you were working late. I even ordered food for you because I was worried you didn’t eat. Yet, it turns out you were out on a blind date!”

It wasn’t a blind date. I only found out that Jaylene was there when I arrived. I think she might have been coerced into it by her family too,” Keegan clarified.

Stella was skeptical. “And, how do you know that? Did she tell you?”

Keegan shook his head. “No... But, given that Jaylene comes from a wealthy family, she wouldn’t rush into marrying someone who just got divorced, right?”

Hearing that, Stella was momentarily at a loss for words. She was not sure if Keegan was slow or if she was being overly sensitive.

Stella pressed her lips together and asked, “Did you two have a conversation that day?”

Keegan nodded. “Yeah, we exchanged a few words.”

“About?” Stella probed.

“We talked about tea, and she asked me which type I prefer,” Keegan answered in a low voice.

Stella found that a little weird.

Keegan continued, “I told her I like Da Hong Pao Tea.”

Stella could not help but raise an eyebrow, thinking that it was too early to discuss each other’s interests. She felt frustrated.

Following that, Keegan said, “And then, I mentioned that you make fantastic tea eggs using Da Hong Pao Tea.”

Stella was taken aback.

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Stella could not suppress her laughter. “You must be teasing her, right?”

Keegan glanced at her and said, “Do I look like the kind who’d do that intentionally?”

“No, you’re not. But that makes it all the more heartbreaking for the other party,” thought Stella.

After a moment of contemplation, she decided to give her clueless boyfriend a hint. “Honey, have you noticed that Jaylene seems interested in you?”

Keegan looked surprised. “Are you trying to accuse me of something again?”

Stella hit him and looked him in the eyes before she said, “I’m serious!”

Keegan furrowed his brows, as he pondered the idea. He genuinely could not figure out how Stella came to the conclusion of Jaylene’s supposed interest in him.

He had only interacted with the Saun family a few times. Wenham got remarried six years after Freesia’s death, and Keegan first encountered Jaylene during his first year of high school. At that time, he shared a class with Trevor, and Jaylene had always tagged along.

Keegan did not dislike Jaylene but was not attracted to her either. The lack of fondness, however, was not directed at Jaylene herself but rather at the complications she brought along. Jaylene had asthma, and with her around, Trevor was always preoccupied with her health, making it difficult for them to enjoy their teenage years to the fullest. As a result, Keegan rarely accepted Trevor’s invitations to hang out.

And, even when he did, he would make sure to leave early if Trevor had his little sister with him.

Later on, Jaylene’s condition worsened, and the Saun family moved abroad. He did not see her again for ten years. His memories of her were frozen in time. All he recalled was her as a sick child with a frail body.

As for Stella's claim about Jaylene being interested in me, I don't really see it. Does giving me a bracelet count as her being interested? I've already paid her for it, though, I thought Keegan.

Considering how sensitive the topic was, Keegan threaded lightly. "Are you because of her relationship with the Saun family?"

Hearing that, Stella was speechless. "I'm not THAT petty. Jaylene came into the family through Wenham's remarriage, unlike Sophia, who was a result of Albert's affair. Jaylene has been in the family for twenty years. Meanwhile, I've just come into the family. Who am I to say that I dislike her?"

Keegan fell silent for a moment.

Stella was now a part of the Saun family, but she still maintained some distance from both the Sauns and the Halls, except for Trevor. Even though her excitement about having these newfound relatives was evident in her words, the bond she missed out on for so many years could not be made up for so quickly. She would unconsciously separate herself from the Saun family whenever she mentioned them.

Keegan held her hand gently, and his warmth gradually comforted her. "You have every right to like or dislike whoever you want. You're a part of the Saun family. Forget about being a newcomer. No matter how long Jaylene has been with the family, she could never take away the place you hold in the hearts of your loved ones," he said in a soft tone.

His words left Stella a little taken aback. After some time, she put her arms around him and said, "You seem to understand me better lately."

Keegan kissed her on the head and said, "That's because I love you."

His unexpected declaration of love made Stella's heart race. She could not help but smile. "Actually, I don't hate Jaylene. I'm just a bit uncomfortable with her having feelings for you. After all, you're mine."

Hearing that, Keegan's heart fluttered. "Your insecurities stem from not having the special bond of marriage. Once we get married, those thoughts won't bother you as much," he murmured.

Stella was dumbfounded. 'I can't believe he's trying to persuade me to get married right now!'

Read Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 1300 [Eleven Jewell]

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After some persuasion from Keegan, Stella finally agreed to let him accompany her to Jaylene's birthday celebration. However, she pointed out that Trevor would pick her up the next day, and she was unsure if he would allow him to join the ride.

Meanwhile, at the Saun residence, Jaylene's group of friends were helping her choose the perfect outfit for her upcoming birthday party. The group was led by Molly, and most of them were young socialites who used to hang out with Aurora.

Aurora's freedom had been restricted by her family lately, which meant she could not attend many social events. As a result, her friends started to grow closer to Jaylene.

While Jaylene typically dressed rather modestly, her walk-in closet was nothing short of grand. It was adorned with limited-edition pieces crafted by elusive designers. Anyone with a keen sense of fashion would recognize the extravagance of her collection.

The girls buzzed with excitement, debating which outfit would be the most fitting for the occasion. Since it was a birthday banquet, Jaylene needed to have several options to choose from.

During the discussions, Molly noticed how quiet Jaylene was. She turned her head and saw the birthday girl on the couch, staring blankly at her phone.

Molly walked over and noticed the screen of Jaylene's phone, displaying a conversation labeled (Mr. Kane]. Jaylene had sent numerous messages inquiring about his availability and inviting him to her birthday celebration. Even though the messages were sent two days ago, there was still no response. Seeing how desperate Jaylene was, the only Mr. Kane that Molly could think of was Keegan.

She sat next to Jaylene and suggested that she put on the outfits. "We have several options lined up for you," she said.

Then, Jaylene snapped back to her senses. She locked her phone screen and offered a faint smile. “The makeup artist is coming over tomorrow morning. I’ll try them on by then. It’s too much trouble to switch into multiple outfits right now.”

Molly nodded and asked, ‘ Did you invite Aurora?’”

“Of course. I even called her on the phone, but she said she was in the middle of her internship. And Keegan doesn’t want her to attend social events in the meantime.”

Molly clicked her tongue and stated, “Keegan sure is controlling.”

“He’s just looking out for Aurora’s best interests,” Jaylene instinctively defended him.

Molly glanced at her and was about to say something when a knock sounded on the door. It then swung open, and Trevor stepped into the room.

Trevor saw that the room was filled with girls and hesitated for a moment before he said, Jaylene, can I have a quick word with you?”

Jaylene put her phone aside and stood up. Molly bit her lips and walked to the door, ready to eavesdrop.

Trevor and Jaylene did not go far. They stopped in the hallway that was just a short distance from the walk-in closet. Molly could faintly hear Stella’s name being mentioned during their conversation and frowned.

After a brief exchange, Jaylene returned to her friends. They huddled around her and could not help but exclaim,” Jaylene, your brother is so handsome.”

“He’s not just handsome; he’s gorgeous.”

Yeah. He’s breathtakingly gorgeous. But I think he’s gay.”

“Stop making things up. My brother is straight,” Jaylene scolded playfully.

Then, one of her friends said, “He makes any woman who stands beside him feel ugly. I can’t imagine who’d be worthy of him.”

“The only person I can think of is Stella Jewell,” said another.

Jaylene was stunned to hear that. Soon, she fell silent.

“If we’re talking about appearance alone, there are plenty of attractive people in showbiz. Trevor runs his own entertainment company, so he must have met countless beautiful women. I don’t think he’d be that shallow to only focus on looks,” Molly snorted.