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Stella then stood up and headed to the kitchen with the strawberries in her hand.

Coincidentally, Aurora came down from upstairs. Stella paused, asking, "Are you going out?"

Aurora glanced at her and ignored her.

Stella asked again, "I'm making strawberry pudding for Keegan. Do you want some?"

Aurora hesitated for a moment and casually replied, "I don't care."

Stella gritted her teeth, 'If it weren't for you doing me a favor these past two days, I wouldn't even talk to you!' She took a deep breath, telling herself not to argue with Aurora, Tm pregnant and have to keep myself happy, happy... It Stella had not cooked anything in a long time, so she was afraid of messing it up. She called Felicity to get the recipe again and then started working.

Meanwhile, Felicity had just hung up the phone and told Vermont, "After Stella got pregnant, it seems like she's become more amiable. She used to hate Aurora, but just now, on the phone, she even said she would make strawberry pudding for her. Can pregnancy hormones have such a big impact?"

While turning the steering wheel, Vermont smiled and said, "She's matured.

Aurora is Keegan's sister, after all. They can't possibly avoid each other forever, can they? Aurora is just spoiled by her uncultured mother. She's not like Molly; her nature isn't that bad.

"When Keegan just graduated and started his company, he was short on funds.

His mother took away all his funds, claiming she wanted to invest in a beauty salon. When Keegan went to ask her for it, not only did he not get it, but he was also scolded. I was with him then, and her words were pretty harsh.

“Keegan is a reserved person. Even if he’s treated unfairly, he won’t go to his grandmother to complain. Once his grandmother learned about it, Dahlia would get in trouble. She dared not to cross Mrs. Kane Sr., but she sure had her ways to deal with Keegan. That was why the same thing kept happening.

“So, he approached us to borrow some money. We didn’t have much savings at that time, and it was barely enough. Aurora came to me, took out all her savings from over the years, and asked me to give it to Keegan, which resolved his urgent situation at that time.

“Although she benefited from Dahlia’s so-called investment, she wasn’t the instigator. When their father was still okay, the siblings had a good relationship.

But when their father passed away and Dahlia took Aurora away, everything changed.

“Keegan despises Dahlia, but toward Aurora, it’s more of disappointment than hatred. He simply expected more from her. When he sent her to be locked up, he did not feel good. He didn’t express it in front of Stella, worried she’d think he was biased. The truth is, he blamed himself for spoiling Aurora too much.

“But I honestly don’t think it’s a bad thing. She needs to know that not everything can be solved with her family’s money. If she held onto such thoughts, something worse is bound to happen sooner or later.”

Felicity sneered, “You two grew up together; of course, you’ll speak up for her.

When Stella went to their house previously, Aurora would always cause her trouble. She was always speaking impolitely and being disrespectful. Although she’s living in Keegan’s house without causing any drama now, I still think she’s up to something bad.”

Vermont smiled, ‘ Your bestie isn’t a pushover. She could always start a fight if she wants to. Though Aurora acted like she was all that in the last few years, how often did she put Stella in a disadvantageous position?’

Felicity thought about it and realized it was true. Suddenly, she was not as worried anymore. Then, she looked at the increasingly unfamiliar road and frowned, “Where are you taking me?”

“For a meal.” Vermont smiled. “We’re going to Xander Raynor’s engagement banquet. At first, I didn’t want to go. Then, I heard that their designated chef for the engagement banquet is a famous Luwanese chef. So, I thought of bringing you there to taste it and see if you can learn a few cooking tricks for me at home.”

Felicity’s mouth twitched, “Am I your nanny?”

Vermont smirked, “You’re my everything.”

Just as they were talking, they arrived at their destination. Vermont parked the car, opened the door, and extended his hand, “My everything, please step out of the car.”

Felicity laughed as she kicked him. Then, she jumped out of the car.

The Marriott was a top-notch five-star hotel in Rivera. Wedding banquets there had to be booked at least two months in advance.

Felicity followed Vermont into the elevator, and they reached the banquet hall.

Felicity pushed the door open, but before she could marvel at the luxurious decorations, she spotted Keegan, nicely dressed and walking hand-in-hand with Jaylene.

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Felicity’s eyes widened as she grabbed Vermont, who was about to make a beeline for the dining table, “Tell me, Vermont. Who’s the guy Jaylene is arm-in-arm with?”

“Huh?” Vermont was confused. He looked in the direction she was pointing and thought, ‘Fuck.’ “Jaylene? Where?” He asked.

Felicity’s lip twitched, “You stinky cucumber! You’re truly loyal to Keegan, huh?”

You’re lying straight to my face, and you think you’ve got a shot with me? Dream on!”

As she spoke, she pushed him away and tried to storm off.

“I was just kidding, Felicity. Why take it so seriously? I’m not blind. I see those two clearly,” Vermont said as he hurriedly followed her.

He knew he could not stop Keegan from digging his own grave, ‘It’s better if I focus on my problems.’ Felicity scowled and gritted her teeth, “Stella just called, asking for a strawberry pudding recipe. She said it’s Keegan’s favorite. But what’s going on here? She’s at home, playing the ideal wife while being pregnant, and Keegan is arm-in-arm with that pretentious witch at someone else’s engagement party!

“Is he really suffering from amnesia, or is he possessed? Can’t he see through Jaylene’s tricks? Or do guys just have a soft spot for pretentious bitches?”

Vermont clung to her, looking wronged, “Baby, it’s fine that you’re mad at him, but leave the rest of us out of it. Just look at me. Do I seem like the type to fall for someone like her?”

Felicity shot him a disdainful look, “You’re worse than Keegan! At least he’s got taste and chose Stella. What about you? You can’t resist a good figure. You’ve dated all kinds of women. You don’t even care about their personalities!”

Vermont was taken aback, “I’m dating you, aren’t I? Feel free to criticize me, but why put yourself down in the process?”

Felicity’s face turned red. She reached out to strangle him, but Vermont put his arm around her waist and whispered in her ear, “How can you say I have a bad taste when the person I’m attracted to is adorable, an excellent cook, and morally upright? She’s highly skilled in various areas and can even handle me when I’ve had few too many drinks. She makes me feel completely secure.”

Felicity blushed with anger as she recalled an unpleasant past. She elbowed Vermont and took out her phone, saying, “I’ll send Stella a video of Keegan hanging out with that pretentious witch!”

Vermont grabbed her mobile device and held it above her head, ‘Keegan and Stella are making progress in their relationship. You’ll be causing them trouble if you tell her. What if they end up having an argument?’

Felicity could not reach her phone. Frustrated, she poked Vermont's waist and said, "You men sure know how to cover for each other! There's no need to be afraid of Stella finding out if Keegan is really in the right."

"Even if he isn't, you shouldn't fan the flames."

Felicity was furious upon hearing that, "How am I fanning the flames? I saw them together with my own two eyes."

"Yeah. But didn't you see Keegan pushing Jaylene away? I'm sure he wouldn't act so indiscreetly, even with amnesia. We don't know the ins and outs of the situation, Felicity. What if it's all a misunderstanding? Stella is pregnant. If emotions run high, she'll end up in the hospital—"

"Shut it! You'll be the one ending up in the hospital!" Felicity exploded in anger.

Vermont rubbed her back and said, "Miss bandit, I know you're worried about them, but it's important to stay calm. Keegan has lost a crucial part of his memory; he's vulnerable right now. Stella must be aware of it, which is why she's not insisting on marriage despite being pregnant. That's why she only asked to stay at Royalpark Villa.

"Did you forget what we discussed when Keegan had his accident?" He continued.

Felicity's expression stiffened.

"Even though we may not be able to offer much help right now, we can coordinate our efforts. We shouldn't create chaos. Jaylene hid the fact that she knew where Keegan was, yet Stella didn't confront her about it. I'm sure she's aware of the potential consequences of her actions."

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Felicity hesitated before finally voicing her concern, "But what if Keegan falls for Jaylene during this time?"

Her question amused Vermont. He answered, “Baby, Jaylene and Keegan go way back. They’re childhood friends. If Keegan had feelings for her, he wouldn’t have gotten together with Stella. I will personally show Jaylene the way out if Keegan ever betrays your best friend.”

Vermont’s response left Felicity surprised. He certainly had a way with words.

Despite Felicity’s initial resentment, she somewhat agreed with Vermont after his persuasive spiel. Finally, she pressed her lips together and said after a while, “If you don’t follow through—”

“I’ll never be able to have children,” Vermont interjected, completing the latter half of her sentence.

Felicity’s anger toward him dissipated.

Vermont took her hand and said, “Let’s go. It’s time to see why Keegan is hanging out with Jaylene.”

Jaylene handed Keegan a glass of wine, “Keegan, try this. It’s a special selection from a winery abroad. It tastes exceptionally good.”

Keegan took the glass and gently swirled it around. The sweet fragrance of the red wine wafted out gradually.”

Smells good,” he complimented.

Holding her wine glass, Jaylene smiled and clinked it against his, “Give it a taste.”

Keegan lowered his eyes, holding the glass as if he was about to take a sip.

Just then, Vermont’s voice came from nearby, “Ms. Saun, Keegan, what a coincidence.”

Jaylene turned around and saw Vermont with Felicity by his side. They were standing a short distance away, smiling.

Vermont glanced at the red wine next to Jaylene and said, “If I remember correctly, the aroma of this wine is one of Caline’s blends. It was even showcased at a famous wine auction.”

Jaylene smiled faintly, “You’re so well-informed, Mr. Snyder.”

Vermont shrugged, "It's all useless knowledge." He paused momentarily and added, "Could this be your creation, Ms. Saun?"

"I'm not that talented, just fortunate enough to be involved," Jaylene appeared modest, but the slight raise of her chin and her hand resting together revealed a hint of superiority.

Felicity felt a sense of disdain. She lifted her eyes only to catch Keegan discreetly pouring the red wine from his glass into the dark-colored napkin beside him. He then raised the glass and took a small sip, saying, "The wine tastes excellent."

Felicity was puzzled. She had only seen Stella do this to avoid drinking back in the day.

'What is Keegan up to? Why did he pretend that he drank it?' Her mind filled with questions. But she could only puff up her cheeks and observe the situation from the sidelines.

Seeing Keegan finish, Jaylene was delighted and poured another glass of white wine for him, "Keegan, this one is good too. Why don't you give it a try?"

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Keegan took the glass and sampled the wine before downing the rest. He casually picked up a tissue and wiped his lips. Felicity observed as the tissue slowly soaked wet before Keegan disposed of it.

"Not bad," Keegan commented.

Jaylene finished her drink with a bright smile on her face, "The groom really loves wine. He personally chose the drinks for this banquet. Each table has a different selection of wine, but they all taste exceptional."

She gestured for a waiter and ordered another drink, "Keegan, do you want to try this one? It's a fruit wine but packs more punch in terms of alcohol content. It also has a richer aroma."

Keegan accepted it. He sniffed and said softly, "It's very fragrant. I can smell the fruit."

Jaylene smiled, "It's my favorite."

After a brief pause, Keegan raised the glass and finished it in one go. He sipped some water and remarked, “The taste is a bit bitter. It’s not as impressive as the previous two.”

Jaylene chuckled. “That’s because you downed it too quickly. Fruit wine should be slowly savored,” she said and demonstrated to Keegan.

Uninterested in Jaylene’s theatrics, Felicity stood on her tiptoes and glanced at Keegan’s glass.

As expected, it was half full just a moment ago, but the wine somehow increased despite him taking a sip earlier.

‘Did he spit the wine back into the glass?’ thought Felicity. She was sure Stella must have taught Keegan how to avoid alcohol.

‘He’s using the same techniques she used back when we were in school. But doesn’t he have amnesia? How did he remember these tricks? Moreover, why is he avoiding the drinks Jaylene is offering him?’ Felicity had a complex gaze at the thought of that.

“Ms. Saun, don’t just cater to Keegan. I like drinking too. Why don’t you give me some suggestions?” Vermont playfully said.

Jaylene smiled faintly, “Given your active presence in the business realm and your wide circle of acquaintances, I’m sure you’ve tried a variety of wines. I wouldn’t want to suggest something you’re already familiar with, Mr. Snyder.”

“Well, I never get to savor the taste when drinking during business. Despite looking like I drink a lot, I don’t know much about wine.”

He then pulled Felicity over and continued, “My girlfriend also doesn’t know much about it either. You might as well recommend us a few drinks that couples normally choose.”

Felicity’s eyebrows twitched. She glared at him, her gaze saying, “Who said I’m your girlfriend?”

Vermont held her waist tightly, signaling her to play along.

Jaylene glanced at Felicity and chuckled, “Your taste is indeed... unique, Mr. Snyder.”

She had only seen Felicity a few times, mostly when Stella was present.

She knew about her relationship with Stella but did not understand why they were still friends after the Sauns announced Stella's return.

From Jaylene's perspective, Felicity lacked the standard feminine traits. She was impolite and spoke crudely. 'How does someone as ordinary as her have the confidence to mingle in our circle?' Naturally, Jaylene disliked Felicity, i

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Felicity was not naive. Usually, hearing such words would have triggered her anger. However, she managed to keep her cool due to Vermont's advice.

If this had happened elsewhere, Felicity would have unleashed a verbal storm on Jaylene without a second thought. Yet, surrounded by Stella's acquaintances, Felicity exercised restraint to avoid embarrassing her friend.

"Ms. Saun, you, too, have a unique taste. Most of my friends prefer single and unmarried individuals. This is the first time I've encountered someone who appreciates divorced men with girlfriends." ' Jaylene's expression stiffened.

Felicity batted her eyelashes and continued, "Is this a particular preference of yours? I happen to know quite a few divorced men. Do you want me to introduce them to you? Though, my friends have higher standards. It might not work out between you two if they have girlfriends. Of course, some with questionable morals might be more to your liking.

Jaylene's face darkened.

Felicity expected Jaylene to make a scene and reveal her true colors to everyone. However, Jaylene only clenched her fists and tried to control her emotions. Red-eyed, she said, "I don't understand why you harbor such strong ill will toward me, Ms. Thompson. Is it because of Stella? If she has any grievances against me, she can express them directly. There's no need to have her friend say these things to me. I've always believed that Keegan's safety is more important than anything. I never expected Stella to make such a big deal out of this."

The buzzing crowd surrounding them began to murmur in response to Jaylene's words. The discussion centered on Stella being overly petty.

To them, Jaylene had saved Keegan's life, yet Stella seemed unable to accept that. Not only was she jealous of Jaylene and Keegan, but she even had her friend criticize her.

Felicity's lips twitched.

Never in her life had she encountered a hypocrite like Jaylene, whose agenda went beyond bringing Stella down and extended to creating conflict in their relationship.

"You pretentious bi-"

Before Felicity could complete her sentence, Vermont pinched her cheeks and said, "Everything always comes out wrong when you say it. Ms. Saun doesn't need your help to find a partner. Keegan is right here, isn't he?"

Felicity was about to protest, but Vermont continued, "Did you forget what Keegan posted on his social media? He treats Ms. Saun like a sister. He'd help her find a partner if she's looking. You don't need to do anything."

Felicity's gaze shifted, and she stopped resisting.

However, Jaylene's expression was a vivid display of mixed emotions.

A few days ago, screenshots of Keegan's post had circulated in their group. His message was clear-he and Jaylene stood no chance.

When Jaylene saw the screenshot, she felt like she had been slapped in the face. She felt worse now that Vermont was bringing it up in front of so many people.

Jaylene's lips quivered, and her complexion turned unpleasant.

She looked at Keegan, hoping for some reassurance, but he rubbed his temples, appearing rather uncomfortable. Seeing Jaylene looking over, he stood up and said, "Jaylene, excuse me for a moment. I need to go to the restroom."

Jaylene had no choice but to swallow her grievances. "Be careful, Keegan," she said.

Keegan responded and left.

“Mr. Snyder, have you had too much to drink? Shall I support you?” Felicity mimicked Jaylene’s tone and asked Vermont.

Vermont draped his arm over her shoulder, smiling, “You’re so strong. Why don’t you just carry me?”

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Seeing that Vermont was about to pounce on her, Felicity immediately dodged his playful advance.

Jaylene watched the duo leave with a stern face, her fingers gradually clenching into a fist.

Once they were out of earshot, Felicity nudged Vermont, “Hey, did you notice anything odd about Keegan?”

Vermont pondered for a moment and nodded, “Yeah, something does seem off.”

Felicity’s eyes lit up, “What’s off?”

“His looks are off the charts.”

Felicity gritted her teeth and poked Vermont’s waist, “You stinky cucumber! I’m being serious. Can’t you go a day without being so cheeky?”

“Ouch. That hurts,” Vermont grabbed her hand and rubbed his waist. “I was just kidding around. There’s no need for violence.”

Felicity glared at him.

Vermont put up his hands in surrender and said, “Whether or not he’s acting strange, let’s just pretend we didn’t see anything.”

Felicity widened her eyes, “You—”

Vermont covered her mouth and grinned, “Let’s eat, baby.

I’m starving.”

“All you do is eat. Why aren’t you gaining weight with all the food you consume?”

“Well, there’s a secret passed down in our family.”

Felicity looked skeptical, “A secret?”

“Yeah. It’s rare to come across naturally slender individuals. Given my eating habits and limited physical activity, I have to implement certain tactics to sustain this incredible physique.”

Felicity’s eyes sparkled, “Tell me more. I want to get thinner, too!”

“Actually, everyone in my family has this bug in our bodies that makes us skinny.

This bug usually spreads through bodily fluids. For example, if you kiss me, you can lose a pound or two in a week. If you go a bit further, you can lose at least four or five pounds a week. The deeper the interaction, the faster the weight loss,” Vermont teased.

Felicity was speechless.

“What if I bite off a piece of your flesh? Then I will have the bug too and lose ten pounds in a week!” she sneered.

Vermont hesitated, ‘ Baby, this is supposed to be romantic. Don’t make it sound so terrifying.”

Felicity slapped away his hand, her face dark, “How many girls have you fooled with those words?”

Vermont sighed and chuckled, “You’re the first. I just want to make you happy.”

It was the truth. Vermont did not talk much in his previous relationships. His ex girlfriends were usually the ones who coaxed and spoiled him. He was attracted to their good looks and physique, while they were attracted to his money.

If any wanted Vermont to coax them, he would break up with them.

Looking back, he acknowledged that his behavior was a bit questionable. But, he was not fully invested in those relationships then.

But it was different with Felicity. Vermont was happy to indulge her, make her happy, and say things that amuse her.

Felicity snorted. It was unclear if she believed him.

Keegan returned not long after leaving, accompanied by Aurora. His face was a bit flushed, probably from drinking too much. Aurora and Jaylene sat together with him in between them, chatting happily. This made Felicity increasingly uneasy.

Jaylene was not a good person, and Aurora was not much better. The two seemed to get along well, chatting and laughing.

Felicity was even more uncomfortable witnessing this.

After the engagement ceremony, the bride and groom had a toast with the guests.

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Felicity noticed that Vermont, who was usually talkative, appeared exceptionally composed during the toasting session.

“Aren’t you a sentimental man, Mr. Snyder? Bringing your current girlfriend to your ex-girlfriend’s engagement banquet,” Jaylene suddenly remarked.

Felicity’s body tensed, and she shot Vermont a sharp look.

She had noticed the bride glancing her way continuously, ‘What an ass! I can’t believe he chose to humiliate me like this!’ With a cold expression, Vermont said, “Ms. Saun, we’re at Xander’s engagement banquet. Please choose your words carefully.”

Jaylene chuckled, “I was just making conversation. Mr. Raynor wouldn’t have invited you if he minded your presence.”

Felicity looked at the tasty dishes before her, but her appetite was completely gone.

Vermont grabbed a piece of fish for Felicity and whispered, “It’s boneless. Try it.”

Felicity took a deep breath and thought, 'That pretentious witch is just trying to create conflict between us. There's no reason for me to get upset.'¹ She forced a smile, thanked him, and began eating.

After some drinks, Vermont received a call and left the room.

Seeing the couple across from her, Felicity lost her appetite. She decided to step out for some fresh air.

As soon as she reached the corridor, Felicity saw a woman hugging Vermont from behind.

She felt betrayed. She was ready to confront them, but a group of people beat her to it. With phones and cameras in hand, they rushed out and began filming the two.

Felicity was pushed to the side, dumbfounded. A man came out, pointing at the woman hugging Vermont, and exclaimed, "Elsa, how could you?! How could you fool around with another man at our engagement banquet?!" Felicity squinted to get a better look, 'Good Lord. Isn't that the groom-to-be?

What is going on?' Elsa Frost clung to Vermont, her eyes red, "I don't like you, Xander. The engagement was forced on me. Now that you've found out, I have nothing to say. Let's call off the engagement."

The man sneered, "In your dreams! I will only be widowed, not divorced!"

Felicity was taken aback upon hearing that. The dialogue sounded oddly familiar.

She surveyed the bizarre and melodramatic love triangle, finding it increasingly strange, 'How can the groom-to-be be so sure that his partner is cheating when I've just seen her hug Vermont?' Reporters swarmed around the area, eagerly pushing their phones into Vermont's face.

"Mr. Snyder, is it true that you're the third person in Mr. Raynor and Ms. Frost's relationship?"

"Mr. Snyder, why were you hugging the bride-to-be at her engagement party?

What was going through your mind?"

“Rumor has it that Ms. Frost is your first love. Did you attend this banquet to win her back?”

“Mr. Snyder, we heard that the watch on your wrist is a token of love from Ms. Frost. Is it true that, after all these years, you still have lingering feelings for her?”

Felicity could not believe her ears. She was ready to catch them in the act, but with each progressively absurd question, she started to feel like it was a set-up.

That watch was a gift Vermont bought for himself when he earned his first salary.

Felicity remembered him proudly telling her about it, even showing her the receipt to boast.

“I spent one-third of the money in my bank account that day. I regretted it overnight and went to return it. But they told me since it had been used, I’d have to pay extra for a refund, which is absurd. In the end, I had to keep it.”

‘Since when did that watch become a token of love from his first love?’ □