

## **Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 1981 [Eleven Jewell]**

In the movie, the stage lights shone on her face, while her entire body remained in the shadows as if it was trying to tell the audience something.

The scene then rewound to thirty years ago, and it focused on the hands that poison the roommate.

The hands were large with popping green veins, and there was a yellow female headband on the wrist. It was identical to the ones that the girls wore during their final dance on stage.

Then, the movie ended abruptly.

As for who the culprit was, the movie left it to the audience's speculation.

The cliffhanger immediately made the audience discuss who the culprit was.

Some said that it was Ralph, who was played by Leighton because the hands looked like they belonged to a man.

Others thought that it was Georgia, who was portrayed by Stella because Stella's hands were not small in real life.

Stella could not help but lower her head and glance at her hands.

'Are they really that big? They're okay, I guess,' she thought to herself.

However, that pair of hands actually belonged to the director himself. Stuart was way too good at creating mystery. What he wanted was the feeling that no matter who the audience guessed, it would still make sense.

The awards he had won from the suspense films he directed were well deserved. He had a thorough understanding of his audience.

The audience started leaving the screening hall one after another, but Stella remained in her seat. She was waiting for everyone else to leave first so that nobody would accidentally bump into her.

Unexpectedly, before she could leave, Spencer sat down next to her and said, "Hey, we're old classmates, after all. Why didn't you even say hello? I can't believe you're so heartless."

Stella replied nonchalantly, "Don't start anything."

"Tsk," Spencer clicked his tongue. Then, he said, "I gave you a plan, and you had someone else to do it with you. You're such an ungrateful person. Are you avoiding me because you feel

guilty?” “Yeah, yeah, you’re right. Now, please go away. You’re making me feel extremely guilty,” Stella could not look any more annoyed, as she spoke.

Spencer squinted and smiled. “Really? Then, I can’t let you off so easily.

Come on, look at my face for a bit longer.”

After he said that, Spencer purposely leaned closer to Stella.

Stella was speechless. “How childish can you be?” Spencer scoffed, “Is this your first day of knowing me?” “What do you want?” “I gave you a plan when Keegan was still missing, after all. You should at least treat me to a meal, don’t you think?” “I don’t have any money on me.” “What about your phone?” “I have no money in my phone either. My boyfriend is very strict with me.” Spencer’s expression changed, feeling somewhat upset after Stella mentioned Keegan.

Then, he said through gritted teeth, “He doesn’t even give you pocket money.

Why do you still love him so much?” “Because he has good looks.”

Spencer felt annoyed, as he stared intensely at Stella. It made her feel uncomfortable all over.

“Stella Hall, let me ask you something. When we were dating, did you like me or did you see me as someone else?”

Stella was confused by his question.

“What do you mean?” she asked.

Spencer continued glaring at her. “Quit pretending. You were just treating me as Keegan Kane’s substitute, weren’t you?”

Stella was dumbfounded.

Seeing the puzzled look on her face, Spencer felt somewhat better. He was not a substitute as he had thought before.

Before he could say anything more, Stella spoke, “No. Who gave you the confidence to think that you can be as handsome as Keegan?”

Spencer’s face instantly turned red in anger.

“Are you blind? How am I any less handsome than him? Not only that, but I’m also younger than him. The number of women swooning over me could populate a small country!”

Stella could not help but laugh, “If you’re so confident, why are you so desperate to compare yourself to Keegan in front of me? To me, no one in this world can be better than him. You’re just embarrassing yourself here. Instead, you should just ask your girlfriend whether you or Keegan is more handsome. She’ll undoubtedly choose you without hesitation. It’s the same thing.”

Spencer snorted, “I just can’t stand the fact that you think an old man like him is better than me!”

Stella’s eyelid twitched, “Are you not going to live past thirty?” “Fuck!” Spencer got even angrier. “Why didn’t you defend me like this when other people scolded me in school? You’ve never treated me as your boyfriend, have you?”

Stella replied, “Nothing nice ever comes out of your mouth. You deserved to be scolded. Because of Sophia, I already didn’t have a lot of friends in school. Did you expect me to make more enemies? Do you really want me to be completely isolated by everyone else?” “I only dealt with those guys because of you!”

Stella was bewildered, “What did that have to do with me?” Spencer scolded, “You ungrateful thing. What makes you think people who didn’t like you would want to group up with you? It’s all because I beat them up!”

Stella’s lip twitched, “Hmph. I could’ve easily done the group project alone, yet you made my life harder. After I did my part, I still had to finish theirs. Do you want me to thank you for what you did?”

Spencer’s expression darkened, “I was just worried you’d cry because no one would want to be in a group with you. You’re heartless!”

Stella chuckled upon seeing his annoyed expression. She said, “Sigh. It’s been so many years. Why can’t you just forget it and move on?” With a tense face, Spencer said, “Could you let it go if you were the one who got dumped?”

Stella scoffed, “You were the one who couldn’t stand your ground against your father. Don’t try to put the blame on me.”

Spencer felt frustrated, knowing that what Stella said was true. However, he just could not accept it when she agreed to break up without opposing at all.

But he had to admit that he was still attracted to her even after so many years.

That was why he never had anything good to say whenever they met. He resented her for forgetting their relationship so easily, but at the same time, he hated himself for playing hard to get back then. He figured it would have been better if he had nurtured their blossoming love, cultivating a bond so strong they felt inseparable, just like the one she and Keegan shared.

However, he never would have thought that the cat-and-mouse game he played would cost him the relationship.

He just could not forgive himself.

Coco blinked her big eyes and stared at Spencer for some time before she said, “Mister, you’re more handsome than Uncle Keegan.”

Spencer was taken aback. Then, he burst into laughter and reached to pinch Coco’s cheeks, “You certainly know what you’re talking about.”

Then, he glanced at Stella, “Unlike someone delusional.” Stella was speechless at his comment.

Coco leaned closer to Spencer, asking, “Mister, are you friends with Stella?”

Stella corrected her, “Coco, his name is Spencer. You can call him Uncle Spencer.” “But he’s younger than Uncle Keegan.”

Spencer was delighted, “Children never lie, right?”

Stella said nonchalantly, “Whatever. I don’t really care anyway.”

Spencer was speechless. Then, he looked back at Coco, “Little girl, you can just call me Spencer.”

Coco liked Spencer very much, and they immediately began chatting happily with each other.

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Coco liked Spencer very much, and they immediately began chatting happily with each other.

Stella stroked her chin, realizing that Coco was actually very good at socializing.

Spencer liked Coco very much. He took her hand and left the screening without saying anything to Stella. Stella could not stop them, so she got up and followed them.

On the same floor of the cinema, there were many things for children to play with, such as claw machines and arcade games.

Coco rarely came to a place like this. She found everything amusing, making her want to try everything.

Stella took out her phone, intending to buy some tokens for the arcade games.

However, just as she was about to pay, Spencer stopped her and beckoned a staff. After hearing what Spencer said, the staff nodded and quickly retrieved a stack of tokens.

Stella was puzzled, "Do you own this place?"

Spencer scoffed, "I paid for all your expenses even before I started making money; how could I let you spend on anything now?" "I have a husband," Stella said.

"Just shut up," Spencer retorted.

Stella kept quiet and started thinking about how to return the money later.

Coco was very excited. She followed Spencer to the claw machine and won five toys in just a couple of minutes.

After that, she dragged him to play basketball and ride a motorcycle.

Stella watched as Spencer played with Coco and suddenly thought, 'Spencer is still young and has all the energy to entertain a child. When my babies are as old as Coco, Keegan would be in his late thirties. Would he still have energy like this?

'I should remind him to exercise more, otherwise, he'll be too slow and clumsy to catch up with our babies.' Suddenly, her head was hit by a balloon. She frowned, rubbed her forehead, and glared at Spencer, "What are you doing?" "What are you thinking about?"

"My husband."

Spencer snorted, "Stop it! Can you even get along with him with such an age gap?" "Of course; I have a mature mind. We're a perfect match."

Spencer put on a disgusted expression, "Why weren't you this obsessed with me when we were dating?"

Stella answered, "Your looks aren't enough to make me go crazy over you."

Spencer flipped her off, and she returned the gesture with two fingers.

Coco got tired and sat on a rocking chair to rest. Meanwhile, Stella and Spencer sat on a bench nearby and watched her play.

Spencer handed her a bottle of water and asked, "Keegan told you that this child isn't his, and you believed him?" "Of course. There's no reason for him to lie to me. Times are different now; I can easily find out with a DNA test. Do you think I'm that foolish?"

Spencer stared at her for some time before suddenly asking, "Have you ever liked me?"

Stella did not say anything.

Spencer chuckled, looked at Coco, and said flatly, "You like Keegan; your eyes light up everytime you talk about him. I've never seen this when you look at me, even when we were dating.

“I used to think you’re just a creature without emotional capacity. It turns out that I was wrong. Damn, I can’t believe that I lost to Keegan.” “Quit pretending,”

Stella said in a resigned tone. “Stop acting like you were deeply in love with me.

You’re just upset that I dumped you. Well, this time, it can be your turn. Say the word, and I’ll leave right now.”

Spencer continued staring at her for a moment before suddenly reaching out to hug her. “Let’s say goodbye to each other one last time,” he whispered.

While resisting, Stella looked up and suddenly met Keegan’s deep gaze.

‘Fuck...’ she cursed inwardly.

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While resisting, Stella looked up and suddenly met Keegan's deep gaze.

'Fuck...' she cursed inwardly.

Stella felt a surge of panic. 'I'm dead meat if Keegan catches me hugging Spencer, especially right after we got our marriage license. I'd rather face death than his wrath. Why does every encounter with Spencer lead to trouble? He's like a bad omen!' she thought, her mind racing.

Stella awkwardly pushed Spencer away and was about to call out to Keegan.

But then her attention was diverted as her gaze darted toward him and Jaylene, who offered him a water bottle.

Speechless, Stella's thoughts whirled, 'Great. We just got our marriage license, and here is Keegan, sneaking out to watch a movie with Jaylene. How's he going to explain this one?' Catching Keegan's intense stare, Jaylene turned and spotted Stella, who was inconspicuously close to a strikingly handsome man. "Stella?" she blurted out, turning to Keegan in disbelief. "That's Stella over there!"

After her outburst, Jaylene scrutinized Keegan's expression closely. His face was a mask of cold indifference, his eyes gleaming with a hint of mockery.

Jaylene smirked. She suggested shyly, "Let's greet them, Keegan."

Spencer, sensing Stella's discomfort, reluctantly released her hand. He observed Keegan, noting a stark contrast from their previous encounters.

Previously, Keegan would radiate jealousy. But now, he appeared utterly indifferent, as if Stella beside him meant nothing.

'Could his amnesia really be this strong?' spencer pondered.

"Stella," Jaylene called out with feigned cheerfulness. "What a coincidence!

Are you here to catch a movie with a friend?"

Stella, struggling to maintain her composure, met Keegan's eyes with a silent question. He subtly averted her gaze, focusing instead on Spencer.

Spencer's warm smile did little to ease the tension. He asked, "Aren't you going to introduce US, Stella?"

Keegan bristled at the question, his annoyance palpable.

Stella hesitated, her mind momentarily forgetting Jaylene's penchant for stirring trouble. She finally spoke, "This is my stepsister, Jaylene Saun," her eyes flicking to Keegan, "And my ex-husband, whom you've met."

Intrigued by the man beside Stella, Jaylene inquired eagerly, "And who might this gentleman be?"

Before Stella could respond, Spencer extended his hand with a confident smile, "Hello. I'm Spencer Graham, Stella's ex."

Stella was dumbfounded, her thoughts in turmoil, 'Proud to be known as my ex?

Really?' Jaylene's surprise mirrored Stella's. She had not expected such a forthright introduction, eliminating her chance for further speculation. "Well, isn't this a pleasant surprise," she remarked, shaking his hand. "I didn't know Stella was still on amiable terms with her ex."

Keegan's expression darkened slightly. Before he could speak, Spencer chuckled and said, "Stella has always been exceptionally kind-hearted.

Just consider how she moved in with her amnesiac ex-husband to help jog his memory, disregarding the whispers about her reputation. She's well-known for her enduring affection toward her past loves. It's surprising to hear you don't know this, Jaylene. Seems like you're not as close to Stella as one might think."

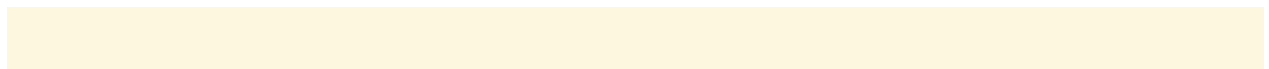
He added playfully, glancing at Stella, "And no, I didn't come to watch a movie with her. She brought Coco here for a movie, and we just happened to bump into each other. Seems fate hasn't finished with us yet."

Keegan remained silent, his gaze thoughtful.

'If Spencer praises her character, it must hold some truth. Yet he's her ex...' Jaylene thought, her expression briefly faltering before she forced a smile."

You're right. My relationship with Stella has been rather brief. There's much more for US to learn about each other."

Turning to Keegan, Jaylene suggested, "Since we're all here, why not have a meal together? It will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up."



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Turning to Keegan, Jaylene suggested, “Since we’re all here, why not have a meal together? It will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up.”

Stella watched Jaylene, a mix of surprise and respect brewing inside her.

Despite the harsh confrontation at the Saun residence, where Stella had slapped Jaylene, she still conversed calmly with Stella in front of Keegan. This was an unexpected show of tolerance.

Stella knew Keegan was charming, so she did not understand his slow progress in extracting vital information from Jaylene. Her concern for his wellbeing grew.

So, when Jaylene proposed they all dine together, Stella readily agreed, “Sure.

We were planning to grab a bite anyway.”

However, Keegan declined, “I have to pass. Work’s calling at the company.”

Their exchanged glances spoke volumes, both puzzled by the other’s intentions.

Stella offered a smile, “If you’re tied up, don’t let US hold you back, spencer and I will keep Jaylene company.”

Keegan remained stoic, his thoughts wandering, ‘Spence... I recall Vermont using nicknames for his high school girlfriend. Such terms are vague, yet so personal from those bygone days.<sup>1</sup> Seizing the moment, Jaylene gently coaxed, “You’ve been buried in work all day, Keegan. Grab a bite with US. You’re still recovering, and nutrition is key for that.”

After a pause, Keegan’s gaze shifted from Stella to Jaylene, and he nodded in agreement. Jaylene mistook his acquiescence as his inability to deny her, and a faint blush colored her cheeks. Observing the duo, spencer whispered to Stella, “What’s brewing between Keegan and Jaylene?”

Stella responded with a neutral expression, “Better not to delve into things that don’t concern you. The more you know, the more dangerous it becomes.”

Understanding her warning, he nodded and remained silent.

Elsewhere, Aurora emerged from the restroom, finding Aldor alone. Her curiosity peaked when he recounted the unexpected gathering. She asked,” Stella and her ex were at the movies, and now they’re dining with Keegan and Jaylene?”

Aurora mused, her fingers running through her hair in contemplation,” Maybe I’ve misjudged her. Could she be seeking to integrate into this family rather than disrupt it?”

Aldor offered no response, his expression unreadable.

Intrigued by the potential dynamics between Stella, the formidable woman, and Jaylene, the seemingly innocent one, Aurora convinced Aldor to discreetly follow them.

Meanwhile, Jaylene suggested Joplonese cuisine, a choice met with mixed reactions. Keegan turned to Stella, “What would you like?”

Hand in hand with Coco, Stella replied, “Well have whatever Coco fancies.”

Coco’s eyes sparkled with excitement. She exclaimed, “Barbecue!”

Spencer chuckled, playfully ruffling Coco’s hair, “The kid’s got taste. The barbecue spot downstairs is top-notch.”

Keegan gave a nod of approval, “Barbecue it is, then.”

Jaylene, however, frowned. Pulling Keegan aside, she expressed her distaste for barbecue, citing the lingering scent on clothes and its lack of elegance. She preferred simple, fragrance-free meals.

Keegan listened and then made a decision. He said, “Then well have Joplonese cuisine.”

Jaylene’s face lit up, but her joy was short-lived. They ended up at the barbecue restaurant, with Keegan arranging for a Joplonese meal from a nearby restaurant just for her. Jaylene found herself the lone diner with a plate of Joplonese food, starkly contrasting the group’s cheerful barbecue feast.

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Coco's eyes sparkled with excitement. She exclaimed, "Barbecue!"

Spencer chuckled, playfully ruffling Coco's hair, "The kid's got taste. The barbecue spot downstairs is top-notch."

Keegan gave a nod of approval, "Barbecue it is, then."

Jaylene, however, frowned. Pulling Keegan aside, she expressed her distaste for barbecue, citing the lingering scent on clothes and its lack of elegance. She preferred simple, fragrance-free meals.

Keegan listened and then made a decision. He said, "Then well have Joplonese cuisine."

Jaylene's face lit up, but her joy was short-lived. They ended up at the barbecue restaurant, with Keegan arranging for a Joplonese meal from a nearby restaurant just for her. Jaylene found herself the lone diner with a plate of Joplonese food, starkly contrasting the group's cheerful barbecue feast.

Stella fought back her laughter, carefully avoiding Jaylene's gaze to maintain her composure. She found herself torn between amusement at Keegan's straightforwardness and bemusement at Jaylene's naivety.

Having been a frequent visitor to the Kane residence, Stella was well aware of Keegan's deep affection for Coco. A wiser approach for Jaylene would have been to endear herself to Coco, as



winning the child's heart was as crucial as winning over Keegan and his family. Competing with a child was, in Stella's eyes, a futile effort.

Stella eyed Jaylene's carefully chosen attire, deducing her preference for Joplonese cuisine. Jaylene's self-consciousness was apparent. She always strived to present her best self to Keegan. Yet, Stella knew that perfection was not the key to a lasting relationship. It was about embracing each other's strengths and accepting their weaknesses.

Keegan, who is experienced in dealing with various personalities, would likely be unimpressed with insincerity.

Meanwhile, Spencer was attentive, especially to Coco. He skillfully sliced the tender cuts of meat for her and Stella, serving himself and Keegan last. Keegan, usually reserved, was surprisingly engaged in business discussions with Spencer, creating a congenial atmosphere, much to Jaylene's chagrin.

Jaylene had intended to stir jealousy in Keegan's heart by inviting Stella and Spencer, but Spencer's flawless manners thwarted her plans.

After a moment, Jaylene put down her utensils and remarked, "Mr. Graham, your care for others is admirable, particularly in how you select the finest cuts for Stella."

Continuing to slice the meat, Spencer replied casually, "I was taught to always prioritize women. Mr. Kane also seems to hold this value, as evident in his thoughtful order of Joplonese cuisine for you. It's fundamental etiquette, isn't it, Ms. Saun?" 1 Jaylene, caught off guard, managed a strained smile, 'This man is quite blunt with his words.' Attempting to regain control, Jaylene said with a forced smile, "I was wondering if your attentiveness toward Stella stemmed from lingering feelings."

Spencer glanced at Stella, a playful glint in his eyes, "Oh, the feelings are there, but sadly unreciprocated. I'm always ready to whisk her away, but she's fixated on her amnesiac ex. I'm just biding my time, waiting for her to grow tired of him or for him to let her go. So, I stay prepared."

Keegan's irritation was evident, faced with Spencer's public flirtation with Stella.

Bound by his amnesiac persona, he remained silent.

Caught off guard, Stella nearly choked on her drink. She shot Spencer a sharp glare, "If you can't speak sensibly, you better stay quiet!"

Spencer clicked his tongue in response, "Tough crowd. You should appreciate having a high-caliber backup like me."

Jaylene observed with satisfaction. Keegan's shifting focus seemed to confirm her belief that his feelings for Stella had faded.

Noticing Stella's sullen expression, she felt even more confident in her speculation. She watched as Stella, in a bold move, called out to the waiter, "Two bottles of white liquor, please!"

Keegan's frown deepened, his eyes filled with questions as he looked at Stella.

Ignoring his gaze, Stella turned toward Jaylene, offering him a look that hinted at an unspoken strategy.

Keegan, still silent, watched the unfolding scene, his thoughts unreadable.

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## **Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 1986 [Eleven Jewell]**

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Spencer, unfazed by Stella’s request for drinks, flashed a smile and casually asked, “Enjoying the meal? How about we add a few drinks to the mix?”

Stella shot back, “Ever the chatterbox, aren’t you?”

Jaylene, displaying genuine concern, frowned at Keegan, “You really shouldn’t drink, Keegan. You’re still recovering. Alcohol and cigarettes are the last things you need right now.”

Keegan responded calmly, “It’s fine. I’ll just have a few drinks with Spence.”

Spencer did a double-take. Surprised, he thought, ‘Did he just call me “

Spence”?’ “Please, Keegan. Think of your health,” Jaylene implored, her worry evident.

Keegan replied with warmth, “I’ll go easy then. Why don’t you drink a bit more on my behalf? I owe a lot to his family. They were there for me during tough times.”

Feeling a sense of inclusion in Keegan’s circle, Jaylene could not hide her satisfaction. She glanced at Stella, whose mood seemed to sour further, and quickly agreed, “Since it’s your request, I can’t say no.”

Stella remained silent, internally acknowledging Keegan’s influential charm.

Leaning closer, Spencer whispered to Stella, “Seems like your faithful act is going unnoticed. How about eloping with me instead?” “Go elope by yourself,”

Stella retorted dryly.

“Ingrate,” Spencer snorted in mock offense.

Stella planned to get Jaylene tipsy. Trevor had mentioned her average tolerance, which was slightly better than Keegan’s. However, Jaylene was now nearing her limit, while Spencer, though slightly buzzed, was far from it.

Slightly drunk, Spencer became more talkative, reminiscing about their school days. Initially maintaining his composure in Jaylene’s presence, Keegan grew visibly more irritated as she became drunk when he heard Spencer recounting how he and Stella first met.

“Bro, let me paint you a picture. When I first transferred to her class, Stella sat alone in the back. I chose to sit with her because it was quieter and because she caught my eye. Yet, she never gave me a second glance. I thought she was playing hard to get.

“A whole month passed, and she didn’t utter a word to me. One day, she tapped my shoulder and asked, ‘Hi, what’s your name? The teacher needs it for the information sheet.’ “I was dumbfounded. A whole month, and she didn’t know my name? I was insulted, honestly. She wasn’t the typical high school beauty; she was more of a hidden gem with a unique aura, probably from her dancing. She stood out, but not knowing my name? That hit a nerve. I remembered her name from the first day we met, yet she was clueless about mine. It felt so unfair.

Lost in nostalgia, Spencer continued, “To pique her interest, I started asking her about class lessons, feigning academic concern. At first, she was puzzled. Why would I, the perpetual

sleeper, suddenly have an academic awakening? I played it off, saying my dad promised me four dollars for every point I scored. I've got my eyes on a figurine worth over six grand. I needed to score as high as I could.

"Her reaction was immediate. She became my earnest tutor, lending me notes and patiently explaining concepts. She stood out during our second year when the curriculum intensified, and everyone became protective of their study time.

She sacrificed her time for me, meticulously breaking down each topic and asking if I understood.

"I had heard numerous rumors about her from the boys' dormitory. They said her family was well-off. Her parents did charity work and adopted a girl from an orphanage. But they were only using the girl for publicity, and they actually treated her poorly. She was said to mistreat the girl, feed her food she was allergic to, and make her wear her old, tattered clothes. So, many of our classmates isolated her, thinking she had a bad character.

"I never bought it. She was a stranger to me, yet she was willing to sacrifice her own study time and share her hard work. How could someone so selflessly sharing her knowledge be that person in the rumors? Rumors start easily but are hard to dispel. People love to paint a picture that fits their narrative, often overlooking the truth.

"Despite being an outsider, I found the rumors distasteful. She was strong, unaffected by the gossip. But she was always ready to confront anyone who dared bring it up to her face. This resilience made many wary of her, but I found it impressive. It added to her allure.

"As the SAT approached, she confidently told me that if I mastered what she taught, I could easily top the class. I wondered aloud if she would continue teaching me. She said I had caught up fast.

"But here's the twist: I could have easily scored high on my SAT but chose not to. When the results were out, her disappointment was palpable. She blamed herself, thinking she hadn't taught me well enough. That's when she committed to improving my grades, saying, 'There are no bad students, only bad teachers.' I couldn't help but find her earnestness endearing."

Stella listened, inwardly fuming, 'That rascal! I was so concerned, thinking he had test anxiety, but it turned out he was just playing me all along. And he had the audacity to brag about his "extraordinary performance" during the Teacher's Appreciation Day!' Caught up in his story, Spencer, slightly tipsy, stood up and sauntered to Keegan. Raising his glass, he clinked it with Keegan's, a mischievous glint in his eye. He continued, "Despite half a year of tutoring, she was still indifferent to me. But then, at a school event, I saw her gaze fixed on a handsome artist performing on stage. That's when it hit me; she has a thing for good looks."

**Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 1987 [Eleven Jewell]**

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"As the SAT approached, she confidently told me that if I mastered what she taught, I could easily top the class. I wondered aloud if she would continue teaching me. She said I had caught up fast.

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## **Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 1988 [Eleven Jewell]**

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Spencer continued with a hint of nostalgia in his voice, “I couldn’t help but laugh at myself. All this time, I had never considered that she simply wasn’t drawn to my looks. It was a hard pill to swallow. I started paying more attention to my appearance, insisting on wearing a pristine white shirt, controlling my facial expressions, and even modulating my voice when I spoke to her. Slowly, she began to notice, often getting lost in thought while discussing our studies.”

He chuckled, “She was terrible at concealing her feelings back then. While others sneaked glances, she would openly stare. Thank goodness for my resilience. Anyone else might have felt unnerved.”

Spencer’s laugh was light, “One day, just before a mock exam, out of the blue, she asked if I had ever been in love. I was taken aback, my cheeks burning. I admitted I hadn’t felt that way about anyone before her.

“She then suggested we date to explore what love felt like. I agreed, and though I kept a cool demeanor, I was ecstatic inside. That night, I couldn’t sleep. I ran all the way to her house. Her room light was on. I really wanted to call out to her, but I was afraid to scare her. So, I just stood there for hours until she turned off the light and left. I had never felt such crazy longing for someone; it was a whirlwind of emotions.”

Stella’s grip tightened on her utensils. She lowered her gaze, ‘He’s right about one thing: the one who confesses love first does love less. I was so impulsive then, not thinking of the consequences.’ Keegan, sensing her discomfort, subtly took her hand under the table. Stella paused, then offered him a reassuring smile. She harbored no regrets about their past breakup, nor did Spencer’s confession stir old feelings. She simply reflected that things might have been handled differently had she been more mature.

Oblivious to their exchange, Spencer said, “Our relationship was brief, just two weeks. She ended it abruptly, cutting off all contact. If we crossed paths, she’d avoid me. I was too young and impulsive, first chasing her and then reacting with anger. Our silent standoff lasted until the

end of our SAT. On Teacher's Appreciation Day, I finally confronted her, asking why she ended it. She told me she was upset I didn't tell her about my plans to study abroad."

## **Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 1989 [Eleven Jewell]**

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Spencer's tone wavered with emotions as he continued, "When I realized she knew about my plans to study abroad, I was shocked. I hadn't told anyone outside my family. It dawned on me

that my father must have met with her, probably to discourage her from pursuing a romantic relationship with me because of our family backgrounds.

“I was kept at home until my departure, losing all contact with her. Abroad, I found myself isolated, keeping a distant eye on our group chats. She soared during her university years, excelling in the performing arts at Trinity University.

Her talent was unmistakable, even mentioned in the campus forums. With makeup on, I couldn't recognize her as the lead in King Lear. She had transformed, leaving her high school self far behind.

“Rumors reached me about her being paraded by her father at banquets, seeking a marriage alliance for financial gains. I heard her mother had an accident, and her family's company was in trouble. That idiot, using a marriage alliance for money, trapping her. He had no idea where her true value lay. I thought, if there must be a marriage alliance, why couldn't it be with me? I broke free from the people my dad had set up around me and rushed back, but I was too late.”

Spencer turned to Keegan, his eyes red with unshed tears. He said, “You're incredibly lucky, Keegan. The woman I've loved for years became your wife so effortlessly. I came back, hoping she might still have a place for me. But one look at her with you, I knew I stood no chance. Her gaze toward you was filled with admiration, something I could never evoke. My dream of US running away together was just that- a dream. For the longest time, I couldn't accept that she didn't feel the same for me. How did you manage to win her heart?”

Keegan, gently taking the wine glass from Spencer's hand and replacing it with water, replied calmly, “The only advantage I had was timing. I met her when I was in control of my own life.”

Spencer paused, reflecting on Keegan's words. He managed a wry smile, “I guess that makes sense.”

Stella sat quietly, her thoughts a whirl of past and present. She felt a pang of sympathy for Spencer, realizing how his feelings had lingered through the years.

Understanding the depth of Spencer's unrequited love, Keegan contemplated, ‘He had believed our marriage was a casual affair, fueling his reluctance to let go. But his love was genuine, and his acceptance, though painful, was sincere.

His greatest misfortune was falling for her at the wrong time. Indeed, I am fortunate. But sometimes, luck is just another form of strength.’ Keegan prepared to call Spencer's father, but Spencer stopped him, “Don't be ridiculous. I don't need my dad to come pick me up.’ Keegan eyed Spencer's drunken state, “After drinking with US, I can't let you go alone. What if something happens? I don't want Stella to feel guilty or worried about you.”

Spencer leaned back, a mixture of resignation and respect in his voice,” After all that's been said, you're still concerned about getting me home safely. You always put personal safety above romantic notions. I have to admire that. She really didn't choose wrong with you, Keegan.”

Keegan responded with a hint of dry humor, “Don’t make me sound too noble. I just don’t want any accidents on your way home to weigh on Stella’s conscience. She doesn’t need more reasons to think about you.”

## **Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 1990 [Eleven Jewell]**

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Spencer turned toward Stella with a mock glare, "Aren't you tempted to ditch him and run into my arms?"

She rolled her eyes in response, "You really should call someone to pick you up.

You're completely sloshed. How did I never realize you were such a master of nonsense?"

Spencer snorted dismissively, "I'm planting a thorn in your heart on purpose, hoping to stir some guilt. Why should you find happiness before me?"

Chuckling, Stella retorted, "You overestimate your influence. I'm heartless, remember? Any thorn you plant would just end up in my stomach."

Undeterred, Spencer shot back, "Then I'll make sure it pricks you there!"

Stella dismissed his words with a scoff, "Grow up, Spencer."

Spencer wobbly called his friends, who were nearby. Soon enough, his friends arrived to escort him home. Before leaving, he pulled Keegan aside, whispering something. His friends then hurriedly led him away.

Curious, Stella inquired, "What did he say to you?"

Keegan replied cryptically, "Just some guy stuff."

Stella snorted, suspecting the nature of their conversation, 'He must have been sharing one of those embarrassing stories from school. If Spencer ever marries, I have a few tales of my own to share with his bride.' Reflecting on Spencer's parting words, Keegan felt amused yet challenged.

Spencer had quipped, 'Marriage is love's graveyard. Let's see how long you last.'

If you ever grow tired of each other, I'll be waiting. But try to keep her in your "graveyard" forever, if you can.' 'As if I'd ever let her go,' Keegan thought defiantly.

Noticing that Jaylene had passed out, Stella turned to Keegan with a mischievous glint in her eyes, "Darling, I have an idea."

At the term of endearment, Keegan's attention sharpened, "What's on your mind?" "Treat others as they treat US," Stella suggested slyly.

Keegan cautioned, "Nothing illegal, though."

Stella huffed, "I'm not bound by such high moral standards. Otherwise, we might as well involve the police."

Keegan remained silent, his expression thoughtful.

Impatient with his hesitation, Stella pondered, 'Sometimes, Keegan's adherence to rules can be a little too rigid for my liking. Morality is subjective, after all.' She then dialed Aldor's number on her phone, "Stop spectating. We need your help."

A few minutes later, Aldor arrived with Aurora and helped the stillunconscious Jaylene into the car.

