

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2041

[Eleven Jewell]

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Jaylene was delighted, thinking she had guessed it right.

[Stella usually doesn't talk much. Keegan, why would you want to catch a break from her? Did you two get into a fight?] Stella was getting better at imitating how Keegan texted as she replied: [She and Aurora don't get along. They'd start arguing as soon as they see each other.

It's just too noisy at home.] The explanation was perfect and conveniently matched what Aurora had previously fed to Jaylene.

Jaylene consoled: [Stella does have a bit of a temper. Mom and Dad would always ask US to tolerate her whenever we can.] Then, Stella stopped texting back again.

After not getting a reply for a long time, Jaylene felt anxious and decided to call.

Stella did not answer the call. Instead, she hung up and messaged her: [The line here is very bad. Text me if there's anything.] Jaylene had no choice but to continue typing: [Keegan, how have you been recovering lately? Stella has been staying with you for some time now.

Have you remembered anything?] Stella replied: [Nothing's changed.] Jaylene probed: [Keegan, since you still can't remember anything after staying with Stella for so long, haven't you considered asking her to move out? I mean, you two aren't married yet. People might say things if she stays with you.

[Besides, she can't get along well with Aurora, too. Their constant quarreling might strain the relationship between our families over time.]

Stella smirked, thinking Jaylene's plan to drive her away from Keegan was good.

Then, she texted: [Let's talk about this some other time. Stella would complain to Grandma whenever I suggested she leave. I can't stand it at all. She does nothing all day and doesn't find any work to do. She's already an adult, yet she can't think independently at all. It's just irritating to see her.

] Jaylene was taken aback and did not respond for a while.

Stella felt nervous, wondering if Jaylene had noticed anything amiss.

'Keegan would probably not say something like that, huh? It sounds too much like a gossip,' Stella thought to herself.

Jaylene's text came through as she contemplated how to make herself sound more convincing.

[Keegan, do you like girls who have a career?] Stella was speechless. It turned out Jaylene was just taking her time to come up with a reply to praise herself.

Stella did not answer the question directly: [I just think that a girl should at least have a job.] Jaylene suddenly realized that Keegan only started liking Stella after their divorce. That was when she started building her career.

During that time, Stella spent a lot of time and effort in her acting career, and Keegan seemed to be very into her.

'I see. Keegan likes this type of girl,' Jaylene thought to herself.

Jaylene texted again: [Keegan, I'm working at Caline now. You can come over if you have time. I'll customize a relaxing perfume for you to ease your stress.] Stella smiled mischievously, thinking that the fish had taken the bait.

"Who are you texting?" After washing his hands, Keegan sat next to Stella and asked.

“Jaylene Saun.”

Keegan took his phone, quickly scanned the messages, and looked at her. “Are you flirting with her?” “Am I?” Stella blinked. “I’m just speaking normally. I can’t control how she interprets my messages.”

Then, she grabbed Keegan’s arm and added, “Let’s say goodbye to Greatgrandpa and head back to Rivera.”

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Stella and Keegan came quickly and left just as fast. Arthur didn’t want them to go, but he asked Keegan to write something nice on a few sheets of paper before they left, so he could show off Keegan’s fancy writing.

Keegan didn’t mind and wrote on several papers that Arthur hung up around his yard.

Stella heard Arthur mutter, “The guy down the road charges eighty bucks for a piece even though his handwriting isn’t as nice as Keegan’s. I could probably sell Keegan’s work for at least a hundred each, don’t you think?”

Stella was speechless as she thought to herself, ‘Well, I guess he’s pretty good at doing business.’ On their way back, Stella got a call from Trevor. He informed her that Sonia’s father’s funeral arrangements were sorted out, and he was heading to Hanowa to assist Sonia with school-related matters. Trevor assured Stella that he would return within three days.

“After I get back, I’ll take you to join Caline,” he promised.

Trevor was still worried that the employees at Caline might not respect Stella right away, so he wanted to support her.

Stella chuckled when she heard this. “It’s okay, Trevor. You go ahead and do what you need to do.

“I can only be a part of Caline because of who I am. I can’t expect everyone to respect me right away, whether you’re there or not.

“If you come, it might seem like I’m using my position to intimidate them.”

But Trevor remained concerned. “Even though Dad gave you a big share of Caline, he’s not really involved in managing the business.

“Darcie has been in charge for years, and she has a lot of power in the company.

“Starting out might be tough for you, so be ready for that mentally.”

Stella nodded. I know. I never expected it to be easy anyway. But I’m pretty sure she’ll have to shift some attention to me when I arrive.”

That way, Darcie might relax her guard against Trevor, giving him a chance to quietly look into what happened before.

Trevor got Stella’s point. “So, when do you plan to start?”

“Tomorrow.”

“Okay, I’ll have Xavier go with you. Watch out for yourself and call me immediately if there’s anything.”

“I got it. Take care and come back soon.”

After ending the call, Stella had a deep frown on her face.

Keegan gently held her hand. “He’s just taking a regular commercial flight.

There's no need to be so anxious.”

Keegan knew her worries all too well. The previous plane crash was still bothering her, and she was deeply concerned about something similar happening again.

The crash involving Trevor's private plane wasn't an accident, and the investigation report had been tampered with. Trevor's friend had shared with him the likely cause of the crash, suggesting it was intentional.

But the report given by the authorities claimed there was a glitch in the system and blamed the crash on the pilot's error.

Trevor wasn't easily deceived. Even for Stella's paternity test, he had sought confirmation from another lab just to ensure accuracy, let alone something as serious as the plane crash.

However, the independent investigation team he hired had uncovered a completely different result from what the police had provided.

If someone had intentionally concealed the true cause of the accident, then that person had to be the culprit.

However, Stella already had a strong suspicion about who might be involved but lacked concrete evidence.

In a quiet voice, she said, “There's something I can't seem to figure out.”
“What is it?”

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Stella explained, “Actually, the nurse Trevor met in Mystonia didn’t have any useful information. She was just a minor player in the whole incident and didn’t know much.

“If I were the mastermind, I would’ve known how much the nurse knew before Trevor did.

“Knowing she couldn’t give Trevor valuable information, there’d be no reason for the mastermind to harm him, right? It’s very suspicious.”

The plane crash made them both certain that the culprit was among them.

To be honest, the person behind the crash was foolish, exposing themselves completely.

Keegan had pondered Stella’s points before. After thinking it over, he offered his own theory. “Could it be possible that there’s more than one person involved?

Maybe one of them feared exposure and acted impulsively against Trevor.”

Darcie was known for being clever and cautious. If she had been involved, she wouldn’t have done something so foolish that would expose her.

Stella was surprised. ‘More than one person... I never considered that.’ It would require an extremely high level of trust for someone to team up with another person to commit such a serious crime.

“Let’s not dwell on it,” Keegan said, ruffling her hair. “The culprit could be watching US, so it’s best to keep a low profile for now. Maybe there’s another person involved that we haven’t found yet. Finding her might answer all our questions.”

Stella sighed. “I just hope she’s still alive.”

Four hours later, they arrived at Rivera.

To avoid raising suspicion, Keegan said goodbye to Stella and took a cab to the company. Meanwhile, he arranged for Aldor to pick up Stella and drive her back to the Saun residence.

Stella needed to let her family know in advance about her plans to go to Caline the next day and also gather some of her things.

Wenham was still a bit miffed that Stella hadn't spent the holiday with him. He grumbled about it for a bit before finally letting it go when Stella gave him some trail mix she'd brought back from Jorgeville.

Darcie entered the living room with a plate of fruit and set it on the table." Stella, where have you been?"

"Nowhere special. I went back to a friend's hometown with her," Stella explained, gesturing toward the apples on the table. "They're from her family's orchard. They're delicious, and I brought some for both of you to try."

Darcie responded warmly, "Thank you so much."

Stella speared a strawberry with her fork and smiled. "Darcie, I'll be heading to the company tomorrow. Please let me know if there's anything I should be aware of, so I can be prepared."

Darcie hesitated briefly before asking, "Did you say tomorrow?"

"Yeah, I've been on a break for a while now, and it's time to get back to work.

Jaylene has already started, and once I join her, we can assist you more, giving you more time to spend with Dad."

Darcie's smile froze.

Wenham interjected awkwardly, "Hey, what does that have to do with me?"

Stella chuckled. "Trevor mentioned that you and Darcie haven't really traveled together much since getting married.

“With White Day coming up, I’ve booked a six-day trip to the Maldives for both of you.

“You’ve worked hard all your life, Dad, it’s time to take a break.”

Silently, Stella apologized to Wenham. ‘I’m sorry, Dad. If I don’t get Darcie out of the company, it’ll be very difficult for me to establish myself there. I have no choice but to sacrifice you,’ Wenham was surprised. “Stella, my dear daughter, this... is too sudden.”

“It’s not, Dad. I actually wanted to book it for Valentine’s Day, but I thought it might be too crowded. I’m sure you two will have a better experience if you avoid the peak period and get to experience the local customs.”

Then, turning to Darcie, Stella spoke sincerely, “Darcie, I want to thank you for taking care of our family after Mom passed away.

“Dad always tells me how much you’ve done for US over the years. You’ve given your best for not just Dad, Grandma, and even my brother.

“You’ve faced so many challenges and difficulties, and Dad is truly grateful for you, even if he struggles to show it sometimes.

“That’s why I wanted to help him express his gratitude and thank you for everything you’ve done for our family.”

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As Wenham contemplated silently, he couldn’t help but wonder, ‘Have I ever expressed any of those sentiments to her?’ Since Stella had returned

to the family, they hadn't really discussed his relationship with Darcie. He feared that Stella might distance herself from him because he had married another woman.

marriage. However, hearing Stella express gratitude felt somewhat awkward to Wenham.

He believed there were many other ways to thank Darcie. 'Why does it have to involve a trip?' he pondered.

Subtly, Wenham tugged at Stella's sleeve, but she simply moved away in silence, leaving him speechless.

After the initial surprise, Darcie quickly regained her composure.

She spoke gently, "We're family, Stella. There's no need for you to thank me.

Taking care of this family is my responsibility as your dad's wife.

"As for you, you've spent so many years apart from US, and your dad feels deeply saddened whenever he talks about it.

"You're starting at Caline tomorrow, and there will be a lot for you to handle since you're not familiar with each department. If I were to go on a trip now and leave you alone in the company, you would struggle. I'm sure your dad wouldn't want that."

Darcie turned to Wenham. "Isn't that right?" she asked.

Just as Wenham was about to respond, Stella handed him a walnut. "Dad, have one more. It's good for your digestion."

Wenham held his tongue and accepted the walnut from Stella.

Stella wiped her finger with a tissue, slightly lifted her chin, and said to Wenham with a playful tone, "Dad, Darcie thinks I'm baby."

Then, she looked at Darcie and continued with a smile, "Darcie, there are so many people working in the company.

“I can always ask if I have something I don’t understand. What are the employees going to think of me if I need your help on everything?”

“I want to learn not only from you but also from everyone else in the company.

Jaylene is so capable, and I can’t be too far behind her. I won’t achieve anything if I keep relying on you.”

Darice wanted to say something, but Stella did not give her the chance to as she added, “I know that you want the best for me, but Dad is getting older now. I need to grow up and stop depending on you and him.

“You’ve both done so much for US, and it’s time for you to enjoy your life. I need to grow up and become someone you can rely on instead.”

Then, she looked back at Wenham, saying, “Dad, I’ll help you pack more clothes. You and Darcie should experience all the activities there and take lots of photos. So, you can take me there and be my tour guide when I’m free.”

Wenham felt conflicted, knowing that Stella had matured so quickly because of her past hardships.

He wanted to say, “You don’t have to grow up so fast with Dad around,” but before he could, Stella handed him another walnut and said with a smile,

“Okay?”

After munching on the walnut, Wenham reluctantly replied, “Sure.”

Stella handed him a glass of water and stroked his back while saying to Darcie, “Darcie, the flight is at ten tomorrow. Just bring some clean clothes and I’ll come to take you to the airport tomorrow morning.

“You should arrive in the afternoon. Once you get off the plane, there’ll be someone to pick you up. You don’t need to worry about anything. Just enjoy yourselves.

“Oh, by the way, I’ve also arranged for a doctor to come with you. After all, you and Dad will be alone in another country without US. Having a doctor with you will make US feel more at ease.”

Darcie was at a loss for words.

Stella had anticipated that she might use Wenham’s health as an excuse to decline the trip. It appeared that Stella had crafted a perfect strategy to push her away.

Darcie didn’t really want to go on the trip, but she couldn’t refuse outright because of Wenham’s affection for Stella. Stella had put so much effort into planning this trip for them, and rejecting it outright would surely upset Wenham, potentially straining their relationship.

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Wenham didn’t particularly want to go either, but he couldn’t bear to disappoint Stella. “Darcie, ask your assistant to reschedule your work. Stella has put a lot of effort into this, so let’s take it as an opportunity to relax,” he suggested.

Darcie clenched her fist and glanced at Stella before forcing a warm smile.

“Since you put it that way, there’s no reason for me to refuse,” she said.

Stella inwardly clicked her tongue, thinking, ‘Darcie is incredibly patient and composed. Apart from the day we met, the only time she lost her cool

was when Leighton exposed Jaylene's fake illness by throwing Noah onto her.' Even then, Darcie regained her composure within minutes. However, it revealed a vulnerability that Stella could exploit.

If Darcie didn't have a clumsy daughter like Jaylene dragging her down, she would have been a much more formidable opponent to deal with.

The impression Darcie had crafted in front of Wenham was impeccable—gentle, considerate, always siding with his biological children whenever they clashed with her daughter, and even willing to risk her life to find him.

Stella couldn't help but ponder that if someone treated her the same way, she wouldn't have the heart to hurt them, even if she didn't particularly like them.

That's just how brilliant Darcie was.

As she contemplated this, Stella discreetly glanced at Wenham.

Her penetrating gaze sent shivers down Wenham's spine.

Even as Stella packed, Wenham could still feel her gaze on him.

Unable to resist any longer, Wenham asked as Stella folded his clothes, "You've been staring at me all day. Is there something you want to tell me?"

Stella lowered her gaze, cleared her throat, and hesitantly asked, "Dad, you were quite young when you married Darcie, right? Did you ever consider having a child with her?"

Wenham nearly choked on the nut he was eating, his face turning red as he coughed.

Stella was shocked and nearly rushed over to perform the Heimlich maneuver on Wenham. Thankfully, he managed to swallow the nut and felt better after drinking some water.

"What child? I already have two," Wenham replied.

Stella leaned in closer to him. “A child that is born from both you and her.”

Wenham hesitated, taking a moment before responding, “The economy wasn’t favorable for US to have another child.”

Stella glanced at him. “I was born around that time. Did you spend all your money on me?”

Her tone was laced with sarcasm, suggesting that economic factors wouldn’t have influenced Wenham’s decision regarding having another child.

After a lengthy silence, Wenham spoke up, ‘I didn’t desire another child. Having you and Trevor is fulfilling enough for me.

“In this world, there are some things beyond our control, and certain debts must be repaid, but there are still choices I can make for myself.”

Outside the door, the hand poised to knock hesitated, then clenched suddenly.

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Stella was taken aback. She had always viewed this matter from her and Trevor’s perspective, neglecting to consider it from Wenham’s viewpoint.

She had to acknowledge that Wenham marrying her late mother’s best friend had stirred a sense of discomfort within her.

However, Stella hadn't been present to witness the events that unfolded back then, nor did she understand the circumstances surrounding Wenham's marriage to Darcie.

There were six years between Stella's mom dying and Wenham getting married again. Only Wenham knew how hard those years were.

Wenham had been a widower with a kid and a sick mom back then. Darcie helped them a lot. Wenham's mom worried about him being alone after she died, so she wanted him to marry Darcie, who was nice and could help with the household.

Stella thought maybe Wenham meant there were things he couldn't change.

Perhaps he didn't want to upset his sick mom and couldn't bring himself to leave a woman who had helped him so much, even risking her life.

She wondered if Wenham let Darcie take charge to ease his guilt.

Stella didn't know how Darcie felt about Wenham, but she was sure Darcie understood him.

She walked up to Wenham and hugged him. "Dad," she said softly.

Wenham looked at her.

Stella patted his back. "Dad, you've raised Trevor so well. And you found me, making our family whole again. You're the best."

Tears filled Wenham's eyes as he turned away, trying to hold back his feelings.

After a long pause, he said, "Having a daughter is always better than having a son. Trevor just gets on my nerves."

Stella chuckled. "I'll find him a girlfriend to keep him in line." "Make sure she's tough," Wenham suggested.

Stella joked, “Sure, well find someone who’s into mixed martial arts. If he ever annoys you again, she can give him a scare.”

But Wenham felt guilty. “She doesn’t have to be an expert. Just someone who can intimidate him a bit.”

Stella couldn’t stop laughing at that.

Wenham packed his clothes and asked quietly, “Are you purposely sending us out of the country? Every time I tried to talk just now, you stuffed a walnut in my mouth.”

It was only when Stella handed him the walnut for the second time that he realized she was trying to silence him.

Stella replied softly, “Yeah. I was worried I wouldn’t do as well as Jaylene when I joined the company and I’d embarrass myself in front of Darcie. I don’t want to make a fool of myself.”

Wenham was speechless.

He started at Stella for a few seconds before saying, “You’ve got your mother’s genes of always brushing people off. The excuse you came up with is terrible.”

Stella didn’t say anything in response.

After helping Wenham pack his luggage, Stella went back to her room and gathered some things. Then, she came downstairs to have a meal with Wenham before heading back to Royalpark Villa.

When Aurora returned to Royalpark Villa, Stella was in the living room, counting her clothes, and Keegan was packing them into a dust bag.

Aurora paused and walked over to check things out. She realized they were all high-end brand clothes from different collections, which must have cost a lot.

Her eyes lit up as she looked at Keegan. “Keegan, can I have some?” she asked.

Keegan nodded toward Stella. “I didn’t buy them. Ask her.”

Aurora was surprised. ‘Ask her for clothes to wear? No way!’ As she turned away from the clothes and started to head upstairs, Stella stopped her. “Help me iron those, and I’ll give you some of these clothes.”

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Aurora was not someone who would do someone’s chores for some new clothes. “I’ll pass,” she snorted and spoke.

Stella looked at Keegan. ‘Did you give her a raise? She sounds cocky.’

Keegan said, Nope, her salary is still seventeen thousand.”

“This is not adding up. She lives in our house, which is a bungalow, and you’re not deducting the rent from her salary? Five thousand a month sounds fair, right?”

Aurora’s eyelid twitched. She sensed that something bad was coming her way.

After a brief thought, Keegan said, “It seems too cheap. Not only that her room have an independent bathroom, but the house also has a swimming pool, a sunroom, and a massage chair. Aldor used to rent an apartment near the office for seven thousand a month, and we’re talking about a villa here.”

“She’s your sister, after all. It’s only right for US to give her a discount.”

Keegan nodded. “Fine. Let’s settle with five thousand then. I’ll have the finance department transfer it to your account directly.”

Stella added, “She’s also eating here for free. We had lobsters, oysters, wagyu beef, and all sorts of luxury delicacies. It’s got to cost at least five thousand dollars to dine like this every day for a month, right?”

Keegan shook his head. “No way. I paid The Deli for a month’s worth of meals, and it cost me thirteen thousand, with way less variety than what we’re having now. Five thousand won’t even cover the cost of ingredients.”

Stella teased Keegan, “You’re her brother, and I’m her sister-in-law. How can we not chip in a bit since we’re all living together? Five thousand it is.

“Plus, the mattress in her room was pretty expensive. She sleeps on it every day, and we should think about the wear and tear on it. I think I spent about-“

“Keegan, let me handle this. You should take a break. Stella, is this all you need?” Aurora interrupted, fearing Keegan might take all her salary if she voiced any discontent.

To show her resolve for working in the Vinci Rivera Group, Aurora had told Cordelia to stop giving her allowance. She relied solely on her salary each month, and if it were all deducted, she’d have to swallow her pride and ask Cordelia for money.

Aurora cursed inwardly, ‘I despise Stella! She’s worse than a loan shark!’ Keegan glanced at her. “You just finished work. Aren’t you tired?”

Aurora forced a smile. “No problem. Being stuck in the office all day is boring anyway. This could be a change for me.”

Keegan then handed her the clothes he was holding.

Aurora took out the steamer and whispered, “Keegan, about the rent and food expenses...”

Keegan took a sip of his tea and said, “Let’s see how good you are at this first.”

Aurora clenched her teeth, thinking, 'He's just as bad!' Stella glanced at Aurora and thought, 'She used to make fun of me for caring about money. Now she probably gets it, huh!' Girls are often more careful than boys. Aurora enjoyed dressing up and took great care of her fancy clothes, so she was really good at ironing them.

They worked together, and Stella's clothes were all ironed and put away in dust bags.

After that, Aurora was about to leave, but Stella stopped her. "There are some clothes in the upstairs wardrobe that I haven't worn. You can take them if you want. But they were gifts, so I can't give them to you."

Aurora looked at her. "Are you going to make me pay for them?"

Stella answered slowly, "I'm not sure. I change my mind a lot. Maybe you should just forget what I said."

Aurora clenched her teeth. "I'm going to grab the two most expensive ones now!"

Once Aurora went upstairs, Keegan asked Stella, "I know you're starting work tomorrow, but why do you need so many outfits? Plus, they're not even your size."

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Stella piled the clothes up and looked up, asking, "Do you know who gave me these clothes?"

Keegan shook his head, but as he saw Stella's expression, he took a guess.

“Jaylene?”

“Good guess.”

Keegan frowned. “Even if you weren’t pregnant, these clothes wouldn’t fit you, right? Why would she give you clothes that don’t fit?”

‘To mess with me, obviously. She’s mad because she had to apologize, so she’s giving me these,’ Stella thought to herself.

But she said something else, “To show off that she’s skinnier than me. Her legs are like twigs, so slim and straight. They’re much prettier than mine, don’t you think?”

“I haven’t really noticed.”

Keegan wasn’t about to get caught in Stella’s trap. It wasn’t because he saw through it, but because he simply hadn’t paid attention to Jaylene’s legs. To Keegan, there were only two types of women: Stella and everyone else. ¹ He never really cared whether other women were conventionally attractive or had a great figure. The only thing about Jaylene that ever caught Keegan’s attention was her overly prominent collarbone.

But it wasn’t because Keegan found it appealing. Subconsciously, he associated her with the images of emaciated refugees he’d seen on the news, thinking she might be suffering from malnutrition.

As for Stella, while she didn’t have flawless skin, she had a lively presence.

She wasn’t too chubby or too skinny. Her complexion was always rosy, including her lips, as if she was constantly wearing lipstick. Plus, her hair was full and voluminous, thanks to her healthy eating habits.

Keegan cared more about Stella’s overall health than her body size.

However, he wouldn’t be able to handle it if she became as thin as Jaylene, who appeared unhealthy to him.

tel la looked him up and down and asked with a smile, “Don’t you prefer skinny, long legs?”

Keegan felt a flattery feeling in his chest, as if he’d been tickled by her gaze. He glanced up and couldn’t help but chuckle.

Stella was puzzled by his laughter as she nudged him. “What’s funny?”

Keegan grabbed her ankle and softly stroked her calf with his warm hands.

Then, he looked at her and said slowly, “What’s great about skinny legs?

They’re no fun.”

Stella paused, suddenly realizing that Keegan was teasing her. Then, she blushed and kicked her chest. “What a pervert!”

Keegan pulled her into his arms and carried her back to the bedroom.

After closing the door, Keegan opened the bedside table, retrieved a watch, and placed it on Stella’s wrist.

Stella shook her wrist and looked at him. “What’s this? A gift for my new job?”

The watch was adorned with diamonds and looked quite extravagant.

Stella thought she was already good at flaunting, but the watch took it to another level.

Keegan sat next to her, grabbed her hand, and looked at the watch. “The mastermind who kidnapped US hasn’t been found yet, and it’s bothering me.

Stella, there’s a tracker in this watch, but don’t worry, I won’t check it unless I can’t contact you.”

Stella paused as she thought to herself, 'Well, at least he's honest about it.' Keegan was afraid that Stella might feel uncomfortable, so he said softly, "It's fine if you don't want it."

Even though Trevor had arranged for his trusted assistant, Xavier, to look after Stella, Keegan still felt a bit anxious.

Stella wasn't bothered. As she examined the watch, she remarked, "With such a pricey watch, I'll get robbed before anything else happens. How about putting the tracker in a cheaper one? That way, I'll feel safer."

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Keegan shook his head. "You always carry yourself in a sophisticated manner, and wearing a cheap watch might draw attention. Aldor said this piece suits you perfectly.

Even if it's stolen, it won't be easy to sell because of its high value. I can definitely track it before the thief finds a buyer, but I hope that day never comes."

Stella felt offended by the phrase "suits you perfectly." Then, she said through clenched teeth, "What do you mean by 'suits me perfectly'? You think I have a flashy attitude?"

Keegan paused, hugged her with a smile, and kissed her hair. "Actually, I'm really attracted to your practical approach to money."

Stella glanced at him. "Well, your tastes are certainly unique."

"That's because I have a lot of money," he whispered.

Stella was left speechless, realizing that Keegan had only said that to show off his wealth.

Early the next day, Xavier arrived to pick up Stella. Before heading to Caline, they first dropped off Wenham and Darcie at the airport.

Xavier observed as Stella said goodbye to Wenham and Darcie with teary eyes, urging them to stay safe. She even mentioned that she already missed them before they left and asked them to call her every day.

However, once they passed through the boarding gate, Stella's tears vanished instantly. She then lowered the sunshade and began to tidy up her appearance in the mirror.

Xavier stole a glance at Stella, and Stella said flatly without looking at him,"

What's wrong?"

Xavier looked away and shook his head. "Nothing."

After Stella fixed her hair, she turned around. "Xavier, Trevor told me that you and Jaylene were classmates, is that true?"

Xavier nodded. "Classmates from elementary school."

"You guys are close, right? Trevor said that he only hired you because Jaylene told him that she knows you, saying that you're diligent and trustworthy."

Xavier knew that Stella was trying to find out his relationship with Jaylene, but after a moment of silence, he answered truthfully, "I don't really talk to Ms. Saun, and she only put in the good words for me because I helped her during our school days."

Stella smiled and spoke in a gentle tone, "I thought you guys were close."

Xavier shook his head without saying anything else.

Then, Stella thought to herself, ‘Jaylene isn’t someone who’d be so grateful, not to mention it has already been so many years since they went to school together.’ The car stopped in front of a building.

Stella and Xavier got out of the car together, and a security guard quickly came over to take the keys for parking.

Stella stood outside the building, looking up at the Caline logo for a long time before walking toward the lobby.

Since Darcie had been sent away by Stella, it was Aubrey who greeted her at the entrance.

The welcome ceremony Aubrey had organized was quite elaborate. Not only was there a welcoming banner displayed in the lobby, but she had also gathered almost everyone in the company on the ground floor. The spacious area was now bustling with employees, creating a lively atmosphere.

Stella lightly frowned. ‘Well done. She’s trying to turn everyone against me by making them stop their work just to welcome me.’ Aubrey, dressed professionally with shoulder-length hair, looked very competent. With a smile, she approached Stella and said warmly, “Ms. Hall, you’re finally here.”

Then, she turned to the crowd behind her and continued, “Everyone, this is our new General Manager, Stella Hall. She’s the daughter of Mr. Saun and the late founder of Caline, Freesia Hall.

“As the saying goes, like mother, like daughter. I’m confident that she will continue her mother’s legacy, and Caline will become stronger than ever under her leadership. Let’s give her a round of applause to welcome her!”

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2050 [Eleven Jewell]

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 2050 [Eleven Jewell]

Aubrey took the lead in clapping, and others followed suit. However, their applause seemed somewhat insincere as they glanced at Stella with disdain.

Stella thought to herself, 'Well, I wouldn't feel great either if someone who knows nothing about perfumery became my general manager.' She had seemingly appeared out of nowhere and assumed such a prominent role in the company. Moreover, she was the reason everyone had to pause their work just to welcome her, despite not having proven herself to the company yet.

It was understandable that people weren't pleased with her.

With Darcie absent, Aubrey didn't make things any easier for Stella.

Stella raised her hand, signaling for everyone to stop clapping.

When the applause gradually subsided, she asked, "Aubrey, when Jaylene joined the company, did you also organize such a grand welcome for her?"

Aubrey responded with a smile, "Jaylene is just a team leader in the fragrance department, like everyone else who joins US. But you're different -you're the general manager, and this is one of the perks that come with your position."

Jaylene added, "Stella, we're not the same. I had visited Caline before officially joining the team, so everyone already knew me. This is your first time here, and it's important to have a formal introduction for everyone to get acquainted with you."

Stella chuckled. "Jaylene, both of US got our positions because of our family backgrounds. How are we any different? Those who don't know might think I'm here to flaunt on my first day."

Jaylene was surprised. She hadn't anticipated Stella would criticize herself just to point out her privilege.

Not only that she directly told everyone how she got into Caline, but she also dragged Jaylene into it.

Aware that joining a company through connections wouldn't earn respect from others, Darcie had smoothed the path for Jaylene. She took her to different departments to learn before officially starting, and then gave her a relatively low-key role to avoid unnecessary attention.

However, with just a few words, Stella exposed Jaylene's background, causing her expression to darken despite her peaceful tenure at the company.

Aubrey said gently, "I wasn't being considerate enough. I thought since it's your first time coming to the office, it'd be good for everyone to meet you. It turns out that I'm making you look bad."

Stella smiled. "Aubrey, it was just a jest. No hard feelings. Since everyone's already gathered here, I'll share a few words."

Then, she addressed the crowd, saying, "I apologize for taking up your time. My name is Stella Hall, and starting today, I'll be serving as the general manager of Caline. I don't have a professional background in fragrances and my knowledge in this field is limited.

"However, my mother was the founder of Enchanted, and her dream was to make it an international brand. Since my father is too busy to pursue this, he's entrusted me with the task.

"I feel he may have overestimated my abilities. How can he expect someone like me, who lacks experience, to achieve what Darcie couldn't accomplish over the years?"

Stella's playful tone drew laughter from the crowd. None of them had anticipated their new boss to be so lighthearted.

Stella added with a smile, “But you can never say no to your father, right? Even though I’ve been given such a prominent role in the company, my knowledge is probably less than that of an intern here.

“So, I hope that in the days ahead, everyone in the company can guide me and teach me about what I don’t know. That way, when my dad asks, I can at least give him a plausible ex- I mean response.”

The employees exchanged glances. ‘Did she almost say “plausible excuse”? I Before Stella joined the company, there had been several notices warning employees to behave appropriately around her. So, everyone already had a negative impression of her before she even arrived.

Some had even begun plotting how to assert their authority once she arrived.

They already had a plan for dealing with this new general manager, but they did not expect her to be so straightforward, bluntly stating her intentions here on the first day.

All of them were confused and dared not to say anything.

Then, Luis Sawn, the manager of the fragrance department, broke the silence, saying, “Ms. Hall, you have a knack for humor. None of US here knows everything. We’re all here to learn from each other.”

Damien chimed in jesting, “Ms. Hall, I heard you studied performing arts. If you had joined US earlier, I’m sure the performance at the year-end party wouldn’t have been so dreadful.”

After the managers’ lighthearted banter, others from different departments also spoke up, creating a lively and cheerful atmosphere.

Aubrey then introduced Stella to the managers of each department.

Although Stella had already familiarized herself with their information at home, she acted as if she was meeting them for the first time, exchanging greetings and shaking hands.

