

# Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted by Eleven Jewell

## Chapter 212-243

### Chapter 212

'So, she's the assistant job candidate that Felicity recommends,' Stella thought. She then greeted Shea with a handshake. "Nice to meet you," she said.

Shea, who was calm, responded with a handshake. "Nice to meet you too, Ms. Jewell. Felicity told you about my situation, right?"

Stella nodded. "You have a son, and you need to take care of him on weekends."

Shea nodded as well. She was a little nervous when she said, "If it's not convenient for you, I can arrange full daycare services for my son on weekends since it's close to where I live. I really need this job."

Stella took her time to make a decision and asked Shea a few simple questions.

Shea answered them fluently, showcasing her experience in the assistant role. She had previously worked with A-list and B-list artists for eight years at the age of nineteen, and she resigned at twenty-seven. With her extensive experience, Shea could be considered a veteran in show business.

Shea had left show business for the sake of her marriage and family. Her job as an assistant often required her to be away from home. Plus, both she and her husband, now ex-husband, were not local. Neither of them was available to take care of their child, and they were unwilling to hire a nanny. The constant arguments took a toll on their relationship. After much contemplation regarding the child's growth and education, Shea ultimately decided to resign from her job.

She then found a clerical job near her home. It was less demanding, and she had a more flexible schedule, allowing her more free time. She could even bring her child with her to work. Although the salary was not high, the convenience made up for it.

However, despite her seemingly improving circumstances after a few years, she soon discovered that her ex-husband was having an affair. This came after he experienced success in his career and received a substantial pay raise from his promotion.

Shea swiftly filed for divorce. She had chosen a swift resolution instead of facing the lengthy court process. Due to her financial limitations, the custody of her child was granted to her ex-husband, allowing her to only visit the child on Sundays and bring him home.

Her family was unsupportive of her decision to divorce, so they cut off all forms of communication with her.

Feeling undeterred, Shea was determined to restart her career to regain custody of her child. So, she was desperate to find a job.

Stella had encountered numerous divorce cases that escalated into unpleasant disputes. She did not understand Shea's decision to opt for a speedy resolution instead of taking legal action against her ex-husband for infidelity.

"He cheated on you, but you didn't even try to use that in court? If you did that, even if he was using your financial situation against you, he could lose the custody of your child."

Shea shook her head and said, "Before I got married, I had the same thought. But, now that I have a child, there are so many things holding me back. He's the father of the child, and the

child has a good impression of him. I can't bear to tarnish the image of a loving father in the child's eyes. Even though he has wronged me, he has always been genuine and caring toward our child. It's just that the relationship between the two adults didn't work out. There's no need to drag the child into our disputes. He has good living conditions, and the child will have a more comfortable life with him. When I have the means in the future, I'll file for custody.

It was probably due to empathy that Stella suddenly felt upset, and she thought, "When become a parent, there's so much to worry about. And sometimes, you just have to keep all the you

pain to yourself."

She suddenly remembered what Keegan had said. "If we can't even be sure that our marriage will last, don't you think that having a child will just be a burden?"

Having children would change everything. They were their own unique individuals and should never be seen as a tool to hold onto a relationship. If the marriage was devoid of love, it was only a matter of time before it crumbled, regardless of the presence of children. Once children had entered the picture, the lives of the parents would become bounded in new ways.

"Ms. Jewell, what do you think of me?" Shea asked softly, and it could be seen that she was worried.

Stella said, "You're aware that I'm new in showbiz, right?"

Shea nodded. "Felicity told me."

“I can offer fifteen grand a month as your salary. I know it’s not as high as what you were making before, but all your food and lodging expenses on the film set will be taken care of. And, I’ll try my best to give you weekends off. If that sounds good to you, let’s get an employment contract signed. But, if it’s not what you’re looking for, I can have Felicity find you another job.”

Shea was taken aback for a moment, as she was expecting that Stella would offer her no more than ten grand. Shea had worked with A-list celebrities in the past and received a high salary, but it had been a few years since she had been in the industry. And, Stella was a newcomer in show business.

## Chapter 213

Shea was a little excited, but her tone was calm. “Okay, I can sign the contract now.”

Stella smiled. “The contract is still in the works. But, once it’s all set, I’ll have Felicity send it over to you. I have a skit to film today, so I may need to ask you to come in and work.”

Felicity was taken aback. “What skit?”

On their

way there, Stella told Felicity about Lena asking her for help last night.

“I’ll play the role for the good of the public without pay,”

Felicity was all for it after hearing about it. “This is a great opportunity. Typically, skit jobs don’t pay much, but doing it for a good cause is a rare chance to make an impact. Plus, when one of your drama series becomes popular, people will look into your past. Having this on your resume will give you a big advantage. I’m not saying we’re building a persona for you, but once you’re in showbiz, you have to play by the rules. We need to be careful. Just because we’re not hurting others doesn’t mean that others will act the same way.”

It was common for people to try to dig up dirt on a newly famous artist. Sometimes, what they found was not even that bad, but others with malicious intent would blow it out of proportion. This could lead to a major negative impact on the rising star’s career.

Shea said, “And, prominent channels don’t just judge a movie based on its quality and message. They also take a closer look at the actors involved. Actors with public welfare performance experience are highly preferable, and if there are any similar events, they’ll give those actors with clean backgrounds the first chance.”

Stella felt that she had made the right decision to help Lena.

“Are you going to join that variety show, The Sound of Film and Television?”

“No. Have you forgotten the contract I signed with Daniel? I’m no longer allowed to accept any commercial job offers in the name of Dusk Galaxy during filming,” said Stella as she thought, “The script given for that variety show is too outrageous. I don’t feel like putting on a show with those bunch of people.’

Felicity felt that it was a pity to let go of the job offer, but she respected Stella’s choice.

Felicity left midway during the car ride to the company, while Stella and Shea continued on to the set without her.

Upon arriving, Stella realized that the crew’s budget was indeed limited. The filming location only covered a few rented houses in a small community.

The crew consisted of only a dozen staff members, excluding the actors, with a few additional members pulled in by the CSI team for support.

Despite the small size and tight budget, the crew was dedicated, and they warmly welcomed the actors.

Over the past two weeks, many actors had come for a shoot. What Stella did not know was that none of them were as gorgeous as she was.

The CSI team members were swamped with work and had no time for dating. So, when the single guys saw a pretty girl like Stella, of course they were warm and welcoming.

However, Lena’s words dispelled everyone’s enthusiasm. “She’s married. Get back to work.”

When those guys had left, Lena asked, “Were you okay last night? You can actually come

tomorrow.”

Stella smiled. “I don’t have anything to do at home, so I came here to familiarize myself in advance.”

Lena said nothing further.

Stella had a great sense of the camera and understood what the director wanted. The filming went smoothly, and her lines were well delivered. It drew the audience in and even reduced the number of retakes required from her partner in the scene.

The director, who had been filming for half a month, felt that that day was the smoothest shooting day.

By the time the filming for the day had come to a close, the sun had begun to set. The director was thoroughly impressed with Stella's performance and asked if she would be available for future shoots.

Lena was afraid that Stella would feel uneasy, so she declined the request on Stella's behalf." Mr. Lane, she's only here to help. Are you trying to exploit her?"

## Chapter 214

Stella put on her coat and said with a smile, "Actually, I have nothing to do in these two weeks. You can contact me any time when you need me to be on set."

In order to thank Stella, Lena wanted to invite her for dinner after the shooting had ended.

However, Stella politely declined it.

Although she came to offer her help, in the end, it was for her own sake. Besides, she and Lena were only acquaintances. She was afraid that it would become awkward when they dined together.

Stella dropped Shea off at Shea's place before driving to Cordelia's.

The closer she got to Cordelia's home, the more uncertain and nervous she became.

She had been a part of the Kane family for many years, but without Cordelia's support, there would be no place for her in that family.

But now, she had let Cordelia down. Cordelia was the one who had always been there for her. Stella was so disappointed in herself that she could not even find the courage to apologize.

Dahlia had been pressing Stella to have children to solidify the family's position, but Cordelia loved children and was hurt the most by this kind of deceit.

Stella's car stopped near Cordelia's home for a long time. But, eventually, it turned around and left.

Inside Cordelia's house, Baldwin knocked on the door and came in. "Madam, Young Madam has left."

Cordelia paused with a chess piece in her hand before she said, "She has the guts to fake her illness but not the courage to apologize."

Baldwin smiled and said, "You knew everything, but you still wanted her to draw a number on stage. If she didn't, you'd lose face, and if she did, she'd end up on your bad

side. She didn't want to offend you in any way, so she had to fake being sick. You almost fell for it, didn't you?"

Cordelia snorted. "I was just worried that she didn't even know she was pregnant. I never expected her to deceive me by secretly using contraception! When I took her out, I wanted to show people her status in the Kane family. With my support, what could she possibly be afraid of?"

At that moment, Corrin, who had just come in with a yogurt dessert, could not help but laugh when she heard that. "You're not scared of Dahlia because she's your daughter-in-law. But, for Stella, Dahlia is her mother-in-law, and she doesn't want to offend her. After all, she still cares about Young Master's feelings."

Cordelia sighed. "Dahlia may have ambition, but her vision is narrow, and she lacks patience. Stella, on the other hand, is young and inexperienced. But, she has the resilience and intelligence to grow into her role. My health is deteriorating. If something were to happen to me, I fear that those people would tear Keegan apart and leave him with nothing."

Baldwin softly said, "Madam, you're overthinking it. Quentin and Chandler are your sons. Things won't come to that point."

Cordelia smiled and said nothing more. She gestured to Baldwin as she said, "Put chess set. I think it's about time for me to hit the hay."

away the

After Stella went down the mountain road, she drove around the South of Rivera City Route 3 Loop and finally went to Rona Pinnacle Hospital.

Rainee's condition remained the same. Although she had shown a response to opera music the other day, there had been no other movement for many days since then.

Despite the caretaker's efforts to play all the tapes as requested by Stella, Rainee remained unresponsive except for a few instances when her heart rate fluctuated upon hearing some of the tapes.

The caretaker played the tapes in order, but unfortunately, Rainee did not show any other

response.

Stella was not disappointed to hear that, as the probability of a vegetative person waking up was very low. Miracles would not happen that easily, after all.

She went through the tapes that the caretaker had selected, which included “Yana Zoloto,” “Lady Yvette,” “Adieu, Milady,” and other songs that Rainee liked to listen to when she was healthy. There were a total of six tapes.

Stella studied the tapes for a long time, but she could not find any common thread between them. The songs were unrelated and not from the same composer.

Suddenly, the caretaker called out, “Stella, could you help me figure out how to download this thing? My son asked me to sign up and send him a screenshot, but I can’t seem to get it right.

have any idea what I might be doing wrong?”

Do you

Stella came to her senses. She put the tapes on the table before she got up and walked over. Let me have a look.”

After taking a look, she said, “Looks like your phone’s storage is full. Try deleting some of the files you don’t use very often to free up some space.”

‘How do you delete stuff on this thing? I’m not very tech-savvy.’

“Sure, let me help you with that.”

that

As Stella began to clear some space on the phone, the caretaker got up to pour her a glass of water. But, when she put it on the table, she accidentally bumped into the stack of tapes Stella had just sorted out.

Chapter 215

With a loud “clatter”, all six tapes fell to the ground, and the caretaker quickly rushed to pick them up.

Stella glanced up. As soon as she noticed something peculiar about the tapes, she shouted, “Don’t move!”

The caretaker was startled. She froze in place and did not dare to pick them nervously, “I... I didn’t mean to. I don’t think they are broken.”

She said

Instead of explaining herself, Stella walked over and crouched down to take a closer look.

She discovered that the song lists of the tapes were marked with numbers using pens, and each tape had a unique number.

Stella picked up the tapes and got up to rummage through the other tapes. There were more than two hundred of them, but only six tapes were marked with numbers.

'This can't be a coincidence,' Stella thought.

Seeing Stella's solemn expression, the caretaker whispered, "Stella, why don't you play them to see if any of them are broken? I'll pay for any damages."

Only then did Stella come back to her senses. She shook her head and said, "It's okay. I've cleared up the memory on your phone. You can download that file now."

The caretaker breathed a sigh of relief and hurriedly thanked her.

Stella held the six tapes with a serious expression.

"What exactly do these numbers mean?"

"Why did mom show a response when she heard these tapes? Is she... trying to tell me something?"

"There are six numbers. Could they be a code or combination for something?"

'But, there's no safe at home, and even if there is, the code shouldn't be recorded this way.'

'Moreover, these numbers were so well hidden. If the caretaker hadn't accidentally knocked them to the ground, I wouldn't have noticed them.'

'Obviously, mom kept the numbers here because she didn't want anyone to know.'

'But, what is she trying to hide so secretly?'

She thought for a moment, took pictures of the six tapes, then destroyed the handwriting and put them back into the pile of tapes.

In the Kane residence at Royalpark Villa, Maya woke up in the middle of the night. When she turned on the lights in the hallway, she caught a glimpse of a figure lying on the living room couch. Maya was startled. She quickly flicked on the lights, only to realize that it was Keegan

He was leaning on the sofa, looking as if he was about to fall asleep. The light had woken him



“Mr. Kane, what are you doing here on the couch?” Maya asked, rushing to grab a blanket for

him.

Keegan checked the time. “She’s still not back?”

“No, her indoor slippers are still outside, and it’s already late. Should I give her a call?” Maya suggested.

Keegan pursed his lips before he said, “No.”

“Why don’t you go upstairs and get some rest? The living room can be really cold at night. You might catch a cold,” Maya suggested.

However, Keegan refused. “No, I’ll be fine. You go ahead and get some rest.”

After failing to persuade Keegan to go upstairs, Maya went to fetch a glass of water for him. “Mrs. Kane’s temper is pretty bad right now. She took birth control pills without telling your mother, and she’s still angry with others. It’s pretty late, and she’s still not home. It’s not good for you to stay up when your wound hasn’t healed. Your mother will be very upset if she finds out.”

Keegan frowned. “How did you know she took birth control pills?”

Chapter 216

Keegan wondered, ‘Maya was on vacation yesterday, and she didn’t come to work until noon today. How could she possibly know what happened last night?’

Maya was startled as she realized that she had let something slip. She quickly averted her gaze and said, “I heard it from your mother.”

“Mom talked to you about this?” Keegan asked with a frown.

Maya stammered, “Sh-She was in a bad mood today... She accidentally mentioned this when she was talking to me, and I remembered it.”

‘Mom wouldn’t share our family’s private affairs with Maya, even if she didn’t like Stella. How could she talk to Maya about this? Maya’s story is full of holes! Stella isn’t stupid enough to leave an empty pillbox on the table, especially one from a few days ago.’ As he thought this over, Keegan’s face darkened.

Maya, go to the HR department tomorrow morning to settle your salary and don’t come back again.”

Maya was stunned. She asked, "Are you firing me?"

Keegan gave her a cold glance. "You can resign on your own, and I'll have HR compensate you for six months' salary. The duration should be long enough for you to find a new job.

Maya panicked. Keegan did not look like he was joking.

She anxiously said, "You can't fire me. Your mother sent me to take care of you, and I did nothing wrong. You have no right to fire me!"

"No right?" Keegan seemed to have heard some kind of joke. He let out a cold smirk. "Maya, your file is with my company, which means you're an employee. What's the problem when I fire an employee?"

At that moment, Maya actually felt that Keegan had the same facial expression as Stella.

Stella had said the same thing that day.

However, at that time, Maya did not take Stella's threatening words seriously.

Maya had worked as a housemaid in the Kane residence for over a dozen years. Moreover, she was sent by Dahlia. Hence, Stella did not dare to do anything to Maya.

However, Keegan was different. He was the real helm of the Vinci Rivera Group. Even Dahlia, his mother, had to rely on Keegan to maintain her current luxury lifestyle.

No one could help Maya if Keegan wanted to fire her.

At that moment, Maya truly felt fear.

She could no longer care about other things.

THUD!

She knelt in front of Keegan.

"Mr. Kane, I made a mistake. Please don't fire me. I'm the breadwinner of my family. I can't

lose this job. I'm sorry if I have done anything not good enough. I'll apologize to your wife as well. I have taken care of you for so many years. Please let me stay

Keegan put

down the glass. “Maya, I don’t like to say it twice. If you continue like this, I can only seek the property management to ask you to leave. And, that won’t be pretty.

Maya was trembling as she was clearly aware that Keegan’s words were not a threat. He would really let the property management kick her out.

Working as a housekeeper or nanny for high-society families was a coveted profession. These employers were known to offer top-tier salaries, great perks, and light workloads. And, if they were especially generous, they might even throw in luxury items and hefty bonuses on special

occasions.

Therefore, a good reputation was crucial in this industry. Royalpark Villa, where Maya was currently employed, was home to some of the city’s most prominent figures. If she were to be evicted by the property management today, finding a comparable job in the future would be nearly impossible.

Chapter 217

Maya could not utter any more words. She gritted her teeth, got up, and left with reddened eyes.

Stella had not returned that night. The next morning, when she came back after buying breakfast, she was bombarded with calls.

When she saw that it was Dahlia calling, her eyebrows instantly furrowed. She took a deep breath and tapped her phone to answer.

But, before she could speak, Dahlia asked, “Stella, did you ask Keegan to fire Maya?”

Stella was confused. “Fire what? What are you talking about, Dahlia?”

“Keegan fired Maya. Maya came crying to me early in the morning. What did Maya do wrong that you have to fire her?”

“Did Keegan fire Maya?” Stella frowned. “Dahlia, I was caring for my mom in the hospital last night. I don’t know what happened at home”

“You don’t know?! Keegan blew up at Maya because of you! He’s still recovering from his injury, and yet you ran to the hospital to take care of your mom. She’s been bedridden for years. Do you really need to be there for her? Seriously, who do you think

has been providing for you and taking care of you all this time? It's time you realize that you owe everything to the Kane family and stop being so ungrateful."

Stella's face turned grim. "Stop being ungrateful? So, are you saying that you, yourself, have ignored the well-being of your own parents after marrying into the Kane family

Dahlia was taken aback. This was the first time Stella had ever talked back to her. When she came back to her senses, she became enraged. "How dare you speak to me like that?! What happened to your manners?

"Dahlia, manners are not just words we say. If I neglect my mother, imagine how I'll treat you when you're old." Before Dahlia could erupt in rage, Stella added, "And one more thing, your son has always handled things with bias. If he fired Maya, it must be because she crossed a line. Instead of arguing with me, you should go plead with Keegan. He might reconsider out of respect for you."

With that, Stella hung up the phone.

On the other end of the phone, Dahlia's facial expression was terrifying.

Maya sobbed as she said, "He must have fired me because of the birth control pills. He and his wife quarreled because of it. Last time, after I told you she hadn't taken the fertility drink on time, she warned me that she would fire me. I thought she was just joking. I didn't expect..." She then started to cry again.

Maya did not care if Keegan had fired her because of Stella. What she wanted was to make Dahlia believe it, which proved that she was incriminated for serving Dahlia. So, Dahlia would undoubtedly support her.

Dahlia's face was gloomy as she snarled inwardly, 'Maya is someone I sent, yet Stella blatantly asked Keegan to fire her. Apparently, she doesn't respect me."

When she was reminded of Cordelia's attitude toward Stella at the jewelry exhibition, Dahlia tightened her grip on the glass of water.

"I really can't live without this job. My husband is still unemployed, and the whole family is living on my salary. If I lose my job, how can we live? I have always acted based on your orders, and I did not dare to neglect them in the slightest.

Dahlia's head was throbbing as she listened to Maya. She pursed her lips before she said, "You've worked for our family for so many years. Don't worry. I'll give you an explanation on this matter."

Meanwhile, after hanging up on Dahlia, Stella had been wondering the reason Keegan fired Maya.

Although Maya was calculative and was someone Dahlia had sent to spy on them, she sure knew how to get the job done.

Keegan was such a finicky person, who had tons of quirks, that even Cordelia's housemaid, Corrin, could not stand him. It was said that Maya used to take care of him before his marriage. She was like an elder in the house, yet Keegan had just fired her like that. Stella pondered for a long time, but she could not figure out what was going on. She hesitated whether she should call Keegan or not. But then, Albert's call came in.

## Chapter 218

Stella was a little surprised.

'Why is dad calling me?' Stella wondered. 'Don't tell me he regrets giving me that bracelet the night before.'

In Stella's perception, Albert was very stingy.

Rainee said that he was probably afraid of being poor because he grew up in poverty. Even after he had the money, he was still stingy with it. His stinginess was not just toward Rainee and Stella but also himself.

Rainee, on the other hand, was the complete opposite. She liked to spend money when she made it. Maybe it was because they had different values. They would argue about money all the time.

Albert would criticize Rainee for spending money without restraint. Rainee would perceive that Albert's mindset was too narrow and that he was too concerned with making or losing money. When they met big clients, he would not even buy a suit that cost over ten grand and would not book a decent hotel. He was afraid of losing money if the deal fell through.

But, to say that Albert was penny-pinching was not entirely accurate. At least when it came to his own relatives, he was pretty generous.

Albert was the first person from his hometown to attend college and make it big in the city. So, he was quite famous back home.

When news of his successful company got out, all sorts of distant relatives started coming out of the woodwork and connected with him.

arrange

Albert cared about his reputation. Whenever someone asked for a favor, he would do everything he could. Hence, many of his relatives from his hometown were working for his company.

Although Stella's grandparents had passed away early and she seldom saw them, she had a strong impression of her uncles and aunts, who had taken advantage of Albert's status to act arrogantly in the company.

He did not mind supporting these people who were not contributing to the company, but he would complain for a long time when Rainee bought a purse.

And now that Stella had grown up, she realized that apart from her dowry during her marriage, the most expensive gift Albert had ever given her was the piano in their home. And, even that was bought reluctantly only after Rainee's insistence.

Rainee used to say that Albert was accustomed to hardships and did not like to waste money, and Stella shared the same belief.

However, ever since Rainee went into a coma, Albert's actions made Stella realize that he was not just stingy but heartless. Whether it was for reputation or profit, he would only spend money when it was advantageous to him. Once someone had lost their value, he would show no mercy in kicking them out.

So, when Stella made him give her the bracelet, she had no guilt whatsoever and even felt that it was too little.

Looking at the blinking name on the caller ID, Stella thought for a moment. Then, she answered the call.

"Hello."

"Stella, how are you feeling today?" Albert's voice was unusually gentle.

Stella's forehead twitched.

Albert rarely spoke to her with such kindness. He usually only did so when he needed something.

"I'm feeling better," she replied calmly.

"I heard about your food poisoning. How's your appetite lately? I had our cook make some pelmeni. I remember you used to love them. I can have someone deliver them to you later. Stella thought, 'That was like a few years ago when I said I wanted to eat pelmeni. He must have gone to great lengths to recall that, so he could use it as an excuse.'"

"Thanks, dad. But, you don't need to go through all that trouble. We have a housemaid who can make them for me if I want it."

## Chapter 219

"The ones made by a different cook will taste different. I remember you used to love them." Stella pursed her lips and stopped declining. "Thank you, Dad."

After a moment of silence, Albert spoke. "To be honest, I haven't been feeling great for the past few days. It's like white truffles. As long as you're part of the family, it doesn't matter who eats them." He sighed, and his voice was filled with remorse. "I regretted it when I got out of the hospital that day. It's hard for me to apologize as a parent, but the bracelet I gave you was my way of saying sorry. If you're not happy with it, please let me know. I won't scold you for it."

If he had said that a few years ago, Stella might have felt moved by his words.

In the past, before the accident happened, Rainee used to paint a perfect picture of Albert as a father in Stella's mind. So, during those times, Stella still had hope for Albert.

However, after the accident, his cold and ruthless actions destroyed the father-daughter relationship in Stella's heart.

His true colors were selfish and unkind, and whenever he showed "fatherly love", there was always a hidden agenda.

Stella mocked him inwardly, as she impassively replied, "Forget it. It's all over. You did that for the Jewell family's sake."

"It's good to know that you see it that way." Albert breathed a sigh of relief. "One more thing, Sophia is working at the Vinci Rivera Group now. She's still new, and there may be a lot of things she doesn't understand. Tell Keegan to look after her."

Stella's face suddenly turned gloomy.

"Doesn't she have a job? Why did she join the Vinci Rivera Group:

"She didn't have much room for growth before. It just so happened that the Vinci Rivera Group was recruiting people a while ago, so I asked her to try it out. I didn't expect her to make it. Today is her first day. I thought we could celebrate together. But, since you haven't been feeling well lately, we can do it another day."

Stella felt that it was unbelievable.

She thought to herself, 'the Vinci Rivera Group has a very high standard. Every year, they recruit master's students as a starting point with very few undergraduates. Even if they do recruit undergraduates, they are from top universities.

'Sophia went to a third-rate university, which is far from meeting the standard. How could she possibly get in?

'And, I got no wind of this. Keegan didn't mention it either.'

Stella's face was tense and expressionless as she said, "Keegan doesn't like me meddling in company affairs, so I don't think I can say much. Since Sophia was able to get in with her own abilities, she shouldn't have a problem surviving there. I think you're worrying too much."

"How could that be? Keegan would at least take care of her for your sake," Albert paused and added, "With Sophia in the Vinci Rivera Group, you'll be able to know right away if there's

anything going on with Keegan, won't you?"

In other words, Sophia in the Vinci Rivera Group was like an informant inserted by Albert to help Stella keep an eye on things and secure her position.

On the surface, it seemed as though Albert was doing it for Stella's sake, but in fact, he only cared about Sophia.

The Vinci Rivera Group was different from the Jewell family's business. As one of the top five hundred companies in the world and a leading company in Hustuabourg, it had gathered top talents. Once Sophia got in there, the people she would be in contact with would be completely different from the social stratum she used to belong to.

With the prestige she got from the Vinci Rivera Group, she would no longer be just the adopted daughter of the Jewell family. Instead, she would be regarded as an elite talent.

Whether it was for her future marriage or career, it was a great advancement on the social ladder for her.

Even though Stella was Albert's biological daughter, he had never done as much for her, and it felt like a thorn was stuck in her throat, making it hard to swallow. Stella sneered, "How thoughtful of you for making plans for me."

## Chapter 220

It was uncertain whether Albert had caught her sarcasm. He spoke gently, "You're my only daughter, so everything from the Jewell family will be yours in the future. If Sophia



can have a place in the Vinci Rivera Group, she can help you in your career when I'm no longer around. Everything I do is for your sake."

After she hung up the phone, Stella felt that something was wrong. She wondered, "With Sophia's qualifications, how did she enter the Vinci Rivera Group?"

Stella could not help but suspect that Keegan had given Sophia preferential treatment and opened a backdoor for her.

"But, that seems out of character for him, given his dislike for my family members. He has always maintained a clear distinction between his work and private affairs. Two years ago, when his company was looking for a project partner, his uncle approached him through Dahlia, wanting to secure the bid. Even though his uncle had repeatedly assured Keegan that he could get the qualification within three months, Keegan still refused. He won't show favoritism to his uncle and not even to his mother. So, why would Sophia be an exception?" After thinking about it, Stella finally called Aldor.

At that moment, Aldor was reporting to Keegan in his office. Keegan had come to the company early today.

Aldor had thought of getting some good rest since Keegan took a two-week leave. However, his good days had ended too soon, and he started to think that he was born to have a tiring life. While he was feeling sorry for himself, his phone suddenly rang.

Keegan frowned and seemed somewhat displeased.

Aldor was a little embarrassed. After checking his phone, he cleared his throat before he said to Keegan, "Mr. Kane, it's your wife. Should I take it?"

Keegan paused for a moment and glanced at his own phone, which was lying next to him. Then, his eyes darkened. Since Stella left yesterday, she had not even texted him, let alone called.

Stella used to only call Aldor when she failed to reach Keegan. But now, she did not even bother to call Keegan before contacting Aldor. Obviously, she was not looking for Keegan.

Aldor was well aware of this. Hence, when he saw Keegan's stern face, he complained inwardly. In fact, when Keegan suddenly came back from vacation, he could tell that something had happened. Now, it seemed that, most likely, it was related to his wife.

Now that Stella was trying to reach Aldor directly, Aldor was in a dilemma about whether to answer the call or not.

The phone kept ringing, and eventually, Keegan scowled at him. "How long are you going to let it ring?"

Aldor cleared his throat and apologized. He then answered the call, and of course, he did not forget to put the phone on speaker. "Hello"

"Aldor, it's me," Stella said. "Has your company hired new recruits recently?"

"Yes. The company did hire new recruits. What's the matter, Madam?"

Stella frowned as she asked, "Did the company's hiring standard drop this year?"

"No, it's the same as it was in previous years. What made you say that?"

Stella pursed her lips before she said, "My dad told me your company hired Sophia. Do her qualifications meet the hiring standards of Vinci Rivera Group?"

"Are you talking about Sophia Jewell? Well, our marketing department has been short of manpower recently. They need more people, especially those who can write advertorials on social media and create short videos. Sophia is an influencer, so we hired her for her expertise in social media and major in marketing. In addition to Sophia, there are three other influencers who joined our company as new recruits."

Stella froze and thought, 'So, she's not an exception? But, I've never heard Keegan mention this before. But then again, Keegan has never talked to me about his work.'

"Mr. Kane is right next to me. Would you like to have a word with him?"

Stella was taken aback. 'Keegan is now at the company? Isn't he still injured?'

Chapter 221

Stella thought, 'Or, did he heal faster after Bella bandaged his wound?'

Stella had a lot of questions. But, before she could ask, she heard Keegan's voice from the other end of the phone. "Who told you I want to talk to her? Don't take matters into your own hands!"

Stella was at a loss for words.

Aldor smiled. "Please don't be upset. Mr. Kane wasn't yelling at you. He wasn't feeling well when he came in this morning. He had a fever. I tried to persuade him to see a doctor in the hospital, but he insisted on waiting until we finished our work. The pain must have gotten to him, making him short-tempered. If you have the time, could you swing by the office? Mr. Kane forgot his medicine."

"What nonsense are you talking to her?" Keegan interrupted. As soon as Stella heard Keegan's words, the guilt she felt just moments ago had vanished.

Stella forced a smile and said, "Keegan sounds perfectly fine to me. He must be feeling better since he can start working. Besides, he won't let the pain get him down. And even if he did, I'm sure there would be plenty of ladies lining up to bring him painkillers. I'll stay out of this, so he can recover in peace. The last thing I want is to aggravate his injury by showing up and getting him all worked up again."

Before Aldor could respond, Stella hung up the phone.

Aldor was taken aback. He then looked at Keegan, who was now red-faced with anger

Aldor cleared his throat and tried to smooth things over for Stella. "I think Madam might be feeling a bit under the weather herself."

Keegan shot him a cold glare, and Aldor fell silent.

Just then, the phone rang again. Aldor glanced at it and whispered, "It's your mother."

Keegan's mood was already sour, and hearing Dahlia's name made it worse. He snapped, "Don't answer it."

Aldor put the phone on silent and set it aside.

Keegan scowled, "Has Ms. Lane shown up to resign yet?"

"Lane" was actually Maya's surname.

Dahlia spent the whole morning calling Keegan about this matter, but his refusal to answer it already indicated his stance.

"The HR department has already called and urged her. But, as soon as she heard that it was the company calling, she hung up and refused to talk."

Keegan tapped on the table lightly and said, "Give her a day. If she doesn't come to complete the procedures within a day, terminate her employment for absenteeism."

'Firing someone for absenteeism means that the person will not receive any compensation. I guess Mr. Kane is determined to fire her. With that in his mind, Aldor said, "I'll inform the HR department and give her the final ultimatum."

If Maya was not stupid, she would take the money and leave. With her experience and Dahlia's recommendation, finding a job should be easy. The salary might not be as high as the salary the Kane family had offered, but it would not be too bad either.

But, if she got fired, not only would there be no compensation, but it would also be hard for her to find another high-paying job.

Meanwhile, Stella, who had hung up on Aldor, did not meet up with anyone for the whole day.

She attended a physical training class during the day and planned to spend the night at Rotona Pinnacle Hospital.

Lying on the soft bed, she picked up her phone and looked at the pictures of the six tapes she had taken earlier, trying to figure out what those six numbers were.

“If these six numbers are a combination or code, there must be a sequence. What is the sequence? Since the numbers are hidden on those tapes, the sequence must have something to do with the tapes. Could it be the release year?” Stella checked and found overlapping numbers in the release year and month in three of the tapes.

“How about the alphabetical order of the song titles?” Stella tried it out and found that there were still overlapping numbers.

It really puzzled her as she only had the numbers without any clues.

Just as Stella was racking her brains, she received several private messages on Facebook in quick succession.

She frowned and glanced at them. Then, she suddenly froze.

Those messages were from the user account that Marshall had suspected of being Bella's

secret account.

## Chapter 222

Stella thought that the messages would contain some offensive words she could screenshot and show to Marshall. She figured that it would help with the lawsuit. But, when she opened the conversation tab, she was stunned.

The message sender claimed to be Bella's manager, hoping that Dusk Galaxy could participate in the variety show, “The Sound of Film and Television”.

Stella received this invitation not long after she had turned down the offer. She was impressed by how resourceful Bella was.

Stella scrolled down the message to read on. The sender talked about Dusk Galaxy's previous social media post that aimed to clarify the rumors about the voice-acting role in

Honor of the Deities. “He” pointed out that the post had caused some misunderstandings, but Bella was willing to let it go, assuming that it was not Dusk Galaxy’s intention.

“He” also emphasized that the success behind Secret Sweetheart was the result of the collaboration between Bella and Dusk Galaxy, which was significant to both sides. They hoped that Dusk Galaxy could participate in the variety show despite previous unpleasantness.

“He” added that they would collaborate with the program team during the show’s broadcast to tag Bella and redirect traffic to her. They believed that the show would dispel rumors about Bella and Dusk Galaxy not being on good terms, and Dusk Galaxy could gain a wave of goodwill, resulting in a win-win situation.

Although “he” claimed that it was an invitation, the tone was laced with arrogance, and it lacked sincerity.

‘Ignoring whether this person is truly Bella’s manager or not, the way this person phrased it made it seem like everyone should be grateful for the opportunity to bask in Bella Young’s popularity,’ Stella thought.

Stella had thought of sending a sarcastic reply, but she opted for a cautious approach after pondering for a while. “Hi, thank you for the invitation. When the program team first invited me and mentioned Bella Young’s participation, I was really excited. However, due to practical considerations, I won’t be able to join the recording of “The Sound of Film and Television’ this time. I’m really sorry about that. There’s no doubt that Ms. Young is incredibly popular, and while I’m envious of that, I also know my own abilities and that I’m not everyone’s cup of tea. I must decline her generous offer. I hope everything goes well with the recording.”

A few minutes later, the sender fired back, “So, how much do you want us to pay you to join the show?”

Stella sneered. “Wow, a direct confrontation without even trying to hide it, huh?”

She replied, “It’s not about the money. I really won’t be able to participate in the show.”

“Come on, we’re all reasonable people here, so let’s cut to the chase. Give me a price, or I will make sure that you won’t work in the voice-acting industry again. Do you believe me?” Stella was amused. “Who does “he” think “he” is? Is “he” threatening me?”

As far as Stella knew, Bella was still under Green Hill Media, which was owned by Vermont. The only person who could be Bella’s benefactor was Keegan Kane, who had provided her with

resources for years.

But, Keegan was a man of principle. There was no way that he would be ruthless to another party for no reason.

Based on Bella's qualifications, Stella was confident that Bella's party would need much more than that to force her out of the voice-acting industry.

So, it was either that Bella had another backer, or it was simply Bella trying to intimidate her.

Even if they could really make that happen, Stella was still unfazed by the situation, as she had no intention of pursuing her voice-acting career anymore.

However, the threatening words still made her feel sick.

Despite the unpleasantness, she quickly saved screenshots of the conversation and blocked the sender.

Meanwhile, at Lake Villa, Bella's face darkened as she looked at the message rejection notification. She snarled inwardly, 'Dusk Galaxy is really insolent!'

Bella had hoped to "clarify" the previous incident related to the voice-acting role for Honor of the Deities. She had planned to use the variety show as an opportunity to redeem her image by proving her line delivery skills through a collaboration with Dusk Galaxy.

However, now that Dusk Galaxy had refused to join that variety show, all of Bella's efforts to help bring a budget to the program crew had gone to waste, leaving her more infuriated than

ever.

Now, not only were the netizens mocking her online, but even some actors in show business were being sarcastic toward her.

Bella's vast resources had already put her in the public eye. Recently, she had created a fake romance out of a traffic accident but was exposed.

Shortly thereafter, Dusk Galaxy mocked her for using connections to steal the voice-acting role in Honor of the Deities. This allowed the netizens to hype the story and portray her as ungrateful.

Despite Keegan's help, Bella suffered significant losses. She lost several endorsement jobs and had hoped that Dusk Galaxy participating in the variety show would help redeem her image. However, Dusk Galaxy refused to cooperate

Bella seethed internally, 'I tried to extend an olive branch, but you've made your choice.'

Meanwhile, as soon as Stella turned off the Facebook app on her phone, Aldor's call came in.

She frowned as she thought, 'It's late. Why are they bothering me now?' She chose not to answer, not because it was Aldor calling, but because the call was likely related to Keegan. And, Stella did not want to deal with him.

Despite Stella's refusal to answer, Aldor's calls persisted. So, the phone rang incessantly.

Eventually, the caretaker could not stand it anymore and said, "Stella, why don't you answer? What if it's an emergency?"

"What emergency?" Stella huffed before begrudgingly picking up the phone.

'Madam, Mr. Kane has a fever of 39 degrees. Do you have any fever-reducing medicine at home?'

Stella sat up in surprise. "What's the point of taking medicine at such a high temperature? Take him to the hospital right away!"

"Mr. Kane refuses to go. I can only get him some medicine to bring down the temperature. But, I have no idea where the medicine is. Since Mr. Kane has fired Maya, I had to call you." Stella frowned and thought, 'Is Keegan out of his mind? He could get brain damage from such a high fever. She recalled that Keegan's father had been hospitalized with a fever and had passed away when his condition worsened. 'It has probably affected Keegan,' she thought. Whenever he has a fever, he'll get moody. He'll refuse to take medicine or see a doctor. He'll be as stubborn as a mule and can't be persuaded.'

Hence, Stella believed Aldor's words.

She pursed her lips and gave instructions to Aldor. "There's a first-aid kit in the coffee table drawer downstairs. You can find a fever reducer in there. Let him take one. If his temperature doesn't drop after half an hour, take him to the hospital even if he refuses!"

Aldor quickly agreed and hung up.

Stella paced around the ward, and her mind was uneasy.

The memory of Keegan's fever last year came to her mind.

It was early autumn, and the sudden weather change had caused Keegan to fall ill.

His feverish state had awakened her in the middle of the night. When she turned on the light, she was greeted with the sight of a red-faced Keegan with cracked lips. Feeling irritated, he grumbled at her for turning on the light. He was not aware that he had a fever.

Stella got out of bed and retrieved a thermometer, only to find that Keegan's temperature was almost 39 degrees. She wanted to take him to the hospital, but Keegan vehemently refused, sparking an argument between the two.

However, when he was sick, Keegan did not seem intimidating when he was arguing with her.

So, she was not afraid of him, and even felt sorry for him when she saw him burning with fever.

Since she could not persuade him, she had to find him some fever reducer and coax him into taking it. She repeatedly changed his cooling patches, took care of him with unwavering dedication, and hoped that the fever would go down.

The fever made Keegan so delirious that he kept holding onto her hand. This was a rare moment for Keegan.

At that time, Stella was completely in love with Keegan, and even his slightest smile would fill her with dreams of a future together, let alone him holding her hand.

However, her thoughts were interrupted by Keegan's words. "Don't go, Bella."

## Chapter 224

Stella's heart sank as Keegan's words planted the seed that made her begin to lose hope of winning his love.

Despite knowing that Keegan had only married her under duress and was in love with another, Stella's youthful confidence led her to believe that since they were already married, it was just sooner or later that she could win him over and have him all by herself.

But, it was all a delusion

that other person remained in Keegan's heart. No matter how hard she tried or how well she did, there would never be a place for her in his heart.

She recalled that Keegan began to talk nonsense as his temperature rose to 38 degrees at that time.



This time, his temperature was very high. Stella doubted that it was lower than last time. Most likely, the fever was caused by wound inflammation. No matter how many grudges Stella held against him, she did not want anything to happen to him. So, after a short thought, she said goodbye to the caretaker and left.

After Aldor hung up the phone, he found the fever reducer. He poured a glass of water and brought it upstairs.

Keegan was lying on the bed with one hand on his forehead. His brows were furrowed, his face was pale, and he looked extremely uncomfortable.

Aldor softly said, "Mr. Kane, you should take medicine." Then, he added, "Madam asked me to take your temperature half an hour later to see if the medicine worked. If your fever starts to go down, you won't need to go to the hospital."

Keegan opened his eyes and spoke in a hoarse voice. "Who told you to call her?"

Due to his weakened state, his voice was soft. So, even if he was angry, he did not sound intimidating.

Aldor replied, "I couldn't find any fever reducers, and your fever is too severe."

Keegan pursed his lips and paused for a moment before he asked, "What else did she say?"

"She told you to take the medicine," Aldor answered. "She's very worried about you."

Even Aldor himself could not believe the lie he had just told, let alone Keegan. There was a long silence before Keegan spoke. His voice was cold and hard. "Get out!"

"Mr. Kane, please take the medicine," Aldor implored.

Keegan's anger flared up, and he spoke in a solemn tone. "Get out!" he repeated.

Aldor did not dare to say anything else. He placed the fever reducer on the bedside table and left the room. When he considered calling Cordelia, he was interrupted by the sound of a car engine outside.

Aldor froze for a moment before hurrying downstairs, where he saw Stella enter the house carrying a bag of medicine. When she saw Aldor, she asked, "How is he doing? Has he taken the medicine?"

Aldor snapped back to his senses and shook his head. "Mr. Kane refused to take the medicine

and ordered me to leave," he said.

Stella thought to herself, 'I knew it!' before she said to Aldor, "I'll go upstairs. If you need to rest, there's a guest room downstairs. You can rest there for a while. If Keegan's fever doesn't subside, we might have to take him to the hospital."

Aldor replied, "It's okay. I'll be downstairs. Just call me if you need any help."

"Thank you," Stella said before rushing upstairs.

As soon as she opened the bedroom door, a glass was thrown near her feet, shattering into pieces. Keegan's annoyed voice rang out. "I said get out!"

After looking at the broken glass near her feet with lingering fears, Stella pursed her lips, as she tried to recompose herself before she walked in. "We haven't divorced yet. Where do you expect me to go?"

Keegan paused and looked at Stella with resentful red eyes. After a few seconds, he spoke in a cold voice. "What are you doing here?"

"Aldor told me that you had a fever," Stella explained. "I came back to check on you and see if you are delirious. If you are, I might trick you into giving me another 200 million after the divorce."

"In your dreams!" Keegan spat out through gritted teeth, and his face darkened.

Stella thought to herself, 'He can still swear. I guess he's sober.' She breathed a sigh of relief and stepped forward to feel Keegan's forehead. But, Keegan tilted his head to evade her hand and looked at her with disdain.

## Chapter 225

Stella felt both anger and amusement as she looked at Keegan. He was like the stray cat that used to hang around her childhood home. She had fed it for almost six months, but one day she accidentally kicked it in the head while she was opening the door. After that, the cat would never let her touch it. Every time she tried to pet it, the cat would move its head to avoid her, just like Keegan was doing now.

Although she could not catch the stray cat, Stella knew how to deal with Keegan. She stared at him for a few seconds, took off her shoes, and climbed onto the bed to straddle him. She reached for his shirt, which surprised Keegan and caused him to struggle as soon as he regained his senses.

Normally, Stella might not be able to hold him down. But, now that he was burning with a fever, he was as weak as a sick cat. It did not take long for Stella to unbutton his shirt, revealing his bare chest.

"Stella, do you have no shame?!" Keegan shouted.

Perhaps it was because of Keegan's anger or his fever that his entire face was flushed. Even his neck had a faint pinkish hue.

Stella, who was straddling him, suddenly felt a sense of control over the man. "To be honest, this is quite enjoyable."

Stella placed the thermometer under Keegan's armpit before she covered him with a blanket. In a tone that imitated how CEOs flirt with their young wives in web novels, she said to Keegan, "Is there any part of your body that I haven't seen? We've been married for so long, so why do I need to have shame?"

Keegan coughed angrily.

Stella comforted him by stroking his chest. "I don't mind you baring your chest in front of me. But, you're the one acting it like it's a big deal."

Keegan was very furious and was about to scold the unruly woman. However, before he could say anything, she took advantage of the situation and shoved the pill inside his open mouth. The pill slid down his throat right after she pinched his chin and lifted it up.

Keegan was already feeling unwell, and he was about to get angry at her antics. However, before he could say anything, he met Stella's smiling eyes.

"How is it? It's not bitter, right?"

For some reason, he suddenly could not bring himself to get angry.

Keegan grumbled, "Try shoving one directly inside your throat and see how you would feel." "This is how you should take a pill. Otherwise, it'd taste bitter on your tongue. If you hadn't broken the glass, I wouldn't have to feed you the pill like this." Stella retorted.

With that, she climbed down from the bed and rummaged through the cabinet to find a pack of dried fruit. "Try one of these. It'll make you feel better. They're sweet and sour. They're really tasty," she said as she held a piece of dried fruit out to Keegan's mouth.

Keegan was about to decline, but before he could say anything, Stella used the same trick and

stuffed that piece of dried fruit into his mouth.

Just as Stella promised, it was sweet and sour.

Supposedly, when someone had a fever, they would not be able to taste anything since their taste buds were affected. But, the sour and sweet taste suddenly spread inside

Keegan's mouth like colors being added to a black and white painting. It instantly made his mood a little brighter.

After Keegan had swallowed the medicine, he remembered something. "Did hands?"

Stella paused in her actions and murmured, "Um..."

you wash

your

Keegan instantly knew that she did not wash her hands. He scowled and wanted to spit out that piece of dried fruit, but Stella quickly covered his mouth. "My hands are not dirty. Don't spit it out."

Keegan was gasping for air under her hold. Then, he finally swallowed the piece of dried fruit whole. He did not have the strength to push her away, so he grabbed her wrist to signal her to

let

Stella asked, "Have you swallowed it?"

Keegan shot her a glare. But, after a while, he finally blinked.

Stella then released her hold. But, in the next second, with a burst of strength, Keegan grabbed her waist tightly and forcefully turned over, pressing her underneath him.

He gripped her neck, and through his gritted teeth while panting, he said, "Mess with me again, and I'll skin you alive!"

## Chapter 226

Keegan's fever was high. Even a simple movement like that had already exhausted him so much that he was panting hard and spewing hot breath.

'He's sick as hell, yet he's still acting so insolent.' Stella wanted to laugh. But, she was certain that if she did that, Keegan would strangle her even if he did not skin her alive.

'Why bother being angry with a patient?' Thinking of this, she sighed and spoke softly. "I'm sorry, Mr. Kane. Please don't be angry. You have a high fever, and you refuse to take medicine or go to the hospital. I'm just worried about your health."

"Quit trying to fool me. If you were worried about me, why didn't you come home for two days? I bet you wish that I would have brain damage so you could take your share of

my wealth and leave. Stella, there is no woman in this world who is better at lying than you!”

said,

“You bastard. Not only did you call me selfish, but you also called me a liar?! If you weren’t sick, I would have kicked you off the bed by now!” After cursing silently, Stella coaxed him and “TE you had brain damage from the fever and I filed for divorce, the judge wouldn’t rule in my favor. When we registered our marriage, didn’t we make a vow that till death do us part? So, I won’t file a divorce as soon as you fall ill.”

However, just when Keegan had calmed down a little, Stella added, “If that happens, I’ll at least have to wait for another two or three years. If you really can’t recover, then I’ll think of filing for divorce.”

Keegan could not breathe properly due to his rage. It had almost killed him.

He pinched her face and said through his gritted teeth, “Don’t even think about it! You just don’t want me to have a good life!”

“Was he telling me not to think about the divorce or not to think about taking his money? Never mind.’ Stella did not bother about it, thinking that Keegan must have gone delirious. After all, Keegan would never say these words when he was sane.

Keegan started coughing again after yelling at Stella.

Stella reached out to pat his back and softly said, “Of course I want you to get better. Take your medicine and rest well. If you’re healthy, you can earn more money. And, if you make more money, you can give me more when we get divorced. So, I definitely want you to get better.”

Keegan coughed and lay down on her, as he muttered, “Money is all you care about.”

Stella did not want to argue with a man who was in a delirium state. She replied, “Yeah, right. I only married you for your money.”

Keegan glared at her and weakly said, “I knew it!”

Stella took out the thermometer from his armpit and checked it under the light. It was 38.6 degrees, which was higher than Aldor’s reading, but not too high.

She grabbed a bag of medicine from the table, took out an anti-inflammatory pill, then shoved it into Keegan’s mouth. Its taste was so bitter that his face scrunched up. Before he was about to burst out in anger again, Stella quickly shoved another piece of dried fruit in his

mouth.

“Mr. Kane, Aldor is still downstairs. He’ll make fun of you if he finds out that you’re afraid of taking medicine like a child.”

Keegan glared at her, but he did not look intimidating. After he had finally managed to swallow everything, he warned her through his gritted teeth, “I’ll settle the score with you once I recover!”

“You can do whatever you want when you recover.

Keegan began to feel drowsy, and he struggled to keep his eyes open. His upper body was on top of Stella’s, which made her difficult to breathe.

When Keegan finally closed his eyes, Stella tried to push him away. But, he suddenly opened his eyes again and asked, “Where are you going?”

Keegan could get offended easily, so Stella did not want to tell him that he was too heavy. Instead, she replied, “I’m going to the bathroom.”

Thinking that he would move, she was surprised when she heard him say, “I’m coming with you,”

Stella was speechless.

“Mr. Kane, I want to use the toilet.”

Chapter 227

Stella thought that Keegan was deliberately clinging to her. But, she realized that she had misunderstood him as soon as he said, “Me too.”

Stella said resignedly, “You first.”

Keegan got up from the bed. But, as soon as he stood up, his feet went wobbly, and he was about to fall to the ground.

Luckily, Stella reacted quickly. She grabbed his collar and pulled him back, so he fell on the bed instead.

The fever reducer that Stella had given Keegan had a particularly strong effect. She herself had taken it once and quickly felt drowsy and weak.

She thought to herself, ‘Judging from his state, I guess the medicine has already kicked in.’ So, she said, “I’ll get Aldor to help.” As she spoke, she tried to get up, but Keegan held her down. “No, don’t go!” Keegan yelled.

Stella then explained, "But, I can't move you alone."

He gave a determined stare and refused to let Aldor come. At that moment, his face was red.

Stella was a little late when she realized, 'Keegan cares a lot about his image. Maybe he's afraid. that Aldor would see him in his embarrassing state, which will affect his CEO image.'

Keegan moved his lips and said softly, "Just help me walk."

Keegan remained resolute, so Stella had no choice but to help him to the bathroom.

Once they finally made it there, Keegan kicked her out. Initially, Stella thought that it would be awkward to assist Keegan in using the toilet, so this worked out well for her. She waited outside for a long time, but Keegan did not come out. Just as she was about to knock on the door to check on him, she heard a big crash from inside as if something had fallen over.

Without thinking, Stella pushed open the bathroom door.

Keegan was lying in a mess on the ground. The shelf next to him was also knocked over, and the items were scattered everywhere.

His pants were not even fully pulled up yet. There was some unknown liquid on his hands and pants.

When Keegan saw that Stella was coming in, he panicked and tried to pull up face was terribly pale, and he snapped, "Who let you in? Get out!"

his

pants. His

Stella hesitated for a moment when she saw the scene in front of her. She walked in and squatted down to help him pull up his pants. Then, she silently helped him up.

Keegan was furious and pushed Stella away, telling her to leave.

Stella ignored him. Instead, she helped him up. She did not mind his dirty hands, and she washed them under the faucet. Then, she took a towel and helped him wipe the stains off his pants.

Regardless of how bad his attitude was, Stella remained silent.

After she was done cleaning up, Stella helped him out and changed his clothes.

Keegan gradually stopped talking and watched her. Somehow, he felt a tightness in his throat.

When Stella had finished sweeping up all the broken glass, she brought the first-aid kit over and changed the bandage on his arm.

Stella unwrapped the gauze and found that Keegan's wound was bleeding again. The wound looked as though it had been stitched up again.

She thought to herself, 'Didn't he go to Bella? Does Bella know how to stitch up a wound?'

Stella did not have time to think about it, and she used a cotton swab to disinfect the wound.

Although Keegan was sleepy, he still looked at Stella without blinking. She was not wearing makeup, so the mole on her nose was partially visible, which looked similar to when they first met. But, it was also a bit different. He recalled that when she was handling those stains in the bathroom, her face never showed a hint of disgust throughout the entire process.

## Chapter 228

After Stella had bandaged his wound, Keegan had already fallen asleep.

She put away the first-aid kit and pondered a bit before lying down next to Keegan.

Every half an hour, Stella would get up to check Keegan's temperature. At two in the morning, Keegan's temperature finally dropped to 38 degrees. Only then did she finally breathe a sigh of relief and fall asleep as she could not stay up any longer.

The next day when Keegan woke up, he felt much better, except for his shoulder, which felt like there was a heavy rock on it.

He frowned and opened his eyes, wanting to push whatever was on his shoulder. But, before he could touch it, he saw Stella's sleeping face. He could not help but recall what had happened in the bathroom last night.

After staring at Stella for a long time, he slowly moved his outstretched hand and moved her head aside.

Keegan looked at Stella with disgust as soon as he felt the wet drool on his shoulder. He then picked up a blanket and clumsily covered her with it.

When Stella woke up, it was already noon, and Keegan and Aldor were no longer in the Kane residence.



She cursed inwardly, "That bastard. I took care of him all night, yet he didn't even thank me."

Stella picked up her phone and realized that Felicity had called her many times. She quickly returned her call.

"Why did you take so long to return my call?" Felicity said through her gritted teeth, "I thought Bella's fans had assassinated you!"

"I slept late last night, and I just woke up. What's wrong? Why did you call me so many times?"

"Just check your social media," replied Felicity.

"What is it about?" Stella asked.

"When Kelly, that bitch, was promoting her new drama, reporters asked her a few questions. She mocked you and said that you're raising your own pay rate and acting like a diva!"

Stella frowned and quickly clicked on a social media app. The top trending topic was "Kelly Dusk Galaxy". The next post was "Are Voice Actors More Suitable for Roles Than Actors?". Both of these topics were filled with a strong sense of opposition.

Stella clicked on the post and saw the video Felicity had mentioned.

Kelly Harper's company was about to release a web series. Although Kelly was not the director, she was credited as the screenwriter. Moreover, all the actors in the series were newly signed by Kelly's company. In the past two years, web series adapted from web novels had been quite popular, and several new artists had gained their fame because of those series. Apparently, Kelly also wanted to take the same route. To promote the new series and her own artists, she had invited Bella Young to make a guest appearance as well.

Recently, Bella was on the list of trending searches because of her conflicts with the voice

After she was done cleaning up, Stella helped him out and changed his clothes.

Keegan gradually stopped talking and watched her. Somehow, he felt a tightness in his throat.

When Stella had finished sweeping up all the broken glass, she brought the first-aid kit over and changed the bandage on his arm.

Stella unwrapped the gauze and found that Keegan's wound was bleeding again. The wound looked as though it had been stitched up again.

She thought to herself, 'Didn't he go to Bella? Does Bella know how to stitch up a wound?'

Stella did not have time to think about it, and she used a cotton swab to disinfect the wound.

Although Keegan was sleepy, he still looked at Stella without blinking. She was not wearing makeup, so the mole on her nose was partially visible, which looked similar to when they first met. But, it was also a bit different. He recalled that when she was handling those stains in the bathroom, her face never showed a hint of disgust throughout the entire process.

After Stella had bandaged his wound, Keegan had already fallen asleep.

She put away the first-aid kit and pondered a bit before lying down next to Keegan.

Every half an hour, Stella would get up to check Keegan's temperature. At two in the morning, Keegan's temperature finally dropped to 38 degrees. Only then did she finally breathe a sigh of relief and fall asleep as she could not stay up any longer.

The next day when Keegan woke up, he felt much better, except for his shoulder, which felt like there was a heavy rock on it.

He frowned and opened his eyes, wanting to push whatever was on his shoulder. But, before he could touch it, he saw Stella's sleeping face. He could not help but recall what had happened in the bathroom last night.

After staring at Stella for a long time, he slowly moved his outstretched hand and moved her head aside.

Keegan looked at Stella with disgust as soon as he felt the wet drool on his shoulder. He then picked up a blanket and clumsily covered her with it.

When Stella woke up, it was already noon, and Keegan and Aldor were no longer in the Kane residence.

She cursed inwardly, 'That bastard. I took care of him all night, yet he didn't even thank me.'

Stella picked up her phone and realized that Felicity had called her many times. She quickly returned her call.

“Why did you take so long to return my call?” Felicity said through her gritted teeth, “I thought Bella’s fans had assassinated you!”

“I slept late last night, and I just woke up. What’s wrong? Why did you call me so many times?”

“Just check your social media,” replied Felicity.

“What is it about?” Stella asked.

“When Kelly, that bitch, was promoting her new drama, reporters asked her a few questions. She mocked you and said that you’re raising your own pay rate and acting like a diva!”

Stella frowned and quickly clicked on a social media app. The top trending topic was “Kelly Dusk Galaxy” The next post was “Are Voice Actors More Suitable for Roles Than Actors?.” Both of these topics were filled with a strong sense of opposition.

Stella clicked on the post and saw the video Felicity had mentioned.

Kelly Harper’s company was about to release a web series. Although Kelly was not the director, she was credited as the screenwriter. Moreover, all the actors in the series were newly signed by Kelly’s company. In the past two years, web series adapted from web novels had been quite popular, and several new artists had gained their fame because of those series. Apparently, Kelly also wanted to take the same route. To promote the new series and her own artists, she had invited Bella Young to make a guest appearance as well.

Recently, Bella was on the list of trending searches because of her conflicts with the voice

actor, Dusk Galaxy. Her popularity was not that good at the moment. The reporters who attended the press conference were not interested in Kelly’s new series but in the conflict between Bella and Dusk Galaxy.

Hence, the reporters kept bringing up this subject during the entire interview. When she asked about how she viewed the relationship between actors and voice actors, whether it was for the hype or her friendship with Bella, Kelly commented, “This isn’t about how I see it; it’s about how the audience sees it. Visuals are the most important element in film and television. Choosing to use a voice actor for dubbing doesn’t mean that the actor in the role lacks proficiency in delivering lines.

“Sometimes, the voice of an actor doesn’t match the role. For example, when an actress has to play a strong female role despite having a high-pitched voice, her voice may not be able to portray the character. That’s when professional voice actors are needed for

dubbing to make up for the shortcomings. That way, the series can deliver a better portrayal of those roles.

“It’s a pretty normal thing. I don’t understand why people would argue about this subject. To me, in cases like this, voice actors are just the ‘voice doubles’ for actors. We still need the actors’ faces to portray those roles.

“It’s just that some voice actors got cocky because their fans put them on a pedestal. I have encountered one before. Actually, I’ve never met her in person. I was thinking since we worked on a drama series before, perhaps we should participate in a variety show to promote the drama series.

“While the other actors were willing to make time for it, she declined it. We were even willing to change the schedule for her. We thought she might have some urgent business to attend to. But later, we found out that she felt that the pay was low, and she wanted to receive the same rate as a leading actor.

“When that drama was aired, she hired cyber-troopers to criticize the actors every day. Just because she received a few praises from her fans, she assumed that the success of the drama was all because of her.

“I can’t help but roll my eyes. She’s just a voice double. How significant can she be? Yet, she dared to ask for a leading actress’s pay rate. A ‘voice double’ is just a ‘voice double’; anyone can do it. This kind of person has brought bad influence to showbiz...”

Kelly did not name the person, but the internet detectives quickly figured out the main character of the incident based on the information she provided.

There was a popular drama recently known for the conflicts between the actor and voice actor, and the highly anticipated *The Sound of Film and Television* was about to be released. Hence, the only one who fit the descriptions was Dusk Galaxy

The video of Kelly’s interview had gained millions of views on short video platforms, and the subject was a hot topic on the trending list.

Instantly, Bella’s fans stormed to Dusk Galaxy’s Facebook and bombarded her with comments and private messages.

[This bitch thinks she’s a leading actress.]

[She doesn’t even have the courage to show her face. No wonder she can only be a ‘voice double.’]

[After watching so many drama series, this is the first time I’ve seen a barrage of comments mentioning a voice actor. For her to hire so many cyber-troopers, I wonder how desperate she wants fame.]

[She didn't do that for fame. She's just envious of others earning more than her.]

[Didn't her fans always say that Bella Young isn't qualified to be her 'face double'? Ask her to be in "The Sound of Film and Television", and we'll see who will be the one embarrassed when they are both in the same footage.]

Stella looked at the stupid comments and almost laughed out loud.

'As a voice actor, I've been trying my best to avoid conflicts, yet she said that I brought bad influence? If it wasn't for Bella's fans constantly praising her acting and line delivery skills online, would the netizens make those comparison videos?' Stella thought, 'She started playing the victim when she couldn't beat me. She said she had a cold or sore throat and blamed me. And, if I had the money to buy my way to the top of the trending list, would I still need to sell that bag?'

program

Bella had been the one creating drama. When Stella declined the invitation from the crew, she had made it clear and never said anything about low pay. She could not help but wonder about the source of those false rumors.

Suddenly, Stella remembered the Facebook user who had sent her private messages the night before. That sender did ask me to name a price. It can't be a coincidence."

Felicity said, "Stella, why don't you do a livestream to clear your name? I'm so angry when I read these comments. I feel like punching these people in the face! How dare they call you a voice double! Is Bella's face even gorgeous enough to match your voice?"

"No, we signed a contract." Stella was calm. "And, this is just a small matter. It's not worth exposing my identity."

"So, are we just going to sit here and let these people talk crap about you? I can't take it!"

'Kelly wants to promote her new web series, and Bella's goal is to discredit me and redeem her image,' Stella explained with a smile. "They both need to hype this subject to achieve their respective objectives. So, if they want that kind of result, why don't we help them?"

Chapter 229

"What?" Felicity did not understand what Stella meant.

"Well, sometimes Sophia's methods can be pretty effective," said Stella.

Felicity was still trying to figure out the meaning of Stella's sentence. Soon, she saw Stella's

countermove.

After half an hour, Dusk Galaxy posted on Facebook, [Nothing in the world is as mean as the human heart.] Just ten minutes later, she posted again, [All work suspended indefinitely.] And ten minutes after that, she took down all of her Facebook posts and deactivated her account, quitting the platform entirely. Shortly thereafter, some netizens discovered that she had not only deactivated her Facebook account, but all of her social media accounts. Soon, the topic "Dusk Galaxy Quits Social Media" climbed to the top of the trending list in just a few minutes.

Dusk Galaxy did not offer any explanation for Kelly's interview or respond to any of the netizens' questions. With just the phrase "as mean as the human heart" as her farewell message, she had completely withdrawn from social media.

Kelly did not name the voice actor or provide any substantial evidence linking Dusk Galaxy to the allegations. Dusk Galaxy could have continued to earn money in the voice-acting industry after the storm passed. Despite this, Dusk Galaxy decided to give up her livelihood due to one negative comment. This decision did not seem logical, especially for someone Kelly had claimed to have complained about low pay.

Soon after, someone uncovered Dusk Galaxy's earlier voice-over work for children's books, which was allegedly done for charity and thus unpaid. Besides children's books, she lent her voice to numerous public service announcements and provided audio instructions for vision-impaired children. These actions hardly fit the profile of someone who despised taking low-paying gigs.

The chief and several other big names in the voice-acting industry then spoke up for Dusk Galaxy, debunking the rumors of high salaries for voice actors. They revealed that, in reality, voice actors were paid much less than regular actors, with a few hundred dollars per episode being the norm. Working with actors who could not enunciate clearly meant that the lines had to be repeated over and over, which often led to late-night recording sessions. Even once voice-over actors had established themselves, they still had to comply with the script and accommodate the other actors. If they were not "smart" enough and offended someone, there might be no jobs for them for a year.

Half an hour later, a well-known charity federation in Hustuabourg released a public service video. Coincidentally, the voice of the female character in the video was Dusk Galaxy's, and it was also done for charity. Moreover, this video was a public service advertisement from several years ago. It was very interesting that this video was released at this critical moment.

With all these supporting facts surfacing, the public opinion swiftly reversed, and netizens turned their firepower on Kelly.

[Kelly has been dubbed the queen of poor production. All she does is stir controversy for fame. Who is she to question a talented voice actor?]

[Moreover, Kelly's words were misleading. The basic skills of an actor include voice, expression, and movement. They are all essential. If actors can't even deliver lines properly,

they can forget about their acting skills.]

[After reaping the fruits from the labor of voice actors, she turned around and stepped on them.]

[She only cares about popularity and not talent. The quality of movies and TV shows has been declining because of people like her. It's the real-life version of "bad money drives out the good".]

Similar to what haters had done when criticizing Dusk Galaxy, these netizens bombarded Kelly's Facebook with comments. There were too many of them. Eventually, Kelly had to turn off the comment feature on her Facebook.

However, the relentless netizens then targeted her new web series on a drama rating site. In just one day, the unlucky series received one-star ratings from tens of thousands of netizens as soon as it was released. It became the lowest-rated series in the history of that website, which was another kind of "hype."

The drastic turn of events left Felicity dumbfounded.

## Chapter 230

Felicity had never thought that Stella would take this opportunity to deactivate the Dusk Galaxy account.

It was a clever move. On one hand, as Dusk Galaxy, Stella portrayed herself as a victim; on the other, she withdrew at the peak of her voice-acting career. In the minds of her fans, she would be the perfect and innocent victim.

If Dusk Galaxy were to return after this, it would undoubtedly cause another storm.

Unfortunately, the account has ten million followers. It was a pity to just give up like that. If it were Felicity, she would not be able to let

Felicity suddenly realized that Bella's abilities and vision were far more inferior than Stella's. "I will never understand why Keegan Kane, that blind bastard, would choose a pile of shit over a rose."

In the office of Vinci Rivera Group, Keegan sneezed several times.



Aldor quickly handed him a glass of water. "Mr. Kane, do you need to take a break?"

Keegan pinched his forehead and waved his hand. "Make me a cup of coffee."

When Aldor left the office, Sophia, who had been watching at the door, followed him and pretended to bump into him in the pantry. "Aldor, what a coincidence."

Aldor had only met Sophia a few times and did not know her well enough to exchange pleasantries. But, out of politeness, he responded, "Can I help you?"

"Are you making coffee for my brother-in-law? Let me help you."

"Thank you, but it's not necessary. Mr. Kane doesn't like anyone touching his cup."

Sophia's hand froze in mid-air, and she smiled awkwardly. "I heard from Stella that my brother-in-law is a germaphobe."

Aldor paused and reminded her, "Sophia Jewell, you're now in our company. Mr. Kane keeps his personal and work affairs separate, so please be mindful of how you address him. We want to avoid any possible misunderstandings or undue influence."

Sophia felt embarrassed after being exposed by Aldor. Her face turned red, and she replied softly, "Thank you for reminding me. I'll remember that."

Aldor smiled politely and left after making the coffee.

Sophia was left feeling embarrassed, and a group of people outside laughed and whispered to each other.

"I thought she had some big connections. When she joined the company, she was so arrogant and called Mr. Kane her 'brother-in-law' all the time. But, it looks like Mr. Kane didn't pay any attention to her."

"I heard that the list of hires was already set, but Aldor went to HR and added her resume. He said it was Mr. Kane's idea."

"Mr. Kane's idea is just Mrs. Kane's idea, right? I heard Sophia and Mrs. Kane aren't even

biological sisters; she's adopted. So, Mrs. Kane is just being kind to her.

"I'm worried that Sophia will be like the viper in the fable 'The Farmer and the Viper'. Every time she sees Mr. Kane, she looks like she wants to cling to him..."

Sophia tightened her fists.



When the Vinci Rivera Group was hiring, Sophia's resume did not make the cut. The company had already hired a batch of new employees two weeks ago, but Sophia only received her offer letter on the second day of the jewelry exhibition. Albert believed that Keegan had specially approved Sophia's employment as compensation for the dowry Albert had given Stella. Sophia, on the other hand, did not share the same idea. She did not think that Stella would have such a great influence on Keegan's decisions. Moreover, given Sophia's relationship with Stella, Stella would be the first to oppose her employment at the Vinci Rivera Group.

"They said I owed her a favor, huh? But, is she even worthy?"

As Sophia stepped out of the pantry, a colleague who was just slacking off at the door suddenly ran downstairs. While she was running, she shouted, "Someone is causing a scene at our company."

## Chapter 231

Sophia was momentarily taken aback. Then, however, she followed along with the crowd, eager to see what was happening.

As soon as she stepped out of the lift, she heard someone crying in the lobby. "Why are you firing me? I've been dedicated to serving the Kane family for almost twenty years. And now you're letting me go without any compensation. This is going to ruin my life! I'm going to take legal action against you!"

The HR manager downstairs explained, "Ms. Lane, we tried to reach you multiple times yesterday and explained the situation. But you refused to listen and hung up on us. You didn't come to handle the procedures, nor did you come to work. So we had to mark it as an unexcused absence. If you're not satisfied, you can apply for labor arbitration. It won't help to create a disturbance here."

"You're the ones who didn't want me to come here, so how can this be considered an unexcused absence? You're bullying me! I demand to speak with Mr. Kane! I want to see Keegan Kane!"

"Mr. Kane is busy at the moment. He asked me to handle your case. If you're unsatisfied with the result, you can file a lawsuit. But if you make a scene here, I'm sorry, I may have to ask security to escort you out."

The HR manager gestured to the security officers. As the security officers were about to move forward, Maya broke through the crowd and ran up to the second floor. She climbed over the railing and threatened the guards, "Don't come near me! If you do, I'll jump!"

The lobby on the first floor was about five to six meters high. If Maya jumped, she would not die but would definitely get injured.

Therefore, as soon as she made this threat, the security officers hesitated to approach her. They were worried that any accidents could harm the company, and no one wanted to bear that responsibility.

Maya seized on this and insisted on seeing Keegan. "I've served the Kane family with all my heart and done nothing wrong. So why does Mr. Kane want to fire me? I refuse to accept it! I'll jump from here if Mr. Kane doesn't explain today!"

The HR manager frowned, "Ms. Lane, your behavior is meaningless. We're following the contract and acting under the law."

"Is forcing someone into a corner the only way to follow a contract? Don't come any closer, or I'll jump if you do!"

The two sides were deadlocked when a voice interrupted, "What's going on?"

The crowd moved aside, and Sophia saw a tall, handsome man who looked similar to Keegan. His facial features weren't as refined as Keegan's, but he was still handsome. However, the inexplicable wickedness in his eyes made people feel uncomfortable when he stared at them. The person was Jackson, Chandler Kane's only son, and Keegan's cousin. He had recently been assigned to a project in the Southern West and had just returned a few days ago.

When the HR manager saw Jackson, he looked tense and said, "It's a normal personnel

change, and I'll handle it quickly."

As soon as Maya saw Jackson, she cried, "Jackson, please help me..."

Jackson looked at the HR manager and said, "Is this your solution?"

The HR manager's face turned sour, but he didn't say anything.

Although Jackson's position in the company wasn't as high as his father's, the board of directors still respected him. He was also Chandler Kane's only son, so he commanded some influence.

"Go get Keegan. Maya might have made a mistake, but she's been a loyal employee for a long time and deserves to be treated with respect. What's the point of causing a commotion?"

The HR manager complied and turned to his assistant to notify Keegan.

Sophia pursed her lips and secretly recorded a video with her phone, which she sent to Aurora.

Aurora tried to persuade Dahlia to give her more allowance, saying she wanted to invite Marshall to dinner.

Dahlia had been extremely stressed lately because of Maya's situation, so when she heard Aurora asking for money, her expression turned sour. "Didn't I give you two million last month? How did you spend it?"

Chapter 232

"I went to an art exhibition with Ariel. She liked a painting, so I bought it. Unfortunately, it cost a few million. So I had to borrow money from friends."

Dahlia frowned, "Did Ariel accept it?"

"No, Ariel said it was too valuable. And I couldn't return it, so I stored it."

Dahlia's mouth twitched. "Stay away from Marshall from now on."

"Why?" Aurora protested. "Didn't you support me dating Marshall?"

"That was based on the condition that Marshall was interested in you too. Didn't you see how he avoided you at the jewelry exhibition? Now you're chasing after him. Don't you understand that?"

"I'll go

after him no matter what it takes. There's no other woman in his life, and I'm not bad-looking. Plus, we've been friends since childhood, and Ariel likes me. So it's just a matter of time before we start dating."

"If Marshall isn't interested in you, marrying him would make you miserable."

"Well, dad didn't seem to like you very much at first. But you're doing fine now, aren't you?" Dahlia was speechless and almost died of anger at this daughter.

She was about to say something when Aurora suddenly exclaimed, "Mom, Maya is at the Vinci Rivera Group. She's about to jump off the building!"

Aurora showed Dahlia the video that Sophia had sent her, and Dahlia's face immediately turned pale upon watching it. Then, without saying a word, she stood up and rushed out of the room in a hurry.

The news of Maya threatening to jump off the building quickly reached Keegan's ears.

Keegan hated it when people used these tactics to threaten others, so he immediately had Aldor call the police.

Aldor said, "Jackson is downstairs, probably at your uncle's behest. Maya has worked for the Kane family for over a decade. It could negatively impact us if we are too harsh to her."

Chandler had been at the Vinci Rivera Group longer than Keegan. Although Keegan had gained some leverage in recent years through his strengths, Chandler had a deep-rooted foundation in the company and a way with people.

Although Maya's situation might seem like a minor issue, she had been an employee of the Kane family for over a decade. If not handled properly, the situation could disappoint some of the company's veteran employees.

Keegan furrowed his brows and said, "Jackson doesn't seem to handle what he should. He's overly enthusiastic about things he shouldn't be involved in." He then stood up and made his way outside.

Aldor followed him quietly without saying a word.

Previously, Jackson had been sent to the Southwest for a project. The fact was, everyone

within the company knew he was "exiled."

Jackson was charming and often flirted with female colleagues. However, he never initiated anything himself. Instead, he would let women approach him and dump them once he was done toying with them.

However, as the saying goes, "But if you play with fire, you will eventually get burned." A few months ago, the company received an anonymous letter accusing Jackson of sexual misconduct with multiple female colleagues and manipulating personnel transfers.

In addition to the letter, there was ample evidence of sexually explicit attachments that Jackson could not deny, supporting the accusations against him.

Cordelia was outraged and deeply concerned that the incident would cause a major scandal for the Kane family. As a result, she decided to send Jackson to Hustuabourg, a harsh environment in the West, to reflect on his actions.

As a result of this incident, significant personnel changes were made to several important positions within the company, resulting in many employees affiliated with Chandler being replaced. This caused tensions to rise between Chandler and Keegan.

Now that Jackson had returned, he was likely not coming back with good intentions.

Maya's situation could be a potential opportunity for Chandler's party to take advantage of. So Aldor thought long and hard and decided to call Stella secretly.

## Chapter 233

Stella finally had a free day. After dealing with those annoying matters online, she ate something and went downstairs to read the script.

Although her role was important in the entire drama series, the screen time was short. Most of her scenes were in the latter half of the series.

The queen's character was less likable than the concubine's. If she followed the conventional acting methods, the impact would only be mediocre.

Actors portraying antagonists often appear one-dimensional, failing to make a deep impression on the audience. Stella knew that if she wanted to use this drama series as a stepping stone for her career in showbiz, she could not afford to give a mediocre performance. She kept reviewing the classic works of those experienced actors in showbiz and repeatedly pondered the character development, gradually coming up with some ideas.

Before she could savor her thoughts, Aldor's call interrupted her.

"Madam, Mr. Kane left a document at home, and it's urgently needed for the meeting. Could you help deliver it?"

Why has Keegan been so forgetful recently? Is he suffering from dementia at such a young age?' Stella silently grumbled and asked, "What document? Have you asked him where he put it?"

"It's in a paper folder on Mr. Kane's desk in the study."

Stella pushed open the door and immediately saw the paper folder on the desk in the study.

She took a photo and sent it to Aldor. "Is this it?"

"Yes, that's it. Please hurry up. The meeting is about to start."

"Got it," Stella said with a smirk.

She quickly tidied up, changed her shoes, and left with the paper folder.

## Chapter 234

L

Keegan descended the stairs and found a sizable crowd gathered downstairs. Maya sat outside the railing on the second floor, crying and pleading to the onlookers. Some snapped pictures while others chattered away.

Sophia first spotted Keegan, and she promptly called out, "Mr. Kane!" Instantly, the crowd hushed and parted to make way for him.

Jackson, who had someone bring him a chair to the second floor for a better view, was sitting there, sipping his coffee. When he saw Keegan, he paused and smirked.

"Keegan, you finally showed up."

Keegan glanced at Jackson and looked around. He said in a cold and authoritative voice, "Everyone, get back to your work!"

"

Those few words exuded an overwhelming sense of intimidation. Then, seeing the crowd begin to disperse, Jackson spoke up, "Keegan, Maya has served our family for a long time. If you don't handle this matter fairly and transparently, even if it's resolved, people will think our company is using its power to suppress others."

Maya seized the moment to speak up, "Don't leave, everyone! I'm not only the housemaid for the Kane family but also an employee of the Vinci Rivera Group. I've dedicated over a decade of my life to the Kane family. Though I may not have accomplished much, I've worked hard. But now that I'm middle age, they want me to leave. If they can do this to me, you could be next!" The uproar downstairs intensified.

The Vinci Rivera Group had a significant number of long-time employees. In addition, the company had recently brought in talented individuals. Unfortunately, some of the older staff members were laid off with limited positions available. Many feared they could be next. Even if they had a wealth of experience, as they aged, they could not compete physically with younger people. Therefore, they did not have an advantage in the competition for positions. Maya's speech struck a chord with those who had devoted most of their lives to the company. When they felt they were at risk of being kicked out by their employer, they could not help but empathize with her plight.

As a result, those who had intended to leave hesitated and paused in their tracks.

11

## Chapter 235

Keegan's face darkened.

Maya thought she had the upper hand and continued to speak out, "I worked for the Kane family for sixteen years. They not only fired me but also refused to give me any compensation. I have a family to support; my husband is unemployed. They are pushing us all to the brink." Jackson chimed in, "Keegan, you are too heartless. Isn't it ruthless to treat an employee serving us for over a decade this way?"

Keegan's eyes narrowed, and he spoke coldly to Maya, "I followed the contract, and I don't see anything wrong with how I handled the situation. If you're dissatisfied, you can apply for labor arbitration. Threatening me here won't change anything, and I can even sue you for slandering the company's reputation!"

As Keegan spoke, he turned to Aldor and ordered, "Call the police!"

Maya's arm trembled, and she began to feel anxious. Dahlia had told her to take a couple of days off and promised to talk to Keegan when he was calmer.

But just one day later, Maya received an email from the Vinci Rivera Group informing her that she was being terminated without compensation. So how could she stay put?

Maya had come to the company to make a scene so she could seek compensation, not to start a legal battle.

As Maya hesitated, a voice rang out through the lobby, "Don't call the police!" Everyone turned their heads and found it was Keegan's mother, Dahlia. Stella, who had just arrived to deliver the document, was with Dahlia.

Earlier, Stella had not expected to meet Dahlia as soon as she came. On the other hand, Dahlia gave Stella an attitude because of the birth control pill incident. However, knowing that Stella was there to deliver a document, she asked Stella to join her. When they entered the company, they saw Maya standing on the second floor, threatening to jump.

Maya saw Dahlia as if she was her savior. Then, choking back tears, she implored, "Please help me."

Dahlia glared at Maya and thought, 'I told her to wait a few days, but she couldn't be patient. Now she's making a scene in the company, giving Chandler's family an excuse to use against

us.'

Suppressing her irritation, Dahlia spoke gently, "Maya, come down first. We can sit down and talk about it. Why are you making a scene? It'll just make you a laughing stock."

## Chapter 236

Maya was, after all, Dahlia's person; she felt more confident with Dahlia around. Dahlia's words almost convinced her to come down.

'If Maya comes down, how is this show supposed to carry on?' Jackson calmly said, "Dahlia, if they could talk this out, Maya wouldn't have risked her life sitting here."

Maya was immediately alert. 'Dahlia wouldn't have shown up if I didn't make a scene. If I come down now, how am I supposed to negotiate? Dahlia is Keegan's birth mother, and she will naturally take his side.'

With that in mind, Maya sat back down and said, "I've already put my reputation on the line today. I'm not afraid of being laughed at anymore! All these years, I've worked hard for the Kane family. But Mr. Kane decided to fire me because of a single word from Mrs. Kane. He even falsely accused me of skipping work and did not plan to compensate me. In our line of work, reputation is everything. Mr. Kane has ruined my career by firing me! I'll jump off the Vinci Rivera Group building if you don't explain today. Everyone will see how the Vinci Rivera Group treats their loyal employees!"

Dahlia's face darkened with anger. 'This fool doesn't even know she's being used!' she cursed silently.

Downstairs, the onlookers were in a clamor.

"Mr. Kane is too harsh! She had served his family for over a decade, and he fired her without compensation."

"That's not the worst of it. The former manager of the finance department, Mr. Sullivan, is still in jail."

"Mr. Sullivan broke the law and got what he deserved. But what could Maya have done? She had served the Kane family all these years, but Mr. Kane fired her without even sparing a thought. How heartless!"

"I heard it was Mrs. Kane's idea. Maybe Mrs. Kane doesn't like Maya and persuaded Mr. Kane to do so."

"Isn't that too ridiculous?"



Stella's eyes twitched. "Did I owe the Kane family in my past life? Why do I get blamed for everything? What does Maya's firing have to do with me? It's like I made Keegan fire her!"

Before Dahlia could say anything, Sophia suddenly spoke. "Stella, Maya has taken good care of you. You shouldn't treat her this way over a small matter. Everyone makes mistakes. She's already at this age, and being fired will make it difficult for her to find another job. Why don't you talk to Keegan and ask him to reconsider? Let's let this matter rest."

## Chapter 237

Originally, everyone was just whispering to each other. But Sophia's words shifted the blame to Stella, making everyone point fingers at her.

"Stella, Maya has been caring for you and Keegan for many years. So why don't you just let it slide?" said Dahlia while thinking, 'As long as Stella bears the blame, Keegan's reputation in the company will be safe.'

Stella finally understood why Aldor had called her over. She cursed inwardly, "The hell they need me to deliver that document! They just want me to be the scapegoat for Keegan because they're too damn scared the incident will smear his precious reputation among the employees!"

She shot Keegan and Aldor a cold glare. Aldor averted her gaze, feeling guilty.

Keegan frowned and pursed his lips before he said, "Mom, this is not a matter we can privately negotiate anymore. If I set a precedent today, what if someone else gets laid off and makes a scene like this? Should I just turn a blind eye to it? Is our company some kind of charity?"

Stella thought to herself, "When it comes to acting, I can't compete with Keegan. They blamed me, and he can still talk so righteously."

Dahlia said, "Maya just had a small disagreement with Stella. If Stella is still not happy, let her apologize to Stella. Just forgive her for my sake and let this slide, alright?"

Maya immediately understood Dahlia's words and knelt in front of Stella. "Mrs. Kane, I'm sorry. Please forgive me. Please let me keep my job..."

The crowd discussed among themselves.

"This is too much. At her age, she had to kneel."

"It's not easy to find a job. If Maya has a choice, she won't stoop to this level."

“Mrs. Kane doesn’t understand the hardships of working-class people since she stays at home all day and lives a life of luxury. She got the employee fired with just a few words.”

“The Jewell family used to be ordinary folk. She has suffered hardships before. How could she be so mean?”

## Chapter 238

“She’s been in a similar situation in the past; maybe that’s why she wants others to go through worse.”

Sophia smiled when she heard their words. She said, “Stella, dad has always taught us to be forgiving. Maya’s already apologized, so you should give her a smaller punishment if you’re still angry. Think of it as giving her a small punishment to prevent her from doing something worse. Besides, so many people are around. It’ll look bad if you keep this up.”

Stella glanced at Sophia icily.

‘If I back down and let the matter rest, I’ll surely be labeled as someone who’s inhumane and oppresses the elderly,’ she thought.

Stella pursed her lips. Suddenly, she said, “Maya, you said I’m dismissing you because of Keegan. Then, tell everyone specifically why and let them decide if my punishment for you is too harsh.

Maya was startled.

‘What am I supposed to say? That I purposefully placed the contraceptive she had thrown away at an obvious place so that Dahlia and the old lady would see it? The first clause in the contract was not to disclose my employer’s privacy. So I couldn’t tell them even when I was asked to do so by Dahlia. After all, I signed the contract with Keegan. Discloser of privacy is a deal breaker in this profession,’ she thought.

Maya stammered for a while before she finally said, “Well... Well, I forgot to take out the trash...”

‘She sure knows how to understate the issue,’ thought Stella.

Stella knew she did not dare to tell the truth, so she went along with what Maya said.

“Keegan is a germaphobe; his allergies get triggered when he sleeps in an unclean environment. Half a year ago, you didn’t carry out mite removal on time, leading to Keegan getting rashes all over. He was in the hospital for a week. Back then, I had reminded you to carry out a disinfection every two days. And what did you do?”

It was true that Keegan had gotten rashes half a year ago due to dust mites; everyone in the company knew about it. Besides that, his rashes were indeed caused by the unclean bedsheets he had slept on.

Maya's face turned red.

'My son visited me at Keegan's house before Keegan got his allergies. Back then, Keegan and Stella stayed over at Keegan's grandparent's house, so I let my son stay over. My son liked how luxurious the master bedroom was, so he slept there for a night. Who would've thought that Keegan would get rashes all over his body after sleeping on that bed the following day?' she thought.

Chapter 239

The doctor said it was an allergic reaction, so Stella went home to search for the allergen. Unfortunately, when she checked the security cameras, she inadvertently discovered Maya's son staying at their house.

Dahlia hated when employees did not know their boundaries. Maya was worried that she would lose her job if Dahlia found out that her son had stayed over at her employer's house.

Maya cried and begged Stella not to tell anyone.

Back then, Stella did not say a word. She merely told Maya to change all of the sheets and reminded her to disinfect the rooms at least three times a week.

Stella did not like holding other people's past mistakes over their heads.

"The past is in the past,' she thought.

As time passed, Maya herself also forgot about the matter.

'Now that I'm saying I didn't take out the trash, I'm also admitting that I didn't clean the room. I can't refute at all when Stella's using this matter to turn the situation around. Since I can't speak of the real reason Keegan dismissed me, I can only admit it,' Maya thought.

She bit down on her lips, "I only forgot that time, Mrs. Kane. Please give me another chance."

Jackson narrowed his eyes, "Stella, I think Maya doesn't look like she did it on purpose. Humans aren't machines; who doesn't make mistakes at work? Dismissing someone over such a small matter seems a little unjustifiable."

"A small matter?" Stella looked up.

Her gaze was dark, “Do you know my husband could’ve lost his life because of her small mistake at work? You’ve never gone through the moments of waiting for the doctor’s news outside the emergency room. That’s why you’d think it’s a small matter.”

Stella’s voice was not loud, but her articulation was clear. Besides that, every single one of her sentences permeated true emotions, making others unconsciously believe that she genuinely did all this for the safety of her husband’s life.

Keegan turned to look at her.

‘Even though I know every single one of her sentences is a load of bull, seeing her sincerely’ speak up’ for me makes some part of my heart crumble slightly,’ he thought.

When Sophia saw how Stella’s words stirred the crowd, she quickly said, “Even so, Stella, the punishment is still too harsh. It’s too big of a price to lose one’s job over a misstep. In the future, who’ll dare work for the company?”

Stella glanced at Sophia, “Why don’t you suggest an appropriate punishment, then?”

Sophia intended to arouse the masses; she did not expect Stella to pass the buck to her.

Chapter 240

‘How could I have any good ideas?’ thought Sophia.

Then, she said casually, “At least... Don’t let her be unemployed. Transferring her to a different position would work too; dismissing her is too inhumane.”

Stella gave it some serious thought for a while. Then, she turned to Maya, “You really want to stay at the company?”

Maya was desperate to keep her job, “I can do anything as long as I remain in the company.”

Stella turned to Keegan, “The truth is, I wanted to refer Maya to Mrs. Franklin’s place so she could work there. I’ve already contacted her, and her salary will be the same as we give her. However, I’ll dismiss Maya since she’s sentimental about the company. We’ll go with what Sophia said and let Maya work as a janitor at the company. Then Maya’s wishes are fulfilled.”

Sophia twitched her lips.

‘Since when did I ask for Maya to become a janitor at the company?!’ she thought.

When Maya heard about working as a janitor at the company, she instantly turned red in embarrassment.

'A company janitor... I'll be doing the dirtiest and most tiring work while getting the lowest wage. I didn't come here to make a fuss just to end up with this?!' she thought.

"Mr. Kane, I-"

Before Maya could finish her sentence, Keegan asked Dahlia, "What do you think, mom?"

Dahlia already felt embarrassed enough and wanted the problem to be solved as soon as possible.

"It's up to you," she said icily and left.

Keegan said, "Then, so be it. Aldor, get the human resources department to redraft a new contract for Maya."

After that, he glanced at Maya, "You're going to sit up there and sign the contract?"

Chapter 241

At this moment, Maya badly wanted to chew up Sophia for being big-mouthed.

'Indeed, I don't want to lose my job; but that doesn't mean any job will do. Keegan's already taken a step back; even if I continue being on my high horse, nobody will side with me if Dahlia doesn't care about me. I don't want to lose my job, but they've already given me one. If I continue making a fuss, I'll be considered ungrateful.'

Maya could only silently endure it all and fake a smile, "Thank you, Mr. Kane."

Sophia still wanted to demonstrate her empathy, so she went to help Maya. However, Maya hurdled over the barrier and shoved her aside.

Sophia stumbled and fell backward. The people around her were worried she would bump into them, so they hurriedly dodged.

Then, Sophia fell right onto the ground in an embarrassing posture. Stella went up and reached out her hand, "Get up, Sophia. The floor is cold."

Sophia gritted her teeth and said quietly, "Thank you, Stella."

Just as she was about to place her hand into Stella's palm, Stella suddenly retracted her hand.

“Get up yourself. Don’t become a laughing stock for others.”

Sophia clenched her fists. Then, she braced her palms on the floor and got up.

Since the incident had been “successfully” solved, everyone returned to their positions in an orderly manner.

Jackson trudged up to Stella. He smiled. “Long time no see, Stella. You look even more beautiful than before.”

Stella glanced at him icily.

‘Even though he shares a similar face with Keegan, I can’t help but shudder every time those eyes of his look at me. It feels like a venomous snake is licking me,’ she thought.

Chapter 242

Stella suppressed the disgust she felt within and answered perfunctorily. Then, she turned around and went to search for Keegan.

Jackson followed Stella at an unhurried pace.

“It’s said that you can see if a person is beautiful when they wear plain clothes; it turns out the saying is true,” he said in a degrading tone as he glanced at Stella’s chest.

Then, he narrowed his eyes and said in a low voice, “It’s my first time seeing someone make a white blouse look this sexy.”

Jackson’s gaze made Stella’s hairs stand on end. Then, in a low voice, Stella suppressed her anger and said, “Jackson, Keegan is here. You better stay away from me.”

Jackson chuckled, “Do you think he cares?”

His words hit Stella where it hurt. She clenched her fists and pursed her lips in silence.

Jackson’s smile grew wider, “I heard Keegan’s gotten really close with a celebrity recently. You’re such a beauty; Keegan doesn’t know how blessed he is. Even I feel bad for you.”

He said as he walked closer to Stella. Then, just as his hand was about to touch Stella’s arm, she suddenly said icily, “It seems like you haven’t matured at all after these days.”

Jackson clenched his fists as his expression darkened.

“The previous incident caused a huge fuss. Not only did we lose a few of my father’s trusted subordinates, but I also faced quite a hard time because of it. At that place, nobody treated me like I was a young master of the Kane family; I had to do all the dirty and hard work myself. I grew up pampered, so how could I handle such suffering? After a few days, I badgered them to let me return, but grandma was too ruthless. Not only did she freeze my card and take away my car, she even confiscated my documents. I was up the creek without a paddle, and this was all thanks to Keegan,” he thought.

Stella wanted to walk away and leave.

Behind her, Jackson said indifferently, “Stella, haven’t you ever wondered why you can’t get pregnant?”

Stella froze. She turned to him, “What do you mean?”

Jackson smiled.

“Nothing. Don’t be too trusting toward the people of the Kane family.”

Before Stella could ask more questions, Jackson walked away. Then, she heard Keegan’s voice behind her, “What were you chatting about with him?”

Chapter 243

Stella turned around and glanced at Keegan. She dropped her expression, “It’s nothing.”

Then, she handed the document to Keegan, “This is for you. I’ll be leaving first.”

Stella had a cool expression and did not even want to utter an extra sentence to him. She was completely different from the person who attentively took care of him last night.

Aldor walked over and said in a low voice, “Mr. Kane, the meeting is about to start soon.”

Keegan pursed his lips and reached out. However, he did not take the document. Instead, he grabbed her wrist.

“Go and wait for me at the office.”

Stella frowned, “I won’t. I’ve got something to do.”

“What do you need to do?”

Stella moved her lips, “I’m going to visit my mother at the hospital.”

Keegan glanced at her, "I'll send you there after this."

"This bastard asked me to come and made me the scapegoat,' thought Stella.

At this thought, she felt furious.

"You're a busy man, Mr. Kane. I better not trouble you."

Keegan could detect the sarcasm in her tone. He frowned, "Either you come with me, or I'll carry you there; pick one."

Stella twitched her lips.

'Did the fever last night make him lose his mind? What kind of nonsense is he spouting?' she thought.

She looked carefully at Keegan's expression and noticed no hint of humor.

"If you don't pick one, I'll assume it's the latter."

Keegan said as he walked up and prepared to carry her. When Stella saw many employees downstairs looking in their direction, she felt embarrassed. She pushed his shoulder and said through gritted teeth, "I'm telling you, I'm really pissed off right now. If you make me follow you to your office, I'll demolish it!"

Keegan smiled, "Do as you please."

Stella was startled. However, she quickly entered the elevator with an irritated expression. Keegan eased his expression and followed her.

Keegan got out of the elevator on the 10th floor. Then, he reminded Aldor to take Stella to his office.

The moment Stella entered his office, she grabbed the ashtray on the desk and wanted to smash it.

Behind her, Aldor reminded her in an unhurried tone, "A client who's close with Mr. Kane

gifted him this ashtray when Mr. Kane went on a business trip to France last year. It's made of natural crystal and costs 600 thousand... Union dollars."

Stella shuddered and almost dropped the 600 thousand Union dollars in hand.

She pursed her lips tightly and placed the ashtray in its original position. Then, she grabbed an ordinary-looking vase. Just as she lifted it over her head, she heard Aldor



say, "That celadon- glazed vase was produced in the seventh year of The Yongzheng Emperor's reign. Mr. Kane's grandmother auctioned during her younger days. Back then, it only cost around 300 thousand. Over the years, it should have increased to around 3 million now."

Stella was speechless.

She took a deep breath and put down the vase. Then, she grabbed the pen holder on the table.

"Mrs. Kane-

Stella gritted her teeth.

"Isn't this just a stupid pen holder? Does this also cost millions?"

Aldor smiled and said in a soft voice, "No. This pen holder is a birthday gift the late Mr. Kane Sr. had handmade for Mr. Kane. It isn't worth any money."

Stella froze.

'Mr. Kane Sr., also known as Quentin Kane, and Keegan's father. Throughout the years I've been married to Keegan, I've never heard him bring up his father, but I know how much he respects him. Every year when it gets close to the middle of the fall season, Keegan will suddenly become unusually gloomy. He'll stubbornly take a week off work just to stay at the Kane family's holiday home for a few days. That place was where Keegan and his parents stayed when he was younger. After Quentin died, the house reminded Dahlia of him, so they moved out. Even though they didn't sell the house, nobody goes there except Keegan. I heard Quentin died of an acute illness, so Keegan didn't even get to see him for the last time. No wonder he still can't let go of it after many years,' thought Stella.

After the fiasco, Stella was no longer as angry as before.

She placed the pen holder on the table. Then, she turned to Aldor, "Pour me a cup of tea."

"You're not going to smash anything anymore?"

Stella glared at him, unamused, "Which of these items can I afford to smash?"

Aldor smiled, "Then, I'll pour you a cup of tea."