

# Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted by Eleven Jewell

## Chapter 307-339

### Chapter 307

Stella suddenly felt like laughing. She found that Keegan's tone was like a kid throwing a tantrum. She obviously would not say it to his face, as Keegan would have lost his temper. Hence, she coaxed him softly, "Mr. Kane. I'm so sorry. Please don't be mad at me. I'm still counting on you to make money and support me. How could I bear to let you die? I'll be heartbroken even if you get scratched. Is it alright if I pull you over here? You can get back to being angry with me once you get in the safety seat."

Her apology was not sincere at all. Keegan knew that, but her sweet talking still tangled him up. Keegan looked at her thin arm and thin legs. "Will you be able to handle me?"

"Don't look down on me. I'm strong!"

Keegan glanced at her long white legs and thought to himself. 'Well, those legs are indeed not weak.' He untied the bed sheet and tossed it to Stella. "Tie this end to the safety seat."

Stella followed as he said. Keegan tugged the bed sheet to ensure it was firm and pulled it toward Stella. Everything was going very smoothly in the beginning. However, as Keegan was about to reach the safety seat, the ship started swaying vigorously. He knelt on the ground, pulling the bed sheet tight to uphold his body.

Stella reached her hand out hurriedly. "Grab onto me."

Keegan stretched his hand out and realized that there was still a short distance to reach Stella. No matter how hard Stella tried, there would always be a distance between them. Keegan could not stabilize his body as the ship was swaying. Stella became anxious, so she unbuckled her seat belt and held Keegan's hand.

Before she could even get happy, the waves rushed in as if it was targeting them. With another jolt, Stella stumbled down the safety seat and went into Keegan's arms. Keegan wrapped his arms around Stella subconsciously when she knocked him down. They then rolled to the foot

of the bed.

Stella heard Keegan's muffled grunt of pain coming from behind and said sheepishly, "Mr. Kane. Are you alright?"

Keegan gritted his teeth. "Are you crazy? Why did you unbuckle your seat belt?"

“I just wanted to catch you. Who knew the waves would hit in so quickly?”

Keegan was about to scold her when he realized he could not. Stella thought he was still angry and whispered, “Look on the bright side; the more friction we produce, the higher the chance we won’t get thrown off.”

Keegan tried to hold back but was unsuccessful. “How did you get into college last time?”

“What does friction have to do with this?’ Keegan thought.

“I was pretty, so they made an exception and got me in.”

Keegan was speechless at her response. “You only care about your looks so much that you let your brain go crazy?”

“One specialty is enough How could other people live if I’m perfect?” Stella was great at finding excuses Keegan eased his temper after Stella’s little trick Stella nestled in Keegan’s

arm, listening to his steady heart beat. They had been married for so many years, yet this was the first time they had an intimate gesture. It was weird, but at the same time, it was not weird at all.

“Mr. Kane...”

“Yes?” The man was still cold, but he did not sound impatient.

Stella said softly, “If the ship shakes again, you can use me as your cover. I’m not just a problem to you.”

Keegan was startled, and he hugged her tightly. “Other husbands respects and loves their wives. Am I even a man if I made you a scapegoat for things? And now, making you my cover?”

Stella was speechless. Keegan would literally remember every single argument.

“Mr. Kane.

”

“Stop talking. Go to sleep if you’re tired.”

Chapter 308

Stella instantly kept quiet. The boat was still swaying. Keegan's warm body temperature behind her back made her feel safe. She unconsciously closed her eyes and fell asleep.

The thunderstorm lasted until midnight, and Stella woke up lying on the bed. She moved and found Keegan's hand on her waist while both of them were still tied to the bed sheet. Keegan must have tied them up during their sleep to avoid being thrown out or knocked into things. She untied the bed sheet, washed herself, and went out without waking Keegan.

The deck was a mess. Fishes, shrimps, and crabs were washed up on board by the wind, and the crew was busy cleaning up. Stella knocked on Arthur's room, but only Aldor was in the room packing the luggage.

"Where is my great-grandpa?" Stella asked.

Aldor replied, "He went on deck to get some seafood. He said he was going to make some seafood soup."

Stella was speechless. 'Isn't Arthur nearly ninety? His energy is even better than mine. And, I'm still young.'

She searched the deck and finally saw Arthur in a corner. Marshall was standing beside him. Both of them had their heads low, talking about something. Stella went over and saw a turtle the size of a washbasin between them.

Arthur stroked his chin and said, "According to my experience, this must be a female turtle." Marshall searched his phone. "The shell is on the long side, with a V-shape notch on its back. Scientifically, this should be a male."

"No way. How could a male be so small?"

Marshall replied, "There's a chance that it hasn't fully grown yet."

"It's so big, yet it's not fully grown?"

"Green sea turtles come of age in twenty years. They grow up to 2-4 feet when they're adults. This one seems to be approximately over one foot, so it must be a kid."

"So, a baby sea turtle," Arthur stroked his beard. "It should be healthy."

Stella could not stand the conversation. "Great-grandpa, why did you come here?"

Arthur's face instantly lit up when he saw Stella. "Stella, come here. There's a huge turtle over here. Let's take it back and make soup."

Stella winced. "Great-grandpa, you can't eat it. You're going to jail if you do that."

Arthur frowned. "Even though I just picked it up?"

"Not even the corpse." Stella then called the crew and asked them to return the turtle back to the sea. Otherwise, Arthur would not be willing to give it up.

"Stella, is he your great-grandfather?" Marshall spoke after watching from the side for a while.

Stella introduced both of them to each other. Marshall was very friendly. Not long ago, he had

been chatting with Arthur about the gender of the sea turtle for a long time. One can say that they got along quite well. After chatting for a while, Arthur exclaimed, "Where's Keegan?"

"He's not up yet."

"It's already so late, yet he's not up?"

"He fell asleep late last night." Stella could not tell them what they had encountered last night since it was too embarrassing.

"Go back and wash up. Wake him up so we can have breakfast together."

Stella parted with Marshall and assisted Arthur back.

"Marshall is so much more polite than Keegan," Arthur suddenly said.

However, Stella did not reply to him.

Chapter 309

"He looks better than Keegan too. Why didn't you fall for him back then?"

Stella was speechless. "What was this old man thinking?"

"Mr. Moore is Keegan's friend. Please don't talk nonsense here, great-grandpa. People might misunderstand."

"I'm just saying," Arthur slowly replied. "Keegan's not bad either. He was playing chess with me the whole night yesterday. Although he ran back the moment he heard the thunderstorms, there's still hope for him."

Stella was once again speechless. “There’s still hope for him? What kind of comment is this?”

By the time they got back, Keegan was done packing, and he left the room. Everyone was enjoying the time left since there were only a few more hours before the ship docked.

Bella was singing enthusiastically to the audience in the restaurant, so she could wipe away her past humiliation. Well, to say the least, although Bella was horrible at acting, she could sing. After all, she did release a single. It was just that she would steal glances at Keegan from time to time when she sang, which was annoying. However, Keegan was busy replying to emails, so he did not pay attention to her amorous glances.

Stella peeled an orange and placed it in Keegan’s mouth. Keegan glanced at her and saw Stella smiling brightly. She said, “This is specially made to treat bruises and injuries.”

Keegan was dumbstruck. She then put another orange into Keegan’s mouth and said, “It’s sweet, right?”

Keegan narrowed his brows as the orange was not sweet at all. It was rather sour. But, he did. not spit it out.

Bella had an icy expression and clutched her hand when she saw their ‘love-dovey’ gesture. A chef-like person came over and placed a dessert on the table while Stella was watching the show. Stella turned perplexed and asked, “I don’t think we ordered this.”

The man spoke in Spanish. So, Stella did not understand a word he said, but Keegan did, and his face clouded over. The man finished his speech with a sentence in broken English. “Enjoy your meal.”

After the person walked away, Stella asked, “What did he say?”

Keegan stared at her coldly and responded, “Did the spaghetti made by Marshall taste good?”

“Yep-” Stella was about to blurt that out, but she hurriedly changed. “What spaghetti?”

Keegan’s expression went dark, and Stella regretted it the moment she lied. ‘Keegan must have known something before he asked. He must be thinking that I’m guilty since I denied him so quickly.’

Stella tried to cover up. “Actually, it’s not bad, but not that good either. It’s not as good as the food you left for me.”

Keegan closed his laptop and walked out with a cold face. Stella could not stay anymore, so she rushed to catch up with him. "I'm serious. It wasn't that nice. It was mainly because I was too

hungry

"I wanted to tell you at first, but you left so much good food for me. So, I didn't have the heart to tell you I already ate. Mr. Kane, I didn't want to lie to you. I-" Before Stella could finish her sentence, Keegan turned around, grabbed her waist, and kissed her lips.

Stella looked up in a daze. Keegan lowered his gaze to her lips and continued sucking it. They had never had such an intimate kiss, even when they were making out back then.

Stella's face flushed, and she forcefully pushed him away. Just as she was about to speak, she saw Marshall not far away. She was startled and embarrassed at the same time.

Keegan caressed her lips with his thumb and said in his deep voice, "I won't go easy on you next time."

Stella was about to die from embarrassment and started swearing to find an excuse to sneak away. Back in the cabin, Felicity had sent a message to Stella. [Bella, that bitch, was really up to no good.]

Stella was uncertain of what had happened. [What happened?]

(A media posted an article saying that they didn't see Bella on the set of The Palace. They suspect that she's not participating. Then, her studio sent out a bitchy statement today.)

## Chapter 310

The statement's general intent was to tell everyone to listen only to the official announcement rather than making speculations based on unauthorized ones. It further cautioned netizens not to fall victim to others with bad intentions. It was clear what they were getting at when they warned the fans not to let people with bad intentions take advantage of

them.

The news of Bella joining The Palace was rumored for a few months. The show had not even started filming, yet Bella had already brought The Palace on the trending list several times. With Daniel's reputation and Bella's fame, every trending search would spark discussions.

Bella completely ignored the situation online at that time. But now, she popped out and posted a statement saying she did not take part in the show. The fans naturally thought that the show's production team had bought the previous trending searches to trick the fans and use the celebrities' fame.

So, once the statement was posted, Bella's fans instantly cried out against injustice. They all went to leave a comment on The Palace's Facebook homepage. Some were insults about the casting, and some were cursing for the show to flop. Their homepage was full of toxic comments. Luckily, Daniel had the foresight and kept the show's cast a secret. Otherwise, no one's homepage would be safe at that moment.

Bella would do anything for clout. Hence, she was great at setting trends, yet her fans had no idea that she was taking advantage of them. Her fans were even comforting and encouraging Bella on her Facebook page.

Felicity sent a message to their group chat. [The show went on trending when it started filming. She didn't say she wasn't in it at that time. Why mention it now?]

Stella, too, felt that Bella's post at the moment was weird. 'Why would she rock the boat and court hatred to herself with a statement like this? Daniel has always hated these publicity stunts made by celebrities. Does Bella not want to be in Daniel's show in the future by making it a big deal?'

Shea said, [Does she have a new show that will be released? Is that why she's purposely clout- chasing?]

At first, they all just thought that Shea was overthinking it. But, right in the evening, a famous media account revealed that Bella was starring in World Peace. World Peace was a script based on a trending novel. It's a mystery genre novel with a large reader fanbase. The novel became viral because the author was caught plagiarizing and stealing ideas from others. The readers searched through the web novels and found all the plagiarized ideas.

However, Stella did not read novels. During her voice acting days, she did receive the script's offer. She was interacting with Robin frequently at the time, so she asked him to assist her with reviewing the script. But, Robin instantly told her to turn down the offer when he saw the script. So, she learned about the script's controversy from Robin.

Out of curiosity, Stella read the few books that the netizens had found World Peace plagiarizing from. The settings of the story were indeed very similar. Even the setting of the main characters was mostly the same as the setting of the book, Ninja Wear. If the situation was similar to one or two books, it could be considered a coincidence. But, having so many

things in common did not seem random.

Plagiarism was a complicated topic in the country. It was difficult to determine whether a book was plagiarized from a legal aspect. Since it could not be defined and the book was doing amazing, the author went rampant. Not only did the author deny the plagiarism claim, the author even sued a few netizens in court for defamation.

The author was still active in the web novel field to this day. This incident did not affect him at all. On the contrary, his fame soared. He had sold one after another royalty of his books. Furthermore, it was assumed that one book's royalty cost 20 million or more.

The controversial adaptation of World Peace into a show was nothing new in the entertainment industry: Some companies would especially purchase these kinds of royalties. They would use plagiarism as a gimmick and continuously create hot topics about it right from the start. When the show was about to air, the fans would be busy handling the homepage and pinning the positive comments to block out the hate comments. Meanwhile, the celebrities would rake the profit from the show. All these shows would undoubtedly have high ratings. Surely enough, they earned a fortune from it. Some celebrities even won awards for these shows, which was miraculous.

'Bella would be lying if she said she did not know about the show's controversy. Maybe she wanted to bet on it,' Stella thought.

[Stella, Bella's show might clash with The Palace. Oh my God, was this intentional?]

Felicity had many channels for finding out rumors, so she was quick to inquire about the latest news. [They are really clashing. Well, I guess we just have to stand up to her. I believe in Director Woods.]

[Me too. But, when a show broadcast clashes with these IP shows, the ratings would definitely not do well. Fucking hell, why does Bella keep holding a grudge against you?] Shea replied. Stella was silent for a moment before she asked, [When does World Peace start filming?]

[Probably next week. I'll have to inquire more about the details.] Felicity paused and asked, [What are you going to do?]

Stella replied, [I was thinking of sending her an opening gift.]

Felicity's smile twitched. [Do you have nowhere else to spend your money?]

## Chapter 311

Meanwhile, Bella's manager, Wein, was quite worried about Bella participating in World Peace. After Bella fell into the water last night, Keegan showed up and gave her a script. The script was not World Peace, but a show called The Tea Merchant. This show was similar to The Palace, which was produced by Daniel. It was also a show about a

strong female lead. The Palace was about conspiracies in the palace, while The Tea Merchant, as the name suggests, was about the story of a tea merchant.

In the story, the female lead went from being a maid to ward off bad luck for her husband, to the mistress of the family and finally becoming the tea merchant of the generation. Truth be told, the character design had even more emotional values than the female lead of The Palace. It was a show where the audience could empathize with the female lead as they watched her grow throughout her journey. However, Bella rejected it because she felt that the production team was from a small company, the scriptwriter was not famous enough, and the director used to produce literary films. Despite the fact that the movies had received some awards, they were always just good movies with a small audience.

Bella started off with clout, so she was accustomed to paying attention to the numbers. She wanted to act in The Palace because Daniel had guaranteed statistics and quality. In contrast, The Tea Merchant did not have a background. It was the typical award-winning type of show, which was not the type of transformative work that she wanted.

The Tea Merchant was going to start filming at the end of the year. It would have to wait until next year's summertime for it to be released. Bella's contract termination with Neon Nebula was imminent. In addition to that, she did not have any impending work currently. If she accepted The Tea Merchant, her screen time would be entirely open, aside from a few offers from variety shows. For Bella, an actress who depends on clout, the inability to maintain exposure on the big screen was extremely dangerous. That was because the entertainment industry was always full of newcomers. Bella would not have dared to leave such a large gap on the big screen because the clout would have been heavily divided.

World Peace, however, was a different situation. The production team was comparable to The Palace. Along with that, the work itself had fame. It would start filming this month and take three months to finish. By the end of the year, it would be on air. The pay was also three times higher than The Tea Merchant. Most importantly, the release date clashed with The Palace. When that time came, they could fight to make an impact on ratings. Bella had faith in her prime-time ratings.

Daniel had the guts to reject her, so she would not let go of The Palace so easily. Therefore, she turned down The Tea Merchant and chose World Peace. After finding out about Bella's stunt, Wein was indignant. Bella claimed that she wanted to change, but she was unwilling to give up her clout. She knew about the controversy of World Peace, yet she still participated. She paid no attention to maintaining her reputation.

At this point, there was nothing Wein could do. He bought hot searches and continued directing the war of plagiarism toward the author so that Bella could escape the mess. The official lineup of World Peace went on trending soon after some fans deliberately interrupted. All the trending searches were compliments about the lineup. The fans

would fight off any comments about the plagiarism, saying that the show had nothing to do with the source material.

Just when Bella's fans were celebrating, a legal letter came out of nowhere. The client of the legal letter was Dusk Galaxy, the famous voice actor who abruptly withdrew from the internet a while ago. The content of the legal letter stated that the client, a victim of cyberbullying, had developed depression and posted the medical record. They now demanded several accounts to delete their hate comment and publicly apologize.

Soon a few marketing media found out that the few accounts mentioned in the legal letter were Bella's fans. However, the owner of the accounts jumped out and denied that they were Bella's fans. After deleting their comment, they decisively terminated their accounts. Even so, Bella's Facebook account was flooded with netizens who were denouncing her.

In contrast to Bella, who was now anxious, Stella was rather calm and relaxed. Originally, the legal letter was a deliberate act to warn others. The accounts they put out were not the mastermind, but all these accounts acted based on a given order. And, it only showed one thing; they have an organization behind them. Whether Bella was involved or not, her sin was that she indulged her fans. Therefore, she was not innocent. This gift should be able to keep her down for some time.

Inside the Vinci Rivera'Group building, Aldor entered Keegan's office once he saw the people from R & D department leaving. "Mr. Kane, I think there's something you should look at."

"What?" Keegan did not look up, as he thought it was work-related.

Aldor continued, "A few days ago, you instructed me to cut out the cruise ship surveillance. I wanted to delete it, but out of curiosity, I took a look at it," Aldor paused and softly said, "Ms. Young looked like she was pulling Mrs. Kane down with her when she jumped into the water. Mrs. Kane couldn't break free, so she kicked her down."

Keegan stopped and took the phone handed over by Aldor. The video was blurry, yet one still could see the two's reactions. Well, instead of saying that Stella kicked Bella on purpose, it was better to say that she was defending herself. She had to kick Bella away, or else Bella would not be the only person who had fallen into the water that day.

"And, one more thing..." Aldor hesitated before he explained, "That night, when you and Mrs. Kane went to Mr. Lowe's appointment, Ms. Young's assistant contacted me. They told me Bella was hurt, and they wanted you to come over. But, you were arguing with Mrs. Kane at that moment, so I did not mention it. I was afraid that something had happened to Ms. Young, so I secretly sent someone to check on her. It turned out that Ms. Young wasn't injured or sick."

Keegan froze. "What effects?"

"Tonify and rejuvenate your sexual function."

"Pfft-"

Stella spat out the soup in her mouth.

Keegan's expression immediately darkened.

Arthur said, "I heard Maria, the housemaid, say that the Kane family's been urging you two to conceive, so it's time you two put this matter on your agendas. Stella's still young, so her body is definitely fine. Yours might be a different case. You're in your early thirties, and you sit in your office all day. If you don't exercise more, you won't be physically fit, and your future child won't have a strong body. If the child's unhealthy, Stella will be the one who suffers. That's why I made you something good to rejuvenate your body."

He continued as if he was listing out his treasures. "The chicken I used is an actual free-range chicken. I slaughtered it myself. I threw in many types of herbs like chaste tree, cramp bark, red clover, saw palmetto, maca, lactipusum, purple hook, macbor, serpbacca... Anyway, they're all good stuff. You'll be as strong as an ox if you have it two to three times a week. Having two children within three years won't be an issue."

Stella went from being shocked initially to holding back her laughter.

'Grandpa's mindset is of a normal person's. Why is it always the woman's fault if a couple can't conceive? I'm in my twenties, the most fertile period, while Keegan's already in his early thirties. It's obvious he has a higher chance of being the problem,' she thought.

Keegan gritted his teeth and said with a dark expression. "I don't need it!"

"Don't say that." Stella smiled with her eyes. "Don't let grandpa's kindness go to waste. You should tonify your body, honey. You're only thirty, but you go to the washroom three times a night. What'll happen when you get older?"

Arthur widened his eyes. "What? You wake up three times at night to urinate?"

Keegan twitched the corner of his lips as he watched Stella narrow her eyes like a fox. Then, he said through his gritted teeth, "That's because I had diarrhea a few days ago. I'm very much normal!"

Keegan had a weak stomach. The seafood soup Arthur made two days ago may not have been fully cooked, so Keegan kept using the washroom throughout the night.

Stella certainly knew what happened and had deliberately said such things.

'I've been taking the blame for being infertile for so long; it's time Keegan got a taste of it too,' she thought.

"Honey, grandpa's doing this for your own good. You're family and not an outsider, so what's there to feel embarrassed about? Hurry up and eat it while it's hot so that you can have two children in three years!"

Keegan turned red in anger.

Stella quickly ran upstairs after she finished eating to avoid Keegan's anger.

After Keegan had finished his meal, Arthur dragged him for a walk and a game of chess. When he finally went upstairs, it was already nine o'clock.

Stella originally thought that Keegan was going to settle the score with her, but he ended up not saying a thing. He took his clothes and went to take a shower.

When Stella finished reading the new script Lena had sent her, Keegan finished his shower and

came out.

Stella looked up and glanced at him, and she almost flung her phone away.

'That guy, Keegan, actually came out wrapped in a bath towel. He usually acts like a chaste virgin and practically covers himself entirely with clothes. What's the matter with him today? Is letting others admire his physique?' she wondered.

She watched as the water droplets in his hair fell onto his collarbone. The water droplets trickled down, one by one, onto the grooves of his hips. Then, they traveled along the grooves toward the bath towel.,

Just as the water droplet was about to move into the towel, Keegan suddenly reached out and pulled off the bath towel. He was wearing a damn pair of beach pants underneath.

'Well that's no fun,' Stella thought.

After she charged her phone, she closed her eyes and went to sleep.

Keegan only got in bed after he blow-dried his hair. Since Stella was exhausted, she quickly fell asleep after closing her eyes.

Suddenly, the person beside her turned. She frowned and pulled the covers tighter in displeasure.

Moments later, the person behind her rolled over again. He tossed and turned as if he was a pancake being flipped, causing Stella to be completely unable to fall asleep.

She then opened her eyes in annoyance. "What's the matter with you?"

Keegan's expression was tense, and his face was flushed. He was quiet for a long time before he finally said through gritted teeth, "What in the world was in that soup?!"

## Chapter 314

Stella was startled momentarily. She stared at Keegan's flushed neck and face. Suddenly, she understood the situation.

She teased him through stifled laughter, "This is good. Didn't you hear what grandpa say just now? One bowl and you'll have stamina as strong as young man's; two bowls and you can bring down a bull."

Keegan had a light sheen of sweat on his forehead. With a tense expression, he pulled the covers tighter and ignored Stella.

It was a rare occasion for Stella to see Keegan in such an embarrassing state. So, she was not going to pass up the opportunity of adding insult to his injury. She exhaled and said, "How does it feel after having the soup, Mr. Kane? Is it like how it's depicted on TV; you feel like your entire body is on fire? Look at you. You're sweating so much; it must be really hot in here. Shall I fan you?"

She narrowed her eyes and deliberately moved to Keegan's front. Then, she swung her hands back and forth in front of his face to fan him.

The fragrance of the body wash from Stella's body wafted over to Keegan. While her scent was similar to his own, it still enticed him and sent his heart trembling.

Keegan's gaze subconsciously moved to her face, her lips, and finally, her delicate collarbone.

'Her complexion is so fair that just exerting slight force will leave a red mark that doesn't go away after a whole night. It's as if a mark's been left on her, a mark that belongs to me,' he thought.

Keegan forcefully averted his gaze and said through gritted teeth, "Stay away from me!"

"That won't do. I need to keep you company since you're feeling so uncomfortable. Otherwise, I'll feel bad taking that one billion."

Keegan twitched the corner of his lips.

'Stella's expression is as fake as it can get. I'm sure she's bubbling with joy right now!' he thought.

It was true Stella did not have good intentions. She said with a "worried" look, "That shouldn't be the case. I haven't seen you like this in the past few months. Does a bowl of chicken soup have such great effects? Are you faking it?"

Keegan was exasperated. He immediately rolled over and pinned the woman under him. Then, he gripped her chin and said with a dark expression, "Do you still think I'm faking it now?" Stella stiffened. Since the pajamas were of thin material, she could directly feel every nook and cranny of his body now that he was pressed against her.

'I think... I've gone overboard,' she thought.

She laughed awkwardly and said, "It looks like grandpa's chicken soup is truly amazing. Why don't... I find you a video, and you go settle it in the bathroom?"

Keegan lowered his head and looked at the woman under him.

Stella feigned a calm expression, but she did not dare to look directly at him. The blush on the tips of her ears traveled down to her neck and collarbone.

She was not as calm as she thought she was.

Keegan reached out and caressed her cheeks.

He said hoarsely, "There's no need to go through that trouble. I shouldn't let your grandpa's kindness go to waste. Why don't we test the soup's effects?"

Then, he kissed her.

Stella widened her eyes and quickly covered his lips that were about to touch hers, "I'm ovulating!"

Keegan lowered his gaze and kissed her palm in an explicit manner. Then, he slowly lifted his head. "That's good. We'll have two children in three years.

Once again, he leaned toward her. Just as Stella wondered if she should kick Keegan off the bed and if the mutt would deduct her money for it, her phone rang.

She quickly pushed Keegan away and took her phone.

Keegan frowned and was quite displeased. Then, he held her hands and moved to her again.

Just as he touched Stella's lips, Dahlia's voice sounded from the phone. "Are you asleep, Stella?"

Keegan froze, and Stella quickly took the opportunity to push him off. Then, she took the phone and steadied her breath.

"I just laid down. What's wrong?" she asked.

"We'll be discussing Keegan's grandmother's birthday tomorrow at the family banquet held at Keegan's grandparents' residence. So, you and Keegan must remember not to be late."

"Isn't there still a month till grandma's birthday? Do we need to start preparing now?"

"Do you think a birthday celebration at the Kane family is like a random person in your family having their birthday-having a mere meal will do? If it wasn't because Keegan's grandmother had gotten angry because of you, the preparations would've started much earlier. Starting preparations at this point of the year is considered late."

## Chapter 315

Stella stopped talking.

"Uncle Chandler's family organized Keegan's grandmother's 70th birthday banquet. So, logically speaking, it's our family's turn to organize her 80th birthday banquet. However, the specifics will still depend on her. Tomorrow, at the banquet, don't say things you aren't supposed to. Play it smart."

"I understand."

Dahlia chatted a little more and hung up.

After Stella put away the phone, she asked Keegan, "What did your mother mean by playing it smart? Does she want to organize your grandmother's birthday banquet this year?"

Keegan glanced at her. "You should be asking who doesn't want to organize grandma's birthday banquet."

"I, for one, don't," Stella said as she crawled under the covers. She stared at the ceiling and continued, "Organizing a birthday banquet is so tiring. You need to consider many things. Not only do you have to tend to the birthday girl's feelings, but you must also tend to the guests' feelings. You'll be slaving away, yet others won't necessarily be satisfied. Aren't you just asking to make yourself suffer?"

Keegan also lay down. “Do you know how much the gift money and presents amounted to during grandma’s 70th birthday banquet?”

Stella became interested when she heard money being mentioned. She rolled over to face Keegan. Then, she asked as her eyes shone brightly, “How much?”

“It was nearly nine figures. It’s more than the amount spent when I married you.”

Stella was speechless.

‘It’s a lot, but did he have to add the second sentence? Is saying that marrying me was cheap?’ she thought.

Keegan continued, “Organizing a birthday banquet is indeed a troublesome matter. It’s costly and laborious, and grandma knows this too. That’s why every time she has a birthday banquet, she only picks one or two gifts from gifts the guests gave her and lets the organizer handle the leftover gifts. That villa Aunt Cyrene has in the western suburb was bought after grandma’s birthday.”

Stella was stunned.

‘No wonder Dahlia purposefully called to remind me. Getting a villa after organizing a birthday banquet? Who wouldn’t die to organize it?’ she thought.

“Since your uncle’s family organized it last year, it’ll definitely be your mother’s turn this year, right?”

“Not necessarily,” Keegan said.

He continued coolly, “My mother organized both my grandpa and grandma’s 60th birthday banquet. My uncle’s family only organized grandma’s 60th birthday banquet.”

His words implied that the organizer was not rotational but entirely depended on who Cordelia selected.

Stella thought for a while before she said, “Since your grandmother loves you so much, why doesn’t she let you be the organizer?”

“This is a matter of the women in the Kane family; why should I get involved in it?”

He glanced at Stella and continued, “Do you want to organize it?”

“Me? Forget it. I’m not someone who’s concerned about things like that.”

‘Dahlia is determined to be the organizer. If I interfere, wouldn’t she hate me to death? Regardless, I’m still quite envious of the gift money,’ she thought.

Stella stuck one foot out and kicked Keegan's calves.

"How are you? Have you calmed down?"

Keegan glanced at her. "If you keep riling me up, I can't guarantee what happens after this."

Stella froze and she quietly retracted her foot. Then, she wrapped the covers around herself tightly and closed her eyes.

The following day, the film crew added another scene at the last minute, so Stella ended work half an hour later than expected.

The two were the last to arrive at Keegan's grandparents' residence.

When they saw Dahlia, she frowned. "Why did you two come this late?"

Chapter 316

Keegan replied coolly, "Something came up in the company at the last minute, so we were delayed for a while."

Dahlia glanced at him. "When Jackson arrived, he told me you left the office a long time ago." "He doesn't even work on the same floor as me, so how would he know when I left?"

Dahlia was speechless. She looked at the two with slight annoyance and said in a displeased tone, "Come in. You two are the only ones left."

When the two entered, the living room was already filled with people.

It was actually Cordelia's 79th birthday this year. However, Rivera had a custom where one's ninth birthday was celebrated instead of their tenth. That was why Cordelia celebrated her 80th birthday when she was only 79.

The Kane family attached great importance to the matter. Aside from Keegan's aunt's family, who was abroad and could not make it back in time, every young person in the family was present.

Cordelia sat in the middle. Dahlia and Aurora sat on her left, while Chandler and Cyrene sat on her right. Meanwhile, Jackson sat on the couch across from Cordelia's seat. He was telling her interesting stories about his visit to the company's western branch.

"You're too mischievous. You actually thought of putting pepper in the water?"

“Well, I felt defiant at the time. Who was a mere supervisor like him to tell me what to do? That’s why I wanted to teach him a lesson. But, in the end, he couldn’t bring himself to pour the water even though he gave me the punishment of cleaning the toilet for another week.”

Jackson sighed and continued, “After that, I was finally convinced. We’re both humans, so why can he endure hardships but not me? No matter what happens, I can’t bring shame to the Kane family.”

Cordelia said, “It’s good that you think that way.”

Cyrene smiled.

“Jackson really grew up this time. At first, he called us every day, saying that he wanted to come home. Then, he slowly got used to it and no longer said he wanted to come home when he called. Every day, he’d tell me about the things he had seen and learned. When he came home, his colleagues there were reluctant for him to leave and gave him a few boxes of their local specialties. He sent them to you as soon as he returned. For the past few months, he’s gotten stronger and tanner. Most importantly, he’s more sensible.”

Chandler waited for Cyrene to finish before he said, “Alright. He’s in his twenties now; it’s time he grew up.”

“Chandler, let Jackson join and learn from the recent project we have with the university.” Cordelia’s words had kind of temporarily determined Jackson’s position in the company, so Cyrene’s expression immediately softened.

“Did you hear what your grandmother said? Watch and learn from the project, and don’t let your her down,” she said.

Jackson smiled. “Alright, mom.’

”

Cyrene glanced at Dahlia before her gaze fell on the couple. Suddenly, she said, “Stella, a while ago, I heard you threw up at the exhibition. I was busy at the time and didn’t manage to ask you. Do you have any good news?”

Stella was at a loss for words.

‘Aunt Cyrene really loves bringing up things she shouldn’t,’ she thought.

She did not dare to look at Cordelia’s expression.

Keegan gripped her hand tightly and said in a cool voice, "She just had an upset stomach. How could we not tell you if we had good news, Aunt Cyrene?"

Cyrene's eyes darted between the two before she suddenly laughed. "I see the two have quite a good relationship, Dahlia. It's just a matter of time before you get grandchildren, so there's no need for you to worry."

Dahlia pursed her lips and smiled coolly. "I'm not worried. The two of them are still young, so it's alright to wait a few years. You should worry about Jackson instead. I heard his blind date with Mr. Callahan's daughter fell through. Mrs. Callahan was quite unhappy when she brought up the matter. The Callahan family's daughter had outstanding beauty and academic qualifications. Jackson shouldn't always set his standards too high and evaluate his own conditions. This is something you must advise him on."

Cyrene was enraged at Dahlia's words.

While both of them were children of the Kane family, Keegan graduated from a renowned college, had great achievements at a young age, and was also ruthless and invincible in the business world. On the other hand, Jackson was not even half as outstanding as Keegan. He did not even pass his college entrance exam, so they paid money under the table to get him into Calton University. After that, he got a Master's degree from some random university. Cyrene bragged about her son to everyone, so Dahlia's words uncovered her humiliating secrets, instantly causing her to feel embarrassed and furious.

Just as Cyrene was about to throw a fit, she saw Stella. Then, her fury was instantly suppressed. She smiled.

Stella had a bad feeling.

As expected, she heard Cyrene say the very next moment, "While Jackson isn't as outstanding as Keegan, we still shouldn't set the standards too low, right? There is still a need to have a threshold. Otherwise, I'd be really troubled if he married some Tom, Dick, and Harry. Isn't that right, Dahlia?"

Chapter 317

Dahlia's expression darkened. "What do you mean."

Cyrene's words had clearly hit her where it hurt.

'So what if Keegan's outstanding? In the end, didn't he still not follow her wishes and married a parvenu's daughter?' thought Cyrene.

Cyrene smiled. "I didn't mean anything; it was just an analogy. When marrying a wife, marry one who's virtuous. While Stella's lacking in other aspects, she's still virtuous and smart. Forget about our mother-in-law liking her; even I like her."

Stella was speechless.

'I forgot to check my horoscope's prediction before leaving the house today. I got involved in the war between the two sisters-in-law when I just arrived. Dahlia and Cyrene have always been at odds. This is something I learned as soon as I married into the Kane family. The main reason is most likely the battle for succession between the two families. The Vinci Rivera Group turned successful during Quentin's tenure. If it wasn't because he had passed on early, the company would have undoubtedly been inherited by his family. However, he died at a young age. When he passed away, his children were still young, so Chandler managed the company for a long period of time. Dahlia was a widowed single mother. While she didn't need to worry about food and accommodation at the Kane family, she didn't have authority in the company. To put it simply, she had to rely on others,' she thought.

'Prior to Keegan's adulthood, whenever outsiders said "Mrs. Kane," it referred to Cyrene. Cyrene's status rose as Chandler's authority in the Vinci Rivera Group grew. Since the Saun family also had some power, Cyrene was arguably living her best life in her social circle during her earlier days. Back then, nobody remembered that Dahlia was the Kane family's eldest's son's wife. The rules in the social circle of wealthy women were really simple; they had always judged people by their family background. Dahlia was a widow. And, aside from her title of being the wife of the Kane family's eldest son, her family wasn't that well-known in Rivera. Whenever others mentioned her, they merely referred to her as "the beautiful and unlucky number one socialite". How could someone proud like Dahlia not feel resentment after Cyrene had one-upped her? Dahlia only got her vengeance when Keegan rose to prominence in the Vinci Rivera Group and matched Chandler's authority. However, the two sisters-in-law still often had infightings on various occasions. It was no secret in the elite circle that the two did not get along. Half a year ago, grandma reprimanded Cyrene because of Jackson. She said Cyrene spoiled Jackson and did not raise him right. After that, Cyrene toned down a lot and rarely appeared at the banquets she used to frequent. I really didn't expect these two to get into a fight the moment they met when they hadn't seen each other in so long. They can fight if they want to, but why are they dragging me into the crossfire?' she thought again.

Stella cursed them in her head but answered in a gentle tone, "I have a really daring temperament. You only think of me that way because we rarely interact with each other, Aunt Cyrene. If you like virtuous girls, I do know a few. I could introduce them to you if Jackson's interested."

Aurora could not help but snicker as soon as Stella finished talking.

She only regained her composure after Dahlia gave her a look.

'Stella's clearly overreaching with her words. Aunt Cyrene's not complimenting her. Even I can tell that she's mocking her. Yet, this woman is praising herself on her own accord and even offering to set her son up on dates? With Stella's social status, where would the people she knows stand in the social hierarchy? Aunt Cyrene looks down on Stella, so how could she possibly like the people Stella introduces?' thought Aurora.

Sure enough, Cyrene froze after hearing Stella's words. She glanced at Stella before she indifferently said, "Since Jackson just got back, the most important thing is learning more skills. There's no need to rush this matter."

'It isn't because there's no need to rush, but it's because she looks down on the people I'm introducing,' thought Stella.

### Chapter 318

"He's a young man. It's not a bad thing for him to get to know a few more friends." Stella did not seem to detect the rejection in Cyrene's words.

Then, she turned to Jackson and said, "Jackson, tell me if you want to seriously date a girl. I'll introduce you to one."

Jackson gave her a meaningful glance and smiled. Then, he slowly said, "In that case, thank you very much, Stella."

Cyrene threw Stella a displeased glance.

'I was being polite, yet she actually took me seriously. It's no wonder Dahlia looks down on her. Not only is she of low status, but she's also brainless,' she thought.

Stella obviously was not brainless. She merely did not want to make enemies with Cyrene.

'How Dahlia fights with Cyrene is her own business, as long as she doesn't get me involved,' she thought.

"It's rare for us to gather together, so stop arguing. Everyone, find somewhere and take a seat.

After Cordelia spoke, everyone sat down and quieted down.

After Keegan sat down, Cordelia noticed the light, greenish patch on his forehead.

Stella felt guilty. He got the bruise on his head from the stormy night a few days ago when she bumped into him on the cruise ship.

The bruise was much darker when they returned from the cruise and had now gotten much lighter.

However, Cordelia loved her grandson very much. So, she discerned the bruise at a glance.

Keegan glanced at the culprit and coolly said, "I hit my head while I was asleep."

"That's so careless of you. I have some ointment in my room. After this, ask Stella to help you apply it."

Stella was at a loss for words.

'The bruise is on his forehead, so he can do it himself. Is there a need for me to help him? It's not like Keegan doesn't have hands,' she thought.

Naturally, Stella only dared to make this remark in her head. Since she had already broken Cordelia's heart because of the contraceptive incident, she did not dare to talk back and obediently agreed to it.

After Cordelia spoke to Keegan, she started asking about her grandchildren's well-being one by one.

While Cordelia was old, she was not at all senile. She knew Aurora's college major and that she was about to graduate. Besides that, she also knew that Dahlia was doing business with her friend, and Stella was acting in a film for a friend.

She was an incredibly generous elder who mostly provided guidance in her children's and

grandchildren's lives and work, and she rarely criticized them.

Among Cordelia's grandchildren, she really liked Aurora because she was a sweet talker. However, her fondness for Aurora was not quite similar to her love for Keegan.

Since Keegan had lost his father at a young age, Cordelia raised him singlehandedly. She mainly treated him with the strictness of an elder aside from the grandmotherly love she had for him.

Cordelia's nurturing was one of the major factors Keegan was properly educated. If Dahlia had educated him instead, she could not possibly have raised another Keegan, and Aurora was the best example.

After Cordelia had spoken to everyone, Cyrene finally said, "A year passes by so quickly. The children are all grown up in a blink of an eye, and you're nearly 80 years old. It's your 80th birthday this year. Do you have anything in mind?"

Cordelia answered warmly, "I don't really have anything in mind. Something simple will do."

"It's your 80th birthday, so it can't be too simple. Otherwise, others will think that we, as your children, don't care. Naturally, we'll have to make it spectacular," said Cyrene.

She promptly changed the topic and continued, "Back when you had your 70th birthday, I remember you said you'd like to hear Lancelot Lewie sing to you on your 80th. I have a friend who's good friends with Lancelot's student, so I could ask her to invite him."

This instantly piqued Cordelia's interest. Regardless, she still asked with hesitance, "Hasn't Lancelot stopped performing in public? Will we manage to invite him?"

### Chapter 319

Lancelot Lewie was a contemporary male opera singer. He was well-known for his work "The Flower Pavilion."

Stella was really familiar with him because Rainee was his die-hard fan and had many recordings of his performances at home.

When Stella was younger, Stella had even gone to a few of his performances with Rainee. Lancelot had a soft, feminine figure, and ethereal vocals. It was not an overstatement to say that he had peerless elegance on stage.

'Lancelot can be considered one of my first teachers when I learned performing arts. At first, I wanted to learn how to act because Lancelot looked really beautiful in period costumes. I also wanted to perform for everyone while I am dressed beautifully. When Lancelot was 50, he announced that he would no longer perform in public and would focus on his education career. To this day, it's been eight years since he's performed on stage. Throughout these years, many invited him to stage a comeback. However, all of these attempts ended in failure. So what if Cyrene knew his students? Back then, someone even knew one of Lancelot's family members. Yet, it still didn't work out,' thought Stella.

Cyrene probably had not attempted it, so she said rather confidently, "While he doesn't perform publicly, he's got to do it for the sake of his friend when invited, right? I initially wanted to ask my friend to invite him, but I hadn't discussed the matter with Dahlia. I also don't know what ideas Dahlia had in mind for the birthday banquet, so I didn't take the liberty of doing it."

After a pause, she continued, "Dahlia, I heard you recently invested in a beauty salon. Since the business just opened, you must be pretty busy, right? Why don't I organize the birthday banquet? This way, your matters won't be held up."

Dahlia glanced at her. “Not at all, Cyrene. How could other matters be more important than my mother-in-law’s birthday? I’ve only invested a small sum in the beauty salon, so I’m not considered a major shareholder. I get dividends at the end of the year, but I don’t usually need to manage the salon. Theoretically speaking, our family should naturally be the ones organizing the birthday banquet. I, as a widowed single mother, couldn’t handle our mother-in-law’s 70th birthday myself. Thankfully, you helped out. This year, she’s having her 80th birthday, and Keegan’s already grown up. I can’t shirk my responsibilities any further, right?” Cyrene smiled.

“You’re being too formal, Dahlia. What’s the difference between you and me organizing it? Does seniority matter? I think it’s not easy for you to raise two children when you’re widowed. Now that they’re finally grown up and successful, shouldn’t you take a good rest? You’re a woman, so it’ll be inconvenient for you to do many things. I’ve got two men at home, so it’ll invariably be easier. I can ask them to run errands for me whenever there’s a need.”

Dahlia kept a calm expression. “What era are we in? Can’t women do the things men do? While Keegan’s the only man in our family, I have a daughter and a daughter-in-law. Both of them are smart and capable. They’ll provide me with sufficient help.”

‘It’s true that when pros fight, every strike is a critical hit. Neither of them is backing down, and they seem determined to be the organizer of the birthday banquet,’ thought Stella.

Seeing how they could not come to an agreement, Cyrene threw the question at Cordelia.

“Since it’s your birthday, things will go according to your wishes no matter what. Why don’t you tell us if you want Dahlia’s style for your 80th birthday banquet, or would you prefer my style instead?”

Cordelia also seemed as though she was in a really difficult position.

“Dahlia’s meticulous. She pays great attention to details and takes everything into consideration. On the other hand, Cyrene focuses on the bigger picture, so the grandeur’s pretty good. I quite like the banquets you two organized. My 80th birthday banquet this year might be the last one I’ll have in my life. Besides, you two aren’t getting any younger. After worrying about them all your lives, it’s time you two enjoy your lives and stop being so busy,” she said as she turned to Keegan and Stella.

She continued, “Stella, why don’t you organize it this year?”

Stella was bewildered.

Everyone was stunned when they heard Cordelia’s words.

Cyrene was the first to speak. "We'll be inviting many people for your birthday banquet, and young people don't have the experience. We'll become a laughing stock if the banquet isn't done properly."

"Cyrene's right. While Stella is my daughter-in-law, she's really way too young. Since young people are inexperienced, they will inevitably overlook things. It's fine if it's a family banquet, but there'll be many people on the day of your birthday banquet. Can she bear the

responsibility if something goes wrong?"

## Chapter 320

Aurora also chimed in. "Grandma, she couldn't even properly organize Keegan's birthday party, yet you're letting her organize something as important as your birthday banquet? Aren't we just waiting to embarrass ourselves at the birthday banquet?"

Keegan's expression darkened. "Are you in the place to interrupt when the elders are speaking? Do you not remember your manners?"

Aurora was speechless for a moment. Then, she glared at Stella before she kept her mouth shut in anger.

Meanwhile, Stella did not dare to speak at all.

'I minded my own business, and disaster still fell upon me out of nowhere. This isn't a good thing for me at all. The old lady is really smart. Since they're both her daughters-in-law, no matter who she chooses, they'll feel unsatisfied, and she'll be labeled as biased. How could she choose when they were even directly questioning her? Naturally, she chose to not offend both sides and threw the hot potato into my hands,' she thought.

"Didn't you two also used to be young? Young people need to be given more opportunities to gain experience. Nobody's born a know-it-all. What do you say, Stella? Do you want to do it?"

Cordelia turned to Stella.

While those were Cordelia's words, her eyes seemed to say, "I dare you to say no."

Stella was not remotely prepared for this. She was torn between agreeing and refusing. After a while, she finally said, "Grandma, I'm worried that I won't do a good job."

"Youngsters shouldn't be worried about making mistakes. You need to keep making mistakes to know how to do things the right way. If you don't know how to do

something, learn how to do it. You can ask your mother-in-law or your Aunt Cyrene if you don't know anything. They'll be happy to teach you."

Cyrene knew from Cordelia's attitude that she did not stand a chance of being the organizer for this year's birthday banquet.

She glanced at Dahlia, who had an expression more unpleasant than her own.

Suddenly, Cyrene felt a little better.

'I didn't get it, and neither did Dahlia. The old lady would rather let Stella do it than her first daughter-in-law. Therefore, Dahlia's status in the old lady's heart isn't much higher than mine. Besides, now that Stella's the organizer, Dahlia won't let things go smoothly even if I didn't intervene,' she thought.

At that thought, Cyrene said, "How can we not teach her when you've already put it this way? Since the kids are all grown up, we should indeed let go of some things we're supposed to. Stella, you can ask me anything you don't know. If you need someone to run errands, you can ask Jackson. The ultimate goal is to make the birthday banquet a success."

Jackson smiled. "I'll be at your disposal, Stella."

Since Dahlia and her family had taken their stance, Dahlia's intentions would be made evident. if she continued to disagree.

'I guarded against Chandler's family, but I never imagined that the opportunity I had in hand would fall into Stella's,' thought Dahlia.

## Chapter 321

Seeing how Dahlia was silent for a long time, Cyrene smiled slightly and said, "You've been quiet for a while now, Dahlia. Are you dissatisfied with the arrangement? To be honest, what's the difference between you and Stella organizing it? You're both from the same family, so she'll bring honor to your family if the banquet succeeds."

'And, by the same token, she'll bring shame to their family if the banquet is botched,' she thought.

Dahlia suppressed the frustration she felt within. Then, she lifted her head, and her gaze swept past Cyrene.

"Since mom wants to let Stella organize it, I obviously have no objections. I'm just a little worried that's all," she said calmly.

She turned to Stella and warmly said, "Stella, come to my place after this. I'll tell you the whole flow. You can ask me if there's anything you don't understand. There's no need to be frugal when money needs to be spent. In short, make it as perfect as it can get."

Stella lowered her gaze and answered softly, "I understand."

Regardless of what others thought about Cordelia's arrangement, she seemed really happy herself. After they had finished discussing the business at hand, she said she was hungry and wanted to have dinner early.

'While the rules in the Kane family aren't considered a lot, the division of labor is really clear. When grandma discusses matters related to the men in the Kane family, none of the daughters -in-law will interrupt. On the other hand, when grandma discusses matters related to the women in the Kane family, the men in the family will hardly talk. For instance, when grandma discussed who would organize the birthday banquet, Keegan, Chandler and the rest did not take a stance from the beginning to the end,' thought Stella.

At the dinner table, Cordelia asked about some matters related to the company. Most of the questions were answered by Chandler and Keegan, while the rest of them kept quiet.

After dinner, everyone had tea in the living hall. Meanwhile, Stella helped clear the plates and cutlery.

Corrin was really perceptive. She said to Stella in a low voice, "Mrs. Kane, you don't have to worry about this. Go sit down and have tea with everyone in the living room."

"It's fine. Since I just had dinner, I want to move around to stimulate digestion."

'Since I took what Dahlia wanted, she won't have a pleasant expression when she sees me. If I sit down next to Dahlia in the living room, she'll probably feel incredibly uncomfortable. Since I'm also feeling uncomfortable, I might as well do some chores to feel more comfortable,' thought Stella.

Seeing this, Corrin did not say anything more.

Corrin did not let Stella do the washing, so she asked her to cut the fruits and plate them.

In the midst of cutting the fruits, Stella suddenly sighed.

Corrin noticed how pitiful she looked and asked, "What's the matter, Mrs. Kane?"

"I'm wondering if grandma's still angry at me.'

Corrin laughed. "What makes you say that?"

Stella muttered, "If she weren't angry with me, why'd she throw this hot potato at me?"

"She obviously values you a lot to let you handle such an important task. If she was angry with you, she wouldn't even have let you in the house when you sent her Pelmeni those few days."

Stella pouted.

'She clearly didn't want to offend her daughters-in-law, so she dumped this task at me. It's not her first time doing such a thing. However, at this point, I've already offended the people I can offend. Now, I can only think of a way to make the birthday banquet a success,' she thought.

"Corrin, tell me how grandma's birthday banquets were done in the past."

Corrin was a little shocked.

'The truth is, the old lady had already told us in private about what was to happen today prior to their arrival. Then, she had even made a bet with us on whether Stella would organize the birthday banquet by herself or secretly give the opportunity to Dahlia and win Dahlia's favor. The old lady bet that Stella would organize it herself, while my husband and I bet that she'd let Dahlia organize it. Stella usually has an incredibly soft disposition in front of elders. She's timid and cautious with her words because she fears that she'd make a mistake and offend others. Dahlia had never liked her daughter-in-law. Now that the old lady asked Stella to organize the birthday banquet, nothing's stopping her from giving this opportunity to Dahlia and using it to improve her relationship with her mother-in-law. Not only is this the best option, but it's also the safest. However, the old lady thought the birthday banquet was an opportunity for Stella to rise to prominence in the elite circle. If Stella had the ambition to be the mistress of the house, she would certainly seize this opportunity,' thought Corrin. Cordelia guessed the outcome correctly, but she got the process wrong.

It was not that Stella was ambitious, but she had thoroughly offended Dahlia long ago.

## Chapter 322

Stella had stolen Dahlia's limelight at the jewelry exhibition, fired her servant, and talked to her rudely over the phone. However, the two pretended that everything was fine between them.

'She would probably still dislike me even if I let her organize the birthday banquet,' Stella thought. 'Since I'm already on her bad side, why not make use of it and reap the benefits? The gift money was at a nine-digit amount 10 years ago, so it should be more this time round.' Stella bumped into Jackson when she walked out of the kitchen with a

bowl of fruits. He was leaning against the wall with an unlit cigarette between his teeth and a disdainful look on his face.

When Stella saw him, she pursed her lips and continued her way to the living room. Jackson then placed the cigarette behind his ears and blocked her path. He took a strawberry from the bowl and said, "Hey, Stella. It's been quite some time since we last met. Why the cold attitude?"

Stella looked up with no interest and uttered, "Get out of the way."

The man glanced at the bowl in her hands and suddenly reached his hands out to grab it. His fingers touched Stella's in a flirtatious manner as he continued, "I'll help."

Stella backed away from his touch and said in a deep voice. "I guess some things never change, huh, Jackson? You're still the player you always were. Haven't you had enough fun outside? Why the hell are you making a move on me? Are you crazy?"

"Oh, Stella. I'm afraid you're the one who made a move on me. Remember how you were the one to initiate this thing between us? Remember how we fucked under the candlelight? How could you be so ruthless, Stella?" Jackson smirked.

Stella shot him a dark look and said, "Go tell Keegan if you have the balls and see what he'll do to you."

Jackson was unfazed by her threat. "What's gonna happen if I do? I'm the victim in all this." "Did you hear that, honey?"

Jackson quickly turned around as a cold drop of sweat fell from his forehead. But, no one was behind him. Stella had played him. He smirked again and said, "We haven't seen each other for half a year, Stella. It looks like you've become quite the trickster."

Stella did not want to continue the conversation, so she said coldly, "Get out of my way."

"Why are you in such a hurry? We rarely get to meet, and I wanted to catch up."

"Hey, honey," Stella said while she looked behind Jackson in shock.

"Do you really think I would fall for that again? Haha," he laughed.

Suddenly, a cold voice came from behind him. "Fall for what?"

Jackson froze. He then put on a smile and turned around. "Oh, nothing. I was just having a chat with Stella."

Keegan stared at him for a second and looked over at Stella. "Grandma wants you to help me

with the ointment."

"Right after I put this bowl of fruit in the living room, okay?" she said.

"You go," Keegan said as he grabbed the bowl and gave it to Jackson.

Jackson stayed quiet and did as he was told. Stella pursed her lips when she saw him leave and said to herself, 'Asshole.'

"What did he say to you earlier?" Keegan asked.

### Chapter 323

Keegan did not know what Jackson and Stella were talking about, so he asked her about their little chat when they were upstairs. Cordelia and Chandler were discussing some business in the study while Cyrene was still sour about the birthday banquet, as Dahlia was not backing down. Keegan was tired of it, so he found an excuse to leave and went to see Stella.

As soon as he arrived, he saw Jackson standing before her. He had no idea what Jackson had said, but Stella's expression was ugly and sullen, like the time in Vinci Rivera.

Stella did not bother to hide her dislike for Jackson. "We were just joking around. That's all," she said, not wanting to elaborate. In fact, she did not know how she should explain what happened because it involved Aurora and Dahlia.

11

When they got married, Keegan left Stella at the wedding while he went elsewhere. Everybody started giving rounds of toasts to her until Zane saved her. However, she still had quite a bit to drink.

Stella was feeling a little dizzy when she got home. Aurora and the servant helped her to her room. Stella was in her early twenties, but her husband was with another woman on their wedding night. She could not help but feel wronged no matter how hard she tried.

When she returned to the room, she did not change out of her clothes. Instead, she cried for hours and fell asleep after that. While she was asleep, someone came on top of her and started groping her non-stop. The person's force was so great that she woke up in pain.

The light in the room was very dim, and Stella had drunk a lot of wine. So, her vision was blurry, and she thought the person was Keegan. The grievances she felt that night surged up abruptly. She wrapped her hands over the person's shoulders and complained about it in a low voice.

The man grabbed her chin and gasped, "I thought you only had a pretty face. I didn't expect you to have such a good figure too. No wonder Keegan insisted on marrying you."

The unfamiliar voice instantly made Stella's hair stand. It was not who she thought it was. With a pale face, Stella struggled to get away desperately.

But, Jackson covered her mouth, squinted his eyes, and said, "You are quite the amorous woman, huh? You came to my room on your wedding night. What kind of chaste woman are you pretending to be? Since Keegan is not here, as his brother, I should serve you well, my dearest sister-in-law."

He then got up again as he spoke.

Stella's face was bloodless. Seeing that Jackson was about to tear off her clothes, she grabbed something in a panic and threw it at his head.

Jackson was in pain. He held his head and started cursing while letting go of her hand. Stella had a chance to escape. She stumbled and ran out of the room, calling for help.

Dahlia rushed over upon hearing the sound and immediately pulled them over for an interrogation when she saw the situation.

Jackson's head was injured, and his hands were covered in blood. He insisted that Stella had willingly entered his room, and he thought she was the woman he had brought back from the

wedding. He also added that the light in the room was very dim, and he had a lot to drink, so he did not know that it was Stella.

Stella's face went pale. She explained that she was tipsy, and Aurora helped her into the room. She also mentioned that she did not know it was Jackson's room. Aurora then denied it. She insisted that she had helped Stella into Keegan's room and that a servant could testify on her behalf. She even stabbed Stella in the back by saying she had gone to the wrong room by herself. And, she blamed her for it because she was afraid of being reprimanded.

Stella had a good alcohol tolerance. Although she did drink a lot on her wedding night, she was not completely drunk. She was sure she would have known if she got up and entered Jackson's room by herself.

## Chapter 324

After Aurora had sent Stella to the room, Stella never came out of it. She could not have entered Jackson's room unless Aurora had led her there in the first place.

It was Stella's first time at the Kane residence after she got married. She did not even know where Keegan's room was. So, it was clear that Aurora had led her in there. But, no matter how she tried to explain herself, Dahlia believed she had too much to drink, and her memory was

skewed.

Stella was young and energetic back then and was determined to prove her innocence. She even said that she would go to Cordelia and ask her to investigate this matter clearly.

Dahlia's expression changed upon hearing this. She told Stella that this incident was ridiculous and embarrassing. If she were to bring the problem to Cordelia, she would only find that she had an affair with Jackson on her wedding night. She told her that no matter the truth, the incident would be a great shame and humiliation to Keegan, and no one would look good if the issue got out of control:

Stella was too young to fight back at that time. She retreated once Dahlia mentioned Keegan's name. She feared that he would think of her badly like these people did. Stella did not care about other people's opinions, but she cared about Keegan's.

Dahlia told her that it would embarrass the family if she told anyone about it to ensure that she would stay quiet. Jackson, of course, did not speak out about molesting his sister-in-law.

When Stella thought about it later, she suddenly realized that Dahlia did not want her to raise the matter because she wanted to protect Aurora. The truth was bound to come out if someone investigated the case.

Stella wanted to tell Keegan about it multiple times, but she was unsure if anything would happen since Aurora was his younger sister. He would be defensive at most and deny it, or he would probably blame Stella for the incident, just like Dahlia did.

Both endings made no difference to her. Slowly, the more time passed, the lesser she wanted to mention it. So, when Keegan asked about it in the present, she only brushed over it lightly. Keegan frowned. He could clearly see that Stella's expression had changed when he asked about Jackson, but she did not want to tell him about what happened. This made Keegan a little unhappy. He did not like it when Stella refused to tell him what was on her mind. Cordelia's room was huge, and this was Stella's first time in it. It was clear that she and Keegan had similar preferences since they both had wall shelves for their books.

Keegan rummaged around in the cabinet and found the ointment Cordelia was talking about. He then took Stella to the second-floor sunroom to help him with the medication.

Stella applied the ointment on him with a cotton swab and said, "Grandma loves you so much that she doesn't forget to take care of your wound even when you guys argue. You are much more pampered than Jackson. Look up."

Keegan tilted his head upward and calmly said, "Isn't it always like this with old people? How many days has your grandpa treated you for your stiff neck?"

Stella's eyes softened a bit when Keegan mentioned Arthur. "Grandpa just called and said he

made chicken soup again. He asked when we would be back."

The corners of Keegan's eyes twitched. "I have to do overtime tonight."

"Grandpa will be disappointed," Stella sighed. She was about to screw the lid back on the ointment when Keegan took her arm and stopped her. "Come here," he said.

"What?"

Keegan then pinched her elbow and asked, "Does it hurt?"

## Chapter 325

"Hiss-" Stella frowned and slapped the back of Keegan's hand. "Of course, it hurts! Would it hurt if I touched your wound?" The injury on Stella's elbow was the same as the one on

Keegan's head. It was made during the cruise. Not only did Stella hurt her elbow, but she also injured her knees.

Keegan glanced at her and said, "I thought it didn't hurt since you're always so stubborn." As he spoke, he took a cotton swab, dipped it in the ointment, and slowly applied it to her elbow. "A doctor specially formulated this ointment for grandma. It's very effective in treating bruises. You can see the difference after one use."

"It's that potent? Maybe we should steal it when we leave." It was common for actors and actresses to bump into things during the filming. The bruises looked ugly, but more importantly, they hurt. 'If this ointment is so effective, I better bring it home and use it myself,' Stella thought.

The corners of Keegan's eyes twitched. "There's only one of these here. The doctor is traveling around the world right now and won't be able to return for at least a year. This medication is very precious to grandma. Last time, Aurora fell from a horse and

sprained her ankle, but grandma was unwilling to let her use it, and you want to take it away?"

Keegan's words implied that there was no way he would let Stella take it. Stella pressed her lips together and thought to herself, "That old lady threw such a huge responsibility at me. What's wrong with grabbing one of her medications?"

"I want to talk to you about something, honey."

Keegan froze. The last time she said something like this, she asked him for a new house. He pursed his lips, stared at Stella's medicated knees, and coldly said, "No thanks."

The corner of Stella's mouth twitched. "You don't even know what I was going to say!" Keegan glanced at her. "Would you even want to discuss it with me if it was something good?" Stella choked. "What are you on about? I only discuss good news with you, okay?" Unbothered, Keegan threw the cotton swab into the trash and began to tidy up the place. Stella followed behind him and chattered, "Look, grandma's 80th birthday must be huge, right? I'd need to book the venue, decorate the place, arrange stage performances, enforce security measures, look for good catering and fine wine, and soooo much more! The price for everything is going to be a heavy amount. You know I'm only earning peanuts, so can you give me part of the one billion dollars in advance? I won't ask for much; 30 million is enough. When the birthday banquet is over, I'll pay you 10% interest. Deal? You can't even get that much returns in a year with 30 million deposits in the bank. If you invest in me, you can get 3 million interest back in a month. It's a good investment. Come on. Where are you going to find another deal like this?"

Stella was selling her pitch like her life depended on it. It was as though she worked for an investment company, persuading Keegan to put his money in her. However, Keegan was not someone who was easily persuaded. He looked at her and said calmly, "I'm paying for

everything, and you only have to do the work? Don't you think three million dollars is a little cheap, even for you?"

Stella was a little reluctant, but thinking that the little money she had was not enough for the birthday banquet, she gave in. "How much do you want?"

"I'm contributing financially while you're contributing physically and mentally. Both of us should get the credit, so I'm proposing half of the benefits you receive."

The corner of Stella's mouth twitched. She turned around and left without a word.

"Where are you going? We're not done yet," Keegan quickly grabbed her wrist and said.

Stella glared at him and replied, "I'll borrow the money from someone else."

'Fucking asshole. He wants half of the benefits? Hah! In his dreams!'

"Do you even have friends who can lend you thirty million dollars?" Keegan asked calmly.

Stella hesitated. 'Not really... Other than Felicity, there are only two college roommates who I'm still in touch with. But, they are all from normal-income families. I don't think they'd be able to borrow me 1 million dollars, let alone 30 million...'

Stella could not help but feel angry when she saw the cocky look on Keegan's face.

## Chapter 326

"If worst comes to worst, I'll go to Mr. Snyder and Mr. Moore. I'll even give them 20% more interest, which is better than being leeches by a bloodsucker like you!"

Keegan paused and narrowed his eyes dangerously. "You wouldn't dare!"

"Watch me!" As Stella said that, she pretended to dial Vermont or Marshall's number. Keegan rushed over to snatch her phone with a gloomy look on his face.

During their little dispute, Stella's leg bumped against the edge of the bed. She staggered and subconsciously grabbed onto Keegan's collar. Soon, Keegan could no longer hold his balance, and they both fell onto the bed.

Dahlia was helping Cordelia back to her room when they saw the two on the bed. Stella was lying on the bed blushing, while Keegan was on top of her. His eyes were red. Before Cordelia could say something, Dahlia spoke up. "What are you two doing?"

Surprised, Stella quickly pushed Keegan away, straightened her clothes, and stood up. "Hey, grandma. Hi, mom," she said in embarrassment. On the other hand, Keegan did not look bothered. He stood up slowly, stretched out his hand to straighten his bow tie, and said nothing.

Having been robbed of organizing the birthday banquet, Dahlia held back her resentment. But, now that she saw Stella fooling around with Keegan at that moment, she was furious.

"Stella, you've married into the family for several years now, yet you still show no discipline. Do you know whose room this is? Why in the world are you fooling around in here? What would other people say if they knew about this? Is this how your parents taught you?"

Stella pursed her lips with an ugly look on her face. Meanwhile, Keegan frowned. "How would anybody know about this if you just kept your mouth shut?"

Dahlia's face darkened. "What do you mean by that, Keegan? Huh? Can I no longer say anything about her now?"

Before Keegan could speak, the old lady said, "Keegan is right. We are the only ones here. How would other people find out?" After she had finished speaking, she then said to the couple, "Next time, if you two want to fool around, Keegan's room is next door, okay?"

Keegan and Stella were speechless. Not only was the old lady not mad at them, but she sounded rather excited.

Just as the two of them wanted to look into it even more, Cordelia withdrew her expression and calmly said, "Stella, it takes a lot to organize the birthday banquet. You're going to have to go through a lot of trouble for me."

Keegan lowered his eyes and said, "She'll be fine, grandma."

"Okay. You two can go."

The two then excused themselves. They walked past Dahlia on the way out, and she Stella a gloomy and resentful glare.

"

gave

'r

guess this peaceful act between mother and daughter-in-law is almost over,' Stella sighed. Keegan had to meet a client that night, so he and Stella left Cordelia's place early. Not long

after Keegan had left, Chandler and his family also left. Aurora waited for nearly an hour before Dahlia came down the stairs.

When the two of them got into the car, Aurora said, "Mom, is grandma really so senile that she entrusted that woman to organize her birthday banquet? Does she know how much it costs to hold that event? I can't believe she let an outsider do it! Grandma's crazy.

"It's better for her to do it than Cyrene," Dahlia said with a gloomy face after some time.

“Why? Even though you and Aunt Cyrene aren’t close, Uncle Chandler treats me very well. Their family is part of the Kane family, unlike Stella.”

Dahlia paused, and with a stern look on her face, she said, “How many times have I told you to stay away from your Uncle Chandler? Why don’t you ever listen?”

## Chapter 327

Aurora was taken aback. She had never seen Dahlia get so angry before. She was stunned for a long time before she said, “I-It’s not like that. I-I just think that Uncle Chandler treats us pretty well.”

Dahlia knew that she was overreacting, so she took a deep breath, calmed down, and said, “He wouldn’t do that if he didn’t want something from us. Can you use that brain of yours?” Aurora thought that her uncle was kind to her. She did not know what he would ever want from her, yet her mother always regarded his family as their enemies. However, she did not dare to tell her mom that since Dahlia had always been hostile to her uncle’s family. She was not only hostile toward Cyrene but also Chandler.

From Aurora’s point of view, Chandler had treated their family well over the years. When she was younger, Chandler would give her and her brother whatever Jackson had when he returned from a business trip. Sometimes, she would receive more gifts than the two boys. Aurora lost her father when she was young, and Chandler became quite the father figure for her. So, she instinctively wanted to be closer to him, but Dahlia often felt disgusted. Aurora did not dare to talk back to her mother, so she only responded obediently. “Yes, mom.”

When the situation in the car had calmed down a little, Dahlia said, “Go to your brother’s place later and bring this fertility medication to Stella.”

Aurora frowned. “No. It’s better if she can’t get pregnant. Grandma already loves her so much. If she becomes pregnant with Keegan’s child, grandma will love her even more! It’s better if she’s not pregnant for the rest of her life!”

“Do as you are told. Do you not want me to talk to your grandma about your marriage with Marshall?” Aurora’s eyes lit up. “Have you told her already?”

“I just mentioned it, and she understood the message. She has no objection as long as the Moore family is fine with it.”

“Aunt Moore is definitely going to agree. She has always loved me since I was a child.” Aurora was quite confident in that aspect. She had a crush on Marshall for years and had been trying to get his mom to like her for quite a while. Both their families knew each other well, so there was no better candidate for Marshall than her.

“Don’t get too excited. We still don’t know if Marshall wants to be with you. Since he had that illness before, his family has become more accommodating to him. No one can force him into marrying you if he doesn’t want to.”

Aurora did not care. Marshall was a dutiful son, and everyone in the wealthy circle knew that. ‘I still have a chance as long as his parents agree,’ she thought.

Dahlia could tell what Aurora was thinking just by looking at her expression since she was the one who gave birth to her.

“You should put more thought into caring for Marshall. Remember to let him be the one who initiates things so that you won’t just be a second choice when you get married,” she said lightly.

“You sound rather experienced, mom. Was that how you got my dad to marry you back then?”

Dahlia paused. She then pursed her lips and said, “Shut your mouth and remember to deliver the medicine.”

“Okay.” Aurora pouted in reply.

On Chandler’s side of the family, Cyrene started talking about what went down today after getting into the car.

She told Chandler all about Stella and Dahlia. She could not help but laugh out loud when she remembered the look on Dahlia’s face when Cordelia chose Stella as the organizer of her banquet.

“I think she never expected to lose to her daughter-in-law. I heard that she fell in love with a bracelet at the last jewelry exhibition, but the old lady asked Stella to buy it. It’s a pity I wasn’t there at that time. It would have been fun to see her face.”

Chandler frowned and glanced at her. “That’s enough. Please act like an adult in front of your child.”

Cyrene snorted. “Stop at the intersection ahead. I want to get off,” she said to the driver.

“Aren’t you coming home with us, mom?” Jackson asked.

Cyrene patted his head and said, “I’m meeting up with Mrs. Chapman for a facial, darling. I’ll be back later in the evening.”

“Isn’t Mrs. Chapman close with Aunt Dahlia? Why do you have contact with her?” he asked.

## Chapter 328

“I wouldn’t meet up with her if it wasn’t because she was close with your uncle Quentin.” After Cyrene got out of the car, the car suddenly became silent. Chandler was sitting upright, eyes half closed, thinking about something.

After a long time, he asked, “How are you and Mr. Callahan’s daughter doing recently?”

His voice was as clear as a bell and sounded majestic. Although his face was rough and his hair was gray, there was a bright light behind his eyes as if they were showing his youth.

Upon receiving the question, Jackson unconsciously sat up straight in front of him.

“That woman is easy. I didn’t even have to bait her for her to be hooked. But... I don’t plan to continue this thing between us. I heard her father is still involved in an old case this year and will retire soon.” Jackson knew he was not going to get the promotion, so he naturally wanted nothing to do with the marriage.

Chandler frowned. “Is the source reliable?”

“His daughter is the one who told me it, so yeah. I can’t believe I wasted half of my year.”

Chandler furrowed his brows and did not speak. Keegan’s current status in Rivera was not to be underestimated. Chandler had already had some difficulty in dealing with it, so he had to focus on Jackson’s marriage.

‘Having a powerful in-law can increase my chances of winning in many aspects. If Mr. Callahan is going to retire soon, then this marriage is indeed unnecessary. But, it’s not that easy to find another candidate for Jackson. Although there are many famous ladies in Rivera, not many come from aristocratic families with strong financial resources.’

“Dad, I heard that Wenham is back. His youngest daughter fell ill when she participated in a charity event, and she has been recuperating at home recently. Mom and Wenham are still somewhat related. Shall we go and visit?”

Chandler looked up at him and said, “Jaylene is not Wenham’s biological daughter.”

Jackson chuckled. “He moved most of his family overseas in order to treat Jaylene’s illness. Is it really that important if she’s not his biological daughter?”

Chandler was silent for a long time before he said, “Let’s talk about this matter later. Right now,

do your job well, and don’t let your grandma down.”

Jackson withdrew his excitement and replied in a low voice, "Okay..."

The next day, Aurora took the fertility medication given by Dahlia to Keegan's place. She deliberately picked a time when Keegan was not around. As soon as she entered the courtyard, she saw an old man wearing a baggy white tank top and a straw hat, digging soil in the garden with a small hoe.

Aurora was startled. She soon came back to her senses and yelled, "Hey! Thief! What are you doing here?"

Arthur flipped the brim of his hat and glanced at Aurora. He then frowned and said, "What a rude young lady. Who are you calling a thief?"

"You're the one who's being rude, you stinky old man. What are you holding in your hand, huh? Why are you digging secretly in my yard?"

Arthur was mad when he heard that. "This is my great-granddaughter's home. I'm planting something here. Who the hell are you to come here and yell at me?"

'Great-granddaughter..?' Aurora then responded, "So... you're from the Jewell family?"

## Chapter 329

Arthur looked at Aurora and suddenly remembered the photo album he had flipped through a few days ago. "My, my. You look so familiar. Are you Keegan's younger sister? We are all family. You're in luck. I just dug out some potatoes from my vegetable field and will make some pierogi at noon."

Most people from the countryside lived simple lives, and Arthur had always been generous. He was in his nineties and could not afford to argue with a young girl. Knowing that she was Keegan's sister, he immediately became friendly with her.

"We're not family. Stella really thinks that our family is a charity, huh? It's fine that she secretly helps the Jewell family with my family's riches, but now she freaking brought one of you here? Your family is shameless," Aurora sneered.

Arthur's face immediately changed. He tossed the hoe to the ground and pointed at Aurora as he shouted, "How dare you talk like that?!"

"I'm just stating the facts. I can't believe an old scum like you still lives off us rich people. Tell me, is living in this villa better than living in that country kennel of yours? You're a family of good-for-nothing blood-sucking asshats!"

Arthur was furious, shaking his hands and trembling. "What's wrong with country people? How are we useless? We do everything with our own hands. The rice and flour you eat are planted by us country folk! Why are you such a rude girl?"

“Am I wrong? I mean, look at your useless family. I really don’t understand my mother’s thought process. Why in the world does she want me to deliver this stupid medicine to Stella? In my opinion, she shouldn’t get pregnant. What if she gave birth to a loser like your family? Ew.”

After Aurora said that, she carried the box of medication and walked into the house. Arthur turned pale with anger. He stepped forward and grabbed Aurora’s wrist as he said, “Get out! Get out! Take your things and get out!”

As he spoke, Aurora staggered, and the box fell to the ground. The bottle of medicine broke, and the remedy was scattered all over the floor. Aurora’s expression darkened immediately, and she pushed Arthur away. “You old bastard! Don’t touch me with your filthy hands!”

Arthur was old, and no matter how strong his body was, he could not compare to a young girl. Aurora pushed him, and he fell to the ground. His face turned white from the pain as he gasped for breath. His whole body trembled, and he could not get up.

Seeing this, Aurora was taken aback. “Stop pretending, old man. I didn’t even use much force. Get up!”

Arthur trembled more and more, and his face gradually turned blue. Aurora was scared at that moment. The servant heard the commotion and quickly ran outside. She hurriedly dialed 911 when she saw Arthur lying on the ground.

Stella was on set when she received a call from the hospital. When she heard that something had happened to her great-grandfather, she asked Daniel for a leave and rushed to the hospital.

Arthur was still in the operating room when she arrived at the hospital. She saw the servant

waiting outside and anxiously asked, “What happened?” Stella thought that Arthur had fallen ill. “Wasn’t he fine when I left this morning? Didn’t he take his pills? Why is he suddenly in the emergency room???”

“The old man had a fall and couldn’t get up from the ground.”

Stella frowned. “How did he fall?”

The servant hesitated momentarily and said in a low voice, “To be honest, Madam, I’m not really sure. I was cleaning around the house while the old man was tending his vegetables in the yard. Ms. Kane came over, and she seemed to have a few words with the old man. When I heard her outside, the old man was already unconscious.”

Stella’s expression changed. “Where is she?”

“Ms. Kane didn’t come to the hospital.”

Stella scrunched up her nose and clenched her fists upon hearing that. Ten minutes later, Keegan rushed over since he received a call from the servant. When he arrived, he saw Stella sitting on the bench with a pale face. He walked up to her and called out to her. Stella looked up at him, and her eyes were bloodshot red. Keegan’s heart trembled when he saw her current state. He pursed his lips and whispered, “It will all be alright.”

Stella stared at him and said hoarsely, “Aurora pushed him.”

### Chapter 330

Keegan was startled. His eyes darkened, and he said, “I’ll handle it,”

“How are you going to handle it?” Stella asked calmly. “Are you going to send her to jail if grandpa doesn’t come out of the operating room by today?”

Keegan frowned, but he did not speak. The corner of Stella’s lower lip twitched as she said, “No, right? Then, tell me, how are you going to handle this?”

Keegan was about to say something when the lights in the operating room went out. The doctor came out of the operating room and said, “The patient is no longer in a critical state for now. You guys were careless. The man has a history of epilepsy and is already so old. You shouldn’t have left him alone. Fortunately, he was delivered on time. Otherwise, he would be dead.”

Stella sighed in relief and waited for the doctor to finish talking before she said, “Yes, you’re right. I was negligent. Thank you, doctor.” The doctor waved his hand and said, “You can visit him in the ward later.”

After the doctor had left, Stella did not talk to Keegan. Instead, she called Albert to inform him about what had happened.

Keegan looked at her slim back, and his heart tightened. He picked up his phone and dialed Aurora’s number.

Not surprisingly, she did not answer. He called the house, and a servant picked up the phone. “Mrs. Kane has gone out to play cards with her friends, sir.”

“I’m looking for Aurora Kane,” Keegan said coldly. He only called Aurora by her full name when he was furious at her. The servant took a peek at Aurora and saw that she was waving desperately, signaling her to deny her presence.

“Ah, yes, Ms. Aurora. She’s not here right now. She went out with her friends in the morning.”

Keegan rolled his eyes and said, "Ask her to answer the phone."

"Ms. Aurora's not here, sir. She..."

Keegan's face darkened. "I'll say this one last time. Ask her to answer the phone!"

A rattling sound could be heard on the other line, and they hung up. Keegan clenched his phone tightly and glanced at Stella, who was not far away. He turned around and left the hospital after that.

The image of the old man shaking and shivering on the floor was deeply engraved in Aurora's mind. However, she was not afraid of anything happening to him. On the contrary, she was scared that she would not be able to get away with it. Keegan's phone call made her even more anxious. She was worried that Keegan would settle the score with her. So, as soon as she hung up the house phone, she hurriedly called Dahlia.

Dahlia was getting a manicure with a few friends, but she hurried home when she heard about what had happened. When she arrived, she saw Keegan with a few other people abruptly carrying Aurora out of her room.

Aurora struggled and shouted, "I didn't do it on purpose. I swear. He was the one who touched

me first. I couldn't just stand still and not fight back, could I?! Let me go! Ah! Let me go!!!"

"Stop it, all of you!" Dahlia stepped forward to stop them, but Keegan did not say a word, and none of the others let Aurora go.

"Mom, mom! Please, help me! Keegan is out of his mind! He's hurting his own sister for that woman! He's crazy! Mom! Help!"

## Chapter 331

Seeing Keegan's face become increasingly serious, Dahlia quickly shouted at Aurora to be quiet. Then, she turned to Keegan and said, "Keegan, I've heard everything. Aurora really went too far this time. I just called your father in-law on the way back, and he told me that the hospital said it was epilepsy. The old man is fine now. It was an accident, and I'm sure Aurora didn't do it on purpose. Look, she's also in shock."

When Aurora heard it was epilepsy, she immediately yelled again, "I knew he was pretending! I didn't even push him that hard. I wouldn't have pushed him away if he hadn't grabbed my arm. He had a seizure, and I happened to push him at the same time. God, I'm so unlucky! Thankfully, he's alright. I wouldn't be able to forgive myself if he died."

Keegan's expression was terrifying. "Do you actually think no one heard what you said to the old man, Aurora?"

Aurora felt guilty but said, "Whatever did I say, dear brother? I was just there to deliver some medicine. He didn't let me into the house, so I pushed him."

Keegan and Stella were not at home then, and the servant came out after the incident, so even if the servant heard something, Aurora was not about to admit it.

Seeing her show no remorse, Keegan made a gesture with his hands. Aldor stepped forward to show the surveillance video on his phone. He even turned the volume up to the maximum.

"We're not family... Your family's shameless."

"Is living in this villa better than living in that country kennel of yours, huh?"

"In my opinion, she shouldn't get pregnant. What if she gave birth to a loser like your family?"

Ew."

Aurora's face turned paler after each sentence. She did not expect that every word she had said would be clearly recorded by the surveillance camera above her head.

Keegan stared at her coldly. "Two options. You either immediately go to the hospital with me to apologize and ask for forgiveness, or I hand over the surveillance video to the police and imprison you for a year for assault. If we can't control you, we'll have the police do it!"

Aurora's face changed drastically. "You're handing me over to the police, for the sake of an outsider?" she said with a pale face and trembling lips.

"An outsider?" Keegan was furious. "Do you only see people as outsiders and family?! How could you be so ruthless? Don't you have a moral compass? You fought an old man who's nearly 90! You were always scared of responsibility, and now that something bad has happened, you run away and hide? Is this what our family has taught you?"

Aurora gritted her teeth and replied, "I wouldn't be like this if it weren't for that bitch! You're clearly blinded by her! If you hadn't married Stella, we wouldn't have to work our asses off at the company! And now? You're stabbing me, your biological sister, in the back for her? Fine. Hand me over to the police if you want. I know you've resented me since the day dad died! It's better if I just kill myself."

Aurora was not sorry for her actions. Keegan's anger rose to the extreme, and he said in a low voice, "Aldor, call the police!"

Dahlia's expression changed. "Why call the police? This is just a small family matter. There's no need to alarm the police. You know your sister. She's just stubborn. She couldn't stop crying when she called me earlier. She knows that she has messed up. You're her older brother. How can she not throw a fit when you said all those nasty things to her?"

"I'm not throwing a fit!"

"Shut your mouth!" Dahlia scolded, and Aurora reluctantly stayed quiet.

"She's clearly a mess right now. If you drag her to that old man, you'll scare him. At least let her change into some fresh clothes and tidy up. I'll ask someone to prepare a gift for that old man, and I'll follow you along to apologize to him."

Keegan's main goal was not to send Aurora to the police station. The old man had a seizure, so it could not be considered assault in court. At best, it was a civil dispute. He had said that just to scare Aurora.

With Dahlia acting as the middleman, Aurora finally gave in. She went upstairs to change and followed Keegan to the hospital after that.

Arthur was transferred to the general ward and woke up in half an hour. When the Jewell family received the call, everyone rushed over to check up on the old man. They all gathered around the hospital bed to see him. "The old man has always been healthy. How did he have such a huge fall after staying at Stella's for just a few days?" Lydia asked in suspicion.

## Chapter 332

"He's already so old. His life could be in danger by falling like this."

"Our grandfather fell in the Kane residence, yet nobody from the Kane family is here. Aren't they going to take responsibility for what happened?"

The Jewells spoke and tried to put the blame on Stella.

Stella gazed downward without saying anything.

"Stop talking! It's so noisy!"

Arthur furrowed his brows. He was not having any of their "concerns". "Get out now, all of you!" he yelled with a frown.

Everyone turned quiet.

Then, they reluctantly left the room, one after another.

Stella was about to leave too, but Arthur stopped her. "Stella, pour me a glass of water."

Stella stopped and turned around.

Her uncles and aunts looked at each other after hearing what Arthur said. Then, they pursed their lips and closed the door.

Stella brought a glass of water and placed the straw near Arthur's mouth. He lifted his head and took two sips before lying back down.

Then, he patted his blanket and said softly, "Sit closer to me."

Stella put the cup down and did as he said.

"Where's Keegan?" Arthur asked softly.

Stella looked down and said in a low voice, "He was here just now, but he left because he has something to do."

Arthur pursed his lips without saying anything.

Stella clenched her fist and said softly, "I'm sorry."

Arthur smiled. "What for? You didn't do anything wrong."

Stella then continued under her breath, "I wouldn't have let her touch you if I was at home."

"What? I was just too angry, and I couldn't think straight. I shouldn't have grabbed her wrist."

Arthur sighed and continued, "I've always wanted to meet your husband's family, and see what they're like. I just didn't expect things to end up this way." He patted the back of Stella's hand after saying that. "I should've known better."

Stella was confused. Then, she saw Arthur taking a bankbook out from his underclothes before handing it to her. "The compensation I received from our old house relocation a few years ago is in here. The pin code is six ones. Take this with you and your mother-in-law won't look down on you anymore. Use the money and buy yourself a house if you really don't like living there. It's enough to cover all of your expenses. Remember, marriage is nothing compared to your own happiness."

Stella's heart clenched as she pushed the bankbook back with her red eyes. "I'm not taking it."

“Silly girl!” Arthur lightly smacked her head with the bankbook. “All of the people outside are longing for this, yet you just rejected it. No wonder that brat treats you so badly!”

### Chapter 333

Arthur was very sharp. He had lived for many years, and he knew very well what everyone, including Aurora, was thinking.

He was going to turn ninety soon and had lived longer than most people. Some of his children even passed away before him. He only had one child left, and he had also been bedridden

himself.

He drifted apart from his grandchildren after his children passed away too. He had been living alone for so many years in his old home, and his family would rarely pay him a visit. However, all his good and dutiful family members returned to take care of him after he received the compensation.

He knew very well that those people were only doing that for the money he had.

He was already so old. He started not taking materialistic things like money seriously long ago. He also knew that nobody would visit him anymore if he were to divide the money between those people.

He started to become a burden as he grew older.

So, he told them he wanted to come to Rivera when he still had the money. All of them obeyed him because he had what they wanted.

He watched the television with other patients in the hospital. He saw Stella’s face on the screen while they talked about the plot, and he suddenly wanted to meet his great-granddaughter, whom he had not met for a long time.

Stella was different from those people. She would stop him from eating confectionaries, smoking, and drinking. She would also be worried for him and switch on the heater, in case he woke up in the middle of the night.

Stella had never changed. She would always put the feelings of others before her own.

She was that sensible.

Stella held her tears back and said in a hoarse voice, “I’ll make the Kane family apologize to you.”

Arthur waved his hand. "She's just an insolent brat. You can't expect anything good from her." Then, he grabbed Stella's hand and put the bankbook into her hand. "Hide it well. Don't let your uncles and aunts see it."

At the window to the room, Lydia stood on tiptoe, unable to resist looking inside.

However, because the curtain was blocking her view, she could not exactly see what was happening inside.

Elaine was very worried too. However, her dignity stopped her from looking inside, so she

asked Albert instead.

"Bro, what did the doctor say? Is grandpa going to be okay?"

Albert frowned and said, "It's a hard fall, and he'll probably be bedridden for some time."

Elaine furrowed her brows. "How long is some time?"

"It depends."

Lydia immediately turned around after hearing that. "I told you this hospital sucks. Just look. The doctors can't even give us a definite answer. What does "it depends" even mean? Are we just going to let grandpa stay in the hospital until the day he feels better? Who's going to pay for the medical bill?"

Everyone looked at each other, but none of them said a thing.

They were not very close to begin with, since there was a generation gap between them. There was only one reason why they were there, and every single one of them knew exactly what that was.

They could buy something to eat and drink to make Arthur happy, but none of them were actually willing to spend money on him.

It was very expensive to stay in the hospital, and it could cost up to a thousand in just a day. There might also be some additional fees and supplements that Arthur might need, so the total bill might turn out to be more than ten thousand.

Besides, they might not even get the money back. They did not know who would end up getting the money from Arthur.

Elaine spoke after noticing how everyone kept quiet. "Bro, all of us here would be responsible and do whatever we can to take care of grandpa if he was admitted

because he was sick. However, he fell in Stella's house, so I guess somebody else should bear the consequences, right?"

Elaine added, "Grandpa wouldn't have ended up like this if they were more careful. What if grandpa had other complications because of this?"

#### Chapter 334

Elaine's husband, Anthony, pulled her sleeve, signaling her to stop talking.

Anthony thought that all of them worked in Albert's factory, so it would not be nice to the buck because of such a tiny matter.

pass

Albert swept his gaze across the crowd of hopeless people and said coldly, "Don't worry. None of you are going to spend a penny on this!"

"Bro, that's not what I meant. We can totally afford to pay the bills. However, grandpa is getting older, and his health is only going to deteriorate after falling. We've got to do

something about this. Don't you think we should start discussing who he should be living with after he is discharged?"

Elaine made a good point.

It was a hot topic among them when Arthur was still healthy.

However, they only wanted to live with him because of his money.

Unfortunately, Arthur was very stubborn, and he did not want to live with any of them. So, it had been put aside ever since, but Elaine brought it up again because of what happened to him.

Albert was too rich to be wanting the compensation that Arthur received. However, he was eyeing on a piece of land that Arthur owned in his old home, but Arthur just would not give it to him. So, he thought that Arthur's accident might be a good opportunity for him to get closer to Arthur and make him give him that piece of land.

Everyone there started thinking about solutions that would work best for their interests.

Stella stood at the door and watched the show that these "dutiful" people put on, could finally see why Arthur did not want to give any of them his money.

and she

She listened to their conversation for a long time. She only pushed the door open and went outside when things got heated.

Everyone went silent as soon as they saw her.

Elaine could not stop looking at her. Then, she said, "Stella, what did grandpa say to you?" Stella replied coldly, "Nothing much. He went to rest after drinking some water." Clearly, Elaine did not believe her. "Why would it take so long for him to just drink water? Didn't he tell you anything else?"

Stella glared at her. "What do you mean by "anything else"?"

Elaine choked. After a while, she replied sheepishly, "Nothing."

She would not dare openly talk about the compensation in front of the younger generation, even though she could be quite shameless at times.

Suddenly, Stella heard some noise from afar. She turned around and saw Keegan walking in her direction.

Dahlia was on his right, and there were two bulky men in suits following behind him to walk toward Stella.

Albert was shocked by what he saw. Then, he composed himself and went to greet them.

"Mrs. Kane, Keegan, it's just a tiny matter. You didn't have to come at all."

Stella's expression darkened as she stared at Aurora, who looked impatient. Stella clenched her fist tightly and walked right to her.

Keegan had been observing Stella since he came. He took a step forward and grabbed her wrist before she could raise her hand as she rushed forward. Then, he pulled her to the side.

"Let go of me!" Stella's voice trembled.

Keegan said in a low voice, "I brought her here to apologize."

Stella's eyes turned red as she looked at him. "With that? These stupid gifts?"

Keegan pursed his lips. "I'll let great-grandpa do whatever he wants to her, but you can't raise a hand against her."

Chapter 335

Things would be more difficult if Stella laid a hand on Aurora. He did not want her to get involved in this.

However, Stella's heart sank as she thought Keegan did that to protect Aurora.

"How thoughtful of you, Mr. Kane. What are you expecting my great-grandpa to do? He's already so old. Do you think he'd hit her? Let me go!"

Keegan frowned and tightened his grip on her arm. Then, he said in a low voice, "Stella Jewell, calm down and think about it. How are things going to be if you really do slap her?"

Stella curled her fingers. She bit her lips and kept quiet.

Keegan continued after noticing her facial expression look less tense. "Great-grandpa is still lying on the hospital bed. Do you think he could recover comfortably if he knew that you fought with my family because of this?"

Stella looked at him coldly. "He wouldn't be lying on the hospital bed if it weren't for Aurora!"

"That's why I brought her here. I'm going to make her apologize to him. I'll also do my best to accommodate his requests as compensation."

Stella's heart turned cold. "Keegan Kane, money can't solve everything. I'm never going to forget what happened."

She shrugged Keegan's arm off as she spoke and then walked away.

She stood there silently, no longer having the impulse to hit Aurora.

Albert was shocked to see Dahlia bring her whole family to visit Arthur. She asked about Arthur's condition before going into Arthur's ward without finding out if he was resting or not.

Arthur was not sleeping. The look on his face changed when he saw Keegan. "Hey, Keegan," he spoke.

Keegan's mouth drooped. Arthur's voice sounded a lot weaker than when he used to call his name previously.

He had an awful feeling. Then, he turned around and said to Aurora, "Get over here."

The two bodyguards followed closely behind Aurora as she stepped forward reluctantly before she bowed down without much care. "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to do that."

Keegan furrowed his brows and said in a low voice, “Do you have a back problem?”

After hearing what Keegan said, Aurora felt a hand over her shoulders pressing her down forcefully.

She frowned and tried to resist the force. However, Keegan’s hand did not move an inch, and he pressed her shoulders down even harder.

Aurora could not bear the pressure anymore as her eyes turned red. She finally bent over before Keegan’s cold gaze and said with bloodshot eyes, “I’m sorry! I didn’t mean to hurt you! Please forgive me!”

The look on her face was not apologetic at all, but full of disdain and abasement as she spoke.

Keegan’s blood boiled. He was about to speak, but Dahlia beat him to it. “Mr. Jewell, I’m Keegan’s mother. I’ve heard about what happened today. Aurora didn’t know you were staying in Keegan’s place, nor who you were. She’s just a kid and I know she said things she shouldn’t have. I’ve already disciplined her back home. I hope you can forgive her.

“Just focus on recovering, and don’t worry about the medical bill. We’ll take care of it for you.” Then, she took a card out of her bag. “This is a little something for you. Please accept it.”

Lydia’s eyes sparkled as soon as she saw the card.

Dahlia shoved that card into Albert’s hand. “Albert, be sure to take good care of your grandfather. Please don’t hesitate to ask me for help if you ever need it.”

Stella’s expression immediately darkened.

Keegan frowned too.

Based on the conversation, Albert and his relatives realized what had happened then. ‘No wonder Dahlia came too. It turns out that Aurora was the one who caused this.’

Then, Albert quickly said, “Dahlia, you don’t have to do this. I’m sure that Aurora didn’t do this on purpose. The doctor came just now, and he said it’s nothing serious. We’re family. There’s no need to cause such a big scene. Look at the kids—”

“Dad,” Keegan interrupted him. “We should let great-grandpa decide if he wants to forgive Aurora.”

Albert paused. Suddenly, the look on his face turned awkward. "Of course."

Everyone shifted their gaze to Albert. Arthur's expression was rather calm as he said to Albert, "Give the card back to her."

Dahlia immediately said, "It's just a little compensation from us."

Lydia quickly added, "Dad, you wouldn't have been injured if it weren't for her daughter. It'll cost quite a sum for you to stay in the hospital anyway. They're just doing what they're supposed to."

Arthur shifted his gaze to Lydia. "There's no reason for me to accept it because the fall isn't the reason why I'm admitted. How is this different from blackmailing if I were to accept it?" He then looked at Arthur. "Give it back."

Albert figured he should not say anything else after hearing what Arthur said in front of everyone. He gave the card back to Dahlia.

Dahlia frowned slightly. "You can let us know if you need help in any other way."

Arthur waved his hand. "I accept her apology. You guys can go home now."

Albert was afraid that Dahlia would be offended, so he said to Arthur softly, "Dad, they just got here."

Arthur was not bothered at all as he frowned and said, "Look at how tiny this room is. I can't even breathe well with all the people around me. Do you want to die of suffocation instead?"

Albert choked.

The look on Dahlia's face was not looking very good either. 'He's chasing us out without even letting us stay for a while. He's making me look so bad.'

Then, she said with a sullen face, "We'll stop disturbing you now if that's the case. Aurora, come on."

Aurora broke free of the bodyguards and left with Dahlia.

Albert quickly went after them. "Dahlia, I'll walk you out."

Lydia secretly followed them when nobody was watching her.

Everyone in the ward left one by one. In the end, Keegan and Stella were the only ones left inside.

Arthur waved his hand and called to his great-granddaughter. "Stella, I'm hungry. Would you go downstairs and buy some sandwiches for me?"

Stella looked at Keegan. She knew that Arthur wanted to talk to Keegan alone.

She pursed her lips and said, "What kind of sandwiches?"

Arthur put on his usual smile. "The ones with grilled pork tenderloin and some garlic."

After Stella left, Arthur leaned on his bed with a pale face. Then, he said softly, "Keegan, would you flip me over?"

Keegan immediately stepped forward and held him to flip him over. He lifted the blanket and saw several streaks of blood on Arthur's back, and his hand trembled.

Stella bumped into Aurora after she bought the sandwiches in the lobby.

and

Aurora had her head down as she played with her phone. There was a smile on her face, she did not show the slightest hint of remorse as someone who just did something wrong. Thinking about how weak Arthur looked while lying on the hospital bed, Stella clenched her fists tight and walked toward Aurora.

Aurora finally noticed her after Stella kept staring at her.

She put her phone away and glowered at Stella. She smirked after looking at the sandwiches in Stella's hand. "It looks like he could still eat after that fall, huh? He's just pretending, right?"

Stella ignored her and went around her to go to the elevator.

Aurora scoffed. "I thought your family was very noble, yet you asked for the card back after rejecting it. The old man is so much smarter than all of you by compromising to get something more. It's a shame that my brother asked me here to apologize when none of you even wanted that. All that you want is money. How ridiculous."

Chapter 337

Stella stopped walking and turned around abruptly "What did you say?"

Aurora lifted the edge of her mouth into a smirk. "I was saying that scamming money runs in the Jewell blood. However, your aunt is much more honest than all of you."

A call came, so she answered her phone as she walked outside. "Where are we meeting tonight? The Dawn again? Fine I'll see you there tonight"

Stella's gaze darkened as she watched Aurora's receding back.

Keegan hired a caretaker dedicated to taking care of Arthur alone,

Stella stayed in the ward for a while before saying she had something to do on set and left

Keegan sat in the ward as he peeled an orange for Arthur.

Arthur did not have much of an appetite. He said in a low voice, "You should go back too. Stella isn't feeling very happy today. Why don't you go home and spend some time with her?"

Remembering how she had looked at him just now, Keegan felt very uncomfortable.

So, he replied softly, "I'll leave after you eat two more slices of this."

Arthur immediately grabbed two orange slices and stuffed them into his mouth. Then, he waved his hand at Keegan. "Chop, chop. I need to get some sleep now."

Keegan gave the caretaker his number and left the hospital.

Aldor was already waiting for him downstairs. As soon as Keegan got into the car, Aldor asked, "Where to, Mr. Kane?"

"The set of Jurisdiction."

Aldor steered the car and took them there.

While sitting in the car, Keegan took a bank card that Arthur gave him out of his pocket.

Arthur told him that it was a gift to Stella for her marriage.

He also told Keegan that Stella could only be taken seriously in her new family by having that.

The fact that Arthur thought like that surprised Keegan.

Suddenly, Keegan's grip on the bank card tightened as he thought about what Aurora had said in the surveillance footage. Then, he looked up and said, "Terminate all of Aurora's debit and credit cards. Also, notify the finance department not to approve any of their cash withdrawals from the company other than the quarterly dividends!"

Aldor was shocked.

Clearly, Keegan was not just talking about Aurora, but Dahlia too.

Dahlia and Aurora's expenses depended fully on the quarterly dividends, and they would only receive an average of less than one million every month because of the company's performance. It was far from enough to maintain their extravagant lifestyle.

Dahlia started withdrawing money from the company's account every month after Keegan

took over the office, and the amount would always be five million

Keegan hated inconvenience. He eventually gave in to Dahlia's actions after he got into a fight with her because of money. So, every time Dahlia made her regular withdrawal, he would transfer five million to the company from his personal account

It had been going on for many years. The five million was the main source to support Dahlia and Aurora's extravagant lifestyle. Because of what happened to Arthur, Keegan wanted to cut off their allowance and it would undoubtedly cause a huge scene.

'It looks like Mr. Kane is really angry'

Only a few people were cleaning the set when they arrived at their destination, and Stella was nowhere to be found.

Aldor approached them and asked them if they knew where Stella was, yet they mistook him for Stella's fan and told him that Stella did not come to work that day.

Aldor paused. Then, he immediately turned back and told Keegan about it.

"Did you say that she did not come to work?"

"That's what the workers told me. They've kept all the filming equipment too.'

Keegan frowned. Then, he reached for his phone and dialed Stella's number.

Stella was sitting in a car while staring at the pub on the opposite side of the street.

Seeing the incoming call, she emotionlessly put her phone on silent mode.

Keegan could not help but frown harder after the call failed to connect.

In The Dawn, Aurora's friend could not help but laugh after hearing what Aurora told then.

"I thought there was more to it! Is that it?"

"That old man could really take a fall. Is he really fine?"

“Didn’t you hear what Aurora said? He had an epileptic seizure. It had nothing to do with Aurora at all.”

“The Jewells didn’t dare stand up for themselves at all just because of money. What a bunch of pussies!”

“Your brother has so much to offer. Why would he choose Stella Jewell?”

Aurora scoffed after sipping on her alcohol. “That’s because she has the face of a fox. All men are the same. If you looked like her, I would persuade my brother to marry you right away.” “Tsk. Do you think she’s better-looking than me?”

Another friend added, “Even though I don’t like Stella, I’m not blind. She’s a lot prettier than you. You should get another plastic surgery.”

Everyone laughed, and the atmosphere was very cheerful.

Aurora stood up and said tipsily after finishing her drink, “You guys carry on. I need to use the

washroom.”

One of the guys followed her. “I’ll go with you.”

“Are you going to the ladies’ room too?” Aurora kicked his leg. “Get lost.”

Then, she stumbled her way to the washroom.

“Dale, just give up. Aurora already has somebody else in mind.”

Dale swept his gaze across everybody there. “I have a chance. She isn’t married yet.”

Aurora exited the toilet stall and washed her face at the sink.

Suddenly, somebody patted her shoulder. She turned around and saw somebody trying to cover her face with a towel.

She sobered up for a bit as she widened her eyes in fear. She tried her best to break free.

However, she inhaled too much of the drug on the cloth, making her lose all her strength. Then, she passed out after a few seconds.

“I didn’t drink at all. I was sending one of my clients back.”

While sitting in the car, Trevor was telling his sister where he went over the phone.

“Why won’t you just believe me? Do you really think that I’m a liar?”

Trevor chuckled after his sister said something to him. “Sure, feel free to inspect me later.” He looked out of the window absentmindedly as he spoke, and he was stunned by what he saw. There were two people carrying a passed-out lady into a black SUV. The window was not fully rolled up, so he could see a woman wearing a hoodie inside. That woman turned around and said something, and Trevor was shocked after he saw her face.

It was Stella.

Chapter 338

They closed the car door as soon as everybody got inside. Then, the car started.

Trevor frowned and said into the phone, “I have to go. I’ll call you back later. Bye.”

Then, he spoke to Xavier after hanging up. “Followed that car in front of us. Keep a safe distance, and don’t let them notice us.”

Xavier immediately started the car and followed the black SUV.

That SUV was very cautious. It evaded all the monitored areas and drove into an alley.

Xavier parked the car on the other end of the valley and waited for some time. All they saw was a white minivan coming out, but not the black SUV.

Xavier frowned. “This isn’t right. That alley is only about half a mile long and there’s no intersection inside. It’s impossible for that car to travel this long inside.”

Trevor paused and laughed. “She’s escaped,” he said flatly with an amused look on his face.

“How is that possible?” Xavier paused. “Are you saying that she was in that minivan?”

The alley was only wide enough for one car to drive through. The SUV was nowhere to be seen, yet a white minivan came out of there. So, the only possibility was that they changed into another vehicle.

Xavier was surprised. “I followed that SUV from so far away. How did she notice?”

Trevor thought for a moment before he said, “I don’t think she did. She was just being smart and cautious.”

“Mr. Saun, what should we do now?”

The minivan had left more than a few minutes ago. There was just no way that they could catch up.

Trevor tapped at the leather seat of his car before he lifted his gaze and asked, "Which area around here has a poor surveillance system?"

"The west."

"Let's go there."

Aurora woke up. She opened her eyes, and darkness was all she could see. She was blindfolded, and her mouth was taped too. All her limbs were tied tightly, and she could not move an inch.

The fear ran wild inside her as she tried to break free. Her mouth was taped, so she could only make a humming noise from her nose.

Opposite her, Stella stood emotionlessly and happily watched Aurora's panicked expression. Then, Stella went forward and tore off the tape over her mouth.

The abrupt pain made Aurora whimper.

Then, she shouted in horror while ignoring the pain. "Who are you?! Why did you kidnap me? Do you know who I am? My family won't let you get away with this! Let me go now if—

-ugh-

Stella stuffed a dirty cloth in Aurora's mouth before she could finish talking. The cloth went so

deep in her mouth that she almost gagged.

Before she could process what was happening, Aurora felt a sharp slap on her face, and her ears buzzed.

There were tiny rocks wrapped in the dirty cloth. Blood started flowing in her mouth after she was slapped.

Aurora had never experienced anything like that. She burst out crying.

However, her eyes and mouth were covered. She could not make a sound even though she was crying her heart out.

She did not look so tough anymore. She kept shaking her head, hoping to spit out the little rocks. Then, she could tell her kidnapper that she had a lot of money so that they would stop hurting her.

However, she was not given any chances to do that as she was slapped again and again...

Keegan could not reach Stella, so he called Felicity instead.

However, Felicity did not know where Stella went either, and she could not find her at the Rotona Pinnacle Hospital.

They looked everywhere they could, but it seemed like Stella just disappeared out of thin air.

The worry in Keegan kept growing.

At the same time, Xavier saw the minivan turning out from an intersection, and he said softly, "Ms. Saun, it's here."

Trevor looked up and saw that minivan parked beside the road. After a while, the door was opened. Stella got out of the car. She had changed into a gray overcoat.

She stood there for a while after the minivan left. She put her hands into her pockets and went in the opposite direction after the minivan completely disappeared from her sight.

She was not walking very fast. She bowed her head down as if she was thinking about something. Then, when a harsh white light shone at her, she lifted her head.

### Chapter 339

Stella squinted as she raised her hand to block the bright light.

The car light dimmed down, and a Bentley appeared in front of her. The rear passenger window rolled down, and Trevor greeted her with a smile. "Mrs. Kane, what a coincidence."

Stella paused as she immediately put her guard up. Then, she pursed her lips and said softly, "Hi, Mr. Saun."

Trevor looked very relaxed. "It's so late at night. What are you doing out here all alone?"

"My car broke down, so I'm waiting for a cab," Stella replied cautiously.

"It's hard to get a cab around here. I'll send you home."

"Thanks, but there's no need for that. I've already gotten myself a cab."

Trevor smiled. "Should I call Keegan and tell him to pick you up then? It's not safe for a girl like you to be alone so late at night. I can't just leave you alone here."

Stella frowned and said after a while, "He's working overtime." Then, she paused before continuing, "Mr. Saun, would you be so kind and give me a lift then?"

Stella stopped talking after getting into the car.

Her face looked a little pale, and her fingers were bluish too.

The temperature was very low in the countryside, and she was not wearing very thick clothes.

Trevor said, "Xavier, turn up the temperature."

Then, Stella turned around and thanked him.

Trevor looked at Stella from head to toe silently. Then, his gaze fell to a mole on her earlobe.

Stella noticed he was looking at her, so she turned her head to him.

Trevor handed her a bottle of water and asked in a gentle voice, "Mrs. Kane, do you want some water?"

His expression looked very natural. Stella could not but doubt if she was wrong about him looking at her.

Stella did not take the water. "It's fine. I'm not thirsty."

Trevor could tell that she looked a little nervous, so he said, "Let's go to Royalpark."

Stella replied, "I'm not going home. Please send me to the city hospital."

Trevor looked at her again. "Mrs. Kane, are you feeling unwell?"

"Nope." Stella paused before she continued, "One of my family members is staying there."

Trevor stopped asking questions and told Xavier to start driving.

When they arrived at the hospital, Stella was about to get out of the car, but Trevor stopped her. "Mrs. Kane, please let me know if you ever need help." Then, he added, "I can help you with anything."

Stella turned around and looked at him. She pursed her lips and said, "Thanks."

Xavier looked at the text message on his phone after she went into the hospital. He turned around and said, "It was Ms. Kane."

Trevor was a little shocked. After some time, he only said, "Find out who's staying in this hospital."

It was two o'clock in the morning when Maya called Keegan to tell him that Stella went back

home.

Keegan immediately turned the car around and drove back home.

Stella was already asleep when he pushed the door open.

The light in the bedroom was still on, and there was steam coming out of the glass of hot water beside the bed.

Keegan went to the bed and sat down.

Stella's eyes were closed, and her hair fell on the side of her face messily. Half of her face was buried in the pillow.

He stretched his arm out and brushed her hair behind her ears. He sat there for quite some time before he stood up and left.

Keegan's phone rang before the sun came up.

It was four in the morning, and he had just laid down on his bed. He could not help but frown after seeing Dahlia's number on his phone. He only accepted the call after some time.

Then, she heard Dahlia's flustered voice coming from the phone. "Keegan, come to the hospital now. Something bad happened to Aurora!"