

# Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted by Eleven Jewell

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### Chapter 436

After flipping through the IOUs, Marshall asked, "When Ms. Spade borrowed money from you, did you have a guarantor? Did she give you something as collateral?"

"No," said the man with the scar. "But her signature and fingerprint are there in black and white. So, it can't be wrong."

"How daring of you to lend out a loan without a guarantor or collateral. Aren't you afraid you won't be able to get it back?"

The man laughed contemptuously, "We've been in this business for a long time, dude. We know their names and their status. As long as we have their address, they can't run."

"They can't escape, but what about the money? There is no collateral. What will happen if they go bankrupt and lose all their assets? How can you ensure they won't just sell their assets and run away?" Marshall paused, changing the subject, "You guys are doing this for profit, right? Why didn't you ask them for pawns? I have been in this industry for many years, yet this is my first time seeing something like this. Are you guys really profiting from this?"

The man's face changed slightly after being questioned. "What does that mean?"

"Nothing," Marshall rubbed the IOUs in his hand and raised his eyebrows. "Since you said that these were all signed by Ms. Spade, let's make a handwriting identification."

The man with the scar frowned, and his tone was a little irritable, "She has been lying on that bed for several years now. How is she going to give us a signature? Plus, the fingerprint on there is clearly hers. Could that sort of thing even be forged?"

"Who said Ms. Spade has to be awake to make a handwriting identification?" Marshall looked at the other person's expression and continued, "We can use her previous signatures to see if they match."

As expected, the man with the scar had a strange expression. He looked at them hesitantly, unsure if they were being serious. "They told me they burned everything to ashes. How are they going to compare the signatures? I

"Come on," Marshall said calmly. "I happen to know an expert in handwriting identification. We're sure to find out if the signatures are fake."

"Do you think I have nothing else better to do? Hurry up and pay back the money!"

Marshall confirmed that these people must know that the IOUs are fake and they were not just here for the money. He looked down at his watch. When the hour hand struck three, police sirens sounded from downstairs.

The men's faces changed, and one with blond hair yelled, "Boss, the police are here! Someone called the police!"

"Damn it! Who the hell called the police?!" The expression of the man with the scar turned ugly.

"I did," Marshall shook his phone and said. "Causing trouble, disturbing public order, endangering the public, assault, intentional murder, fake IOU fraud, and more. You guys will be in jail for at least a year." 1

The leader's face changed. He stared at Marshall viciously and gritted his teeth. "Fuck you!" After that, he led his gang of people and left the ward.

"Tsk! Cowards! They only dare to go against women!" Vermont sneered.

Stella turned around and wanted to leave, but Vermont stopped her. "Where are you going, Stella?"

"I want to talk to the police," she said.

"There's no need for that," Vermont waved his hand and said. "Marshall lied to those guys. He didn't call the police."

Stella was taken aback, "But the sound downstairs..."

Only then did Vermont explain that he rushed to the hospital after picking up Marshall. On the way, he told her what she said in the call about bringing backup. The two were almost at the hospital when he told her that. Marshall was a little annoyed at her for not saying anything earlier. It was a crucial piece of information because it would mean that they'd be outnumbered.

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Marshall and Vermont had no time to call the police then. It would have taken the police ten to twenty minutes to arrive, no matter how fast they were, since it was an ordinary civil dispute.

After Marshall exited the car, he talked to an old lady at the fruit stand in front of the hospital. He asked her to play the sound of police sirens at 3:00 p.m. sharp. The old lady accepted Marshall's offer of 200 dollars and agreed.

"Marshall's so smart. I didn't expect that group of trash to act so cowardly. He ran while clenching his ass when he heard the sirens. We should have just called the police to catch them."

Nine out of ten people who have committed crimes would run if they heard the sirens. They clearly knew they were wrong; otherwise, they would not have been so nervous. As soon as those men left, the doctors and nurses hurried over to hook up Rainee's ventilator. Zayla helped the doctors and nurses clean up the mess on the floor. The place finally returned to its original state.

Stella stayed in the ward to see the results of the doctor's examination while Marshall and Vermont waited in the corridor.

"I should have taken a photo of those guys just now!" Vermont hit his head suddenly and said. "In case Keegan wants to deal with them when he comes back and sees the injury on Stella's face."

"Where is he?"

"I don't know. He said he's going on a business trip, but I don't know where. He turned off his phone, so I couldn't contact him."

"His phone is off?"

Marshall lowered his gaze and asked after a long time, "Is he still on the plane?"

"He should have gotten off the plane at this point, right? Maybe the old lady asked him to do something in secrecy." Vermont did not find it strange since that kind of thing had happened before. He did not say anything else after that.

Rainee was not well. Before this, the doctor had told Stella that her mother's body was weak and her organs were failing her. Being taken off the ventilator for quite some time affected her condition. Her lungs developed lesions, and she could not breathe

independently. She needed the ventilator.

Previously, the doctor stated that Rainee had a year to live; however, this incident caused her time to shorten to two or three months. Stella's heart tightened when she heard that. She pursed her lips and did not speak for a long time.

"By the way," the doctor recalled something and said, "Ms. Jewell, we haven't received the payment for your mother's medical expenses."

Stella was taken aback, "The money didn't go through?"

"No," the doctor said. "The director urged me to talk to you about it this morning. You can go downstairs to verify this later."

The doctor did not care much about the fees since he was unclear.

"Okay. Thank you, doctor."

When Stella exited the ward, Vermont greeted her, "How is she? Is everything alright?" Stella shook her head tiredly. "Wait for me here. I need to go downstairs to clear up some stuff."

Marshall approached her and said, "I'll come with you."

"I have something to ask you," he whispered.

Vermont wanted to follow, but his phone rang. He went to take the call.

Stella and Marshall walked down the dark stairwell in silence. After they went down two levels, Stella said, "I'm really sorry about what happened last night, Mr. Moore."

"It's not your fault. You have nothing to be sorry for," he smiled.

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Stella pursed her lips, "Even so, I'm sorry I got you involved yesterday."

"It's okay," Marshall said calmly. "I understand why Keegan got mad. The situation was inevitable. I grew up with him, so I know what makes him go off."

"He didn't do anything to you, did he?" he paused and said again.

"No," Stella responded. "Keegan never lays a hand on me."

Marshall smiled, "I see he still treats you rather well."

Stella did not answer. "It doesn't matter since we're divorcing once he returns."

She did not want to continue this topic, so she asked instead, "Mr. Moore, those people told me that my father had divorced my mom. I don't think they're lying."

Stella was worried because if Albert had divorced Rainee behind her back, he would be unfazed when she talked to him about the property settlement.

"Don't worry. I'll ask my friend to check and see what's happening."

"Boss, that trip was terrible. Joe was even kicked in the ass. You have to ask that woman to increase our pay," said the blond when they all got into their getaway car.

"Yeah, yeah. Shut up," said the man with the scar as he dialed a number. After a while, a woman's voice came from the other end of the phone, "Is everything done?"

"Yes. She firmly believes in Albert's divorce and will definitely cause him trouble. About the pay, Mrs. Jewell..."

"I'll transfer it to you in a minute."

"My men were hurt during the job. One of them is still down."

Hylde frowned when she heard that. "I'll add on another 20 thousand. I can be generous when you do your job well."

The man with the scar smirked and said, "Thank you, Mrs. Jewell. From now on, just call me if you ever need someone to do your bidding.."

"How is that woman?" Hylda asked.

"Things are not looking up for her, Mrs. Jewell. She looked like she was half dead. I think she can only survive for a few more days at most. She would have been long gone if the Jewells didn't pay for her medical expenses. However, according to the nurse, she seems to have reacted recently.

They're not sure if she's going to wake up."

Hylda's expression changed, "What did you say?"

The man with the scar was startled, "N-Nothing. I'm just telling you what the nurse said. We heard an opera playing in the ward when we entered the place. One of my guys unplugged the radio and wanted to smash it, but a nurse yelled that the tapes aided Raine's recovery. She said she reacted to it recently, and well... that's about it. I didn't pay her much attention."

Hylda's face looked horrified. 'Is Raine waking up? No! She can't wake up!

She can't! I've gone through all this trouble to reveal Albert's divorce to Stella, forcing her to mess with Albert's plans. Raine can't wake up. She is the crux of their relationship.

After hanging up the phone, Hylda knocked on the door of Albert's study. The news about Sophia had not subsided yet, and he was still struggling with his working capital.

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Albert did not even dare to switch on his phone. As long as

Sophia's incident did not die down, various news outlets would rampantly call his phone whenever it was on.

Even their housemaid said she saw a few suspicious people near where they were staying when she took out the trash early in the morning.

Hylda held a bowl of yogurt as she stood at the study's door. Then, she gently knocked on the door twice. After hearing Albert's voice from the room, she opened the door and went inside.

"Have something to eat, Albert," she said as she placed the yogurt on the table.

She said slowly, "You barely slept last night and are still busy the entire day today. Eat something before you continue; don't let yourself fall sick."

Albert looked annoyed, "There are still so many deposits that haven't been covered; how could I be in the mood to eat right now? "Albert, the matter about money isn't urgent; it's only temporary. What's important at the moment, isn't this," Hylda paused. She softly said, 'I just received news from the hospital. Raine seems to be conscious."

Albert paled, "What did you say?"

To make Albert decide soon, Hylda exaggerated Raine's situation.

Albert had a fearful and doubtful expression, "Are you sure? The doctor clearly said the chances are extremely low."

'Just because the chances are extremely low, it doesn't mean she won't regain consciousness, ' thought Hylda.

She lowered her voice, "Albert, once she regains consciousness, some things can no longer be hidden. If Stella learns about what happened back then, it'll be more than just losing some money."

Albert was so shocked and petrified, "Then, what should we do?"

Hylde looked at his hopeless state.

'How did I fall for a good-for-nothing like him back then?' she thought repeatedly.

Hylde suppressed the disgust she felt within and said in a low voice, "Albert, Stella longer has any consideration for your feelings; she won't care about the father-anddaughter relationship between you two. After Rainee discovered those loopholes, we

covered them so Stella might not have crucial evidence and couldn't threaten you.

However, conversely, we can counter- pressure her with Rainee's hospital bills that we have been shouldering all this time. Since she doesn't care about her father and daughter relationship with you anymore, we no longer have to show her any mercy."

She paused momentarily before continuing slowly, "It's time we stop paying for her hospital bills."

After Hylde and Albert married, he handed the matter of paying Rainee's hospital bills to her. She wished the woman would never regain consciousness, so she would constantly put off paying for the hospital bills and only pay when she could no longer delay it. Right now, she was really glad about this decision of hers.

'Based on my calculation, Rainee's account should be out of money now. If Stella uses the Kane family's money to pay Rainee's hospital bills, someone will naturally do something without the need for us to make a move" she thought.

Albert was still a little indecisive. He pursed his lips for a long time before finally saying, "The doctor's already said she doesn't have long to live; is there a need for us to take things to this extent?" Hylde's voice turned icy.

"If she regains consciousness, we're both done for! Albert, think of the things she did to you! Think of Stella! Can you live with what she did?"

Albert's expression changed. He finally decided. "Alright. Go and do it, then."

Hylde walked out of the study and immediately made a call. In Alodale, Coco stared at the four white walls around her. She frowned, "Didn't you say we're going to play?

Why are we at the hospital again?"

The hospital staff was helping her change into a gown while Keegan stood at the side.

"You can go out and play after this surgery," he said coolly. Coco pouted.

"That was what you said the last time I got surgery. In the end, I was still in the hospital when I woke up."

Keegan said, "This is the last surgery."

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Coco's eyes lit up, "Really?"

Aldor chimed in from the side, "Mr. Kane never lies."

Coco immediately rolled her eyes.

"Every time Aunt Stella calls while he's visiting me, he says he's at his office. Isn't he lying?"

Aldor was at a loss for words.

"This child can't be easily deceived," he thought.

"You're constantly hiding me and keeping me a secret; am I your illegitimate daughter?"

Keegan glanced at her, "My daughter wouldn't look this ugly."

Coco was speechless.

The hospital staff could not help but laugh when they heard the two's conversation. 'I've done so many surgeries in the past, but it's my first time seeing such a witty pair of father and daughter,' they thought. "Mr. Kane, this wristband is for you. Recently, the hospital has been restricting the access of personnel. If you wear this to the hospital, you won't be stopped from seeing your daughter."

Keegan took the wristband and emphasized, "We're not father and daughter."

"Huh?"

Coco chimed in, "My dad isn't as mean as him."

The nurse was speechless.

"They're not father and daughter? But it clearly shows that Keegan Kane is Coco Morrell's guardian on the in-patient registration?" she wondered.

Her gaze darted between the man and the child.

'Well, it's true the two of them don't seem to look quite alike.

However, they have similar temperaments and are both sharp-tongued" she thought.

The hospital staff did not ask any more questions. After she explained the tests that were to be conducted later and registered some information, she went out.

Coco rolled around the bed out of sheer boredom. She kept on making sighing and groaning sounds. Keegan was initially looking at emails on his tablet, but he could no longer focus on his task.

"Did you get bitten by a dog?"

Coco glanced at him, "Can't you use a coaxing tone when speaking to a child?"

"Didn't you tell me you weren't a child and didn't need coaxing when I coaxed you?"

Keegan asked.

Coco was at a loss for words.

Then, she rolled around the bed again. Suddenly, she asked, "Will I be able to meet Aunt Stella after this surgery?"

"It depends on your behavior," said Keegan.

Coco immediately sat up.

"Uncle Keegan, won't you let me meet Aunt Stella once I've recovered? Grandma Whitney, who previously stayed in the same ward as me, said her daughter-in-law could not bear a child after being married for a few years. Grandma Whitney said she took her daughter-in-law to the playground to see the children occasionally and ended up having a baby. I'm a child myself; if you let Aunt Stella look at me, she'll definitely have a baby."

Keegan was silent for a while as if he was seriously considering her words. After a long while, he finally said, "Alright." Aldor widened his eyes in shock.

'What do you mean "alright"? It'll be a miracle if Mrs. Kane gets pregnant. You don't even draft your lies when lying to a child" he thought.

Someone knocked on the door, and a woman's voice came from outside, "Mr. Kane, this is Tammy Gull. My sister's slightly hypoglycemic, so please come and take a look at her."

Keegan frowned.

Aldor immediately opened the door, and a short -looking girl who slightly resembled Bella stood by the door.

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The girl was dressed in a young-looking manner and had her hair in a ponytail. She looked in her early 20s at most.

Keegan asked, "What did the doctor say?"

"The doctor said they'll rerun the test after she has a meal and see what her blood sugar levels are like tomorrow morning when she has an empty stomach."

The girl paused before she continued, "She doesn't seem like she has any energy right now."

Keegan initially wanted to send her away. However, when he thought of the surgery that was in two days, he frowned and got up.

"Let's go. Take me to see her," he said.

As soon as Keegan left, Coco pouted and said, "That bitch is capping again. Every time she shows up, it's either her head or her brain hurts."

Aldor chuckled, "Where'd you learn those words?"

Coco snorted, "I use social media too, okay? I don't even know what her fans like about her; she's so fake."

"She might be the person who'll save your life; you dislike her that much?"

"That's because Uncle Keegan is a silly, rich man and gave her money. Otherwise, she wouldn't save me."

'Everyone thinks I'm a child who doesn't know a thing, so they didn't avoid me when talking about certain things. For example, whenever Uncle Keegan asks her to come to the hospital and give blood, she'll discreetly ask him for something. Sometimes it would be a script; other times, it would be an endorsement, car, bag, etc. Anyway, she's never once left empty-handed. Besides that, she's only attentive to me in front of Uncle Keegan; she practically ignores me behind his back,' she thought.

Coco was a child, so perhaps she did not know what "insatiable" meant. However, she had a feeling Bella's behavior was incredibly displeasing.

Aldor smiled and did not continue the conversation.

'Children are probably really sensitive in perceiving adults; Coco could tell at a glance whether Bella's kindness was genuine or not. I just hope everything will go smoothly this time,' he thought.

Stella went to the place to make payments. The moment she checked the account, she realized Rainee's account had outstanding charges. Besides that, a portion of overdue bills from last month had not been paid for.

She frowned, "Nobody paid the bill this month?"

The staff member shook their head. They told her that the payments for the recent few months had been delayed, and the hospital staff had to call and remind them before they had someone come over and pay. However, this was the longest; it had been almost two weeks.

Then, the staff member printed the recent few months' hospital bills. The bills clearly showed the time the last payment was made and the expenses for the previous month. Since the payment was delayed, the account owed the hospital over a million dollars.

Rainee was a long-term in-patient at the hospital, staying there for nearly seven years. That was why the hospital did not say anything when they delayed paying the bills

once or twice. Besides, in most cases, they paid the bills as soon as they were reminded.

However, the delay was a little long this time. The payee's contact they had saved had not been answering the phone recently. They had no choice but to let the doctor inform Stella.

Stella darkened her expression slightly. She pursed her lips and took out a card. Then, she handed it to the staff member, "Use this card and reload one million dollars first."

Right after Stella paid, her phone rang. Surprisingly, it was a call from Albert.

Stella pursed her lips and pressed the answer button. Then, she got straight to the point, "When do you plan to pay for my mother's medical bills?"

The voice on the other end of the phone was a woman's.

"They're already divorced. So my husband is no longer responsible for paying his exwife's medical bills, right?"

Stella's gaze darkened, "Your husband?"

Hylida chuckled, "I forgot to tell you that your father and I got married.

Based on etiquette, you're supposed to call me mom."

Stella gritted her teeth, "Who are you to call yourself my mother?"

"The law recognizes me as your mother. Since you already know everything, Stella Jewell, I'll cut to the chase."

Hylida continued icily, "No matter the grudges your parents had in the past, your father has been shouldering your mother's medical expenses all these years. So he's already fulfilled his obligations to her. You're the one who disregarded your relationship with him, so don't blame us for being heartless. From now on, we won't pay a single penny for Rainee's medical expenses. Since you're so capable, care for your mother yourself."

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Stella turned ghostly pale. She asked in a low voice, "Is this Albert's intention?"

Hylida laughed, "My intentions are his intentions. Otherwise, why did he hand me his phone? Naturally, your father is still soft-hearted; he's willing to reconcile with you and pay for Rainee's medical expenses based on the prerequisite that you'll hand over all of the evidence you have and never bring up this matter. Don't tell me whatever you have is useless. Even if they are, do you think the Kane family wouldn't mind if you got your father in trouble? Would they still want you? Wake up. It's been many years since the matter, and your parents are divorced. What's the point of you constantly pursuing the matter? If you ask me, I say the matter ends here. Everyone will continue to live peacefully; you'll be the wife of a rich family, and your mother can continue her life support. What do you say?"

Hylida's tone was the most hated relative's tone when one went home for New Year's; it reeked of dignified condescension. Not only was her tone repulsive, but her words were also sickening.

Stella gritted her teeth.

"Dream on!" she said furiously.

Hylida shrugged, "Well, there's no other choice then; you'll bear the medical expenses yourself. You're Mrs. Kane, so you probably have the money for this."



Then, she hung up.

Marshall was waiting in the hospital lobby with a bag in hand. When he saw Stella walk over with a pale face, he went up.

“Are you done?”

Stella nodded and said, “Mr. Moore, Albert has stopped paying for my mother’s medical expenses. The news about him getting a divorce is true; he’s started a family with someone else, so I can’t sue him for divorce anymore. I want to go to court on behalf of my mother and file for property redistribution.’

Marshall frowned.

‘Don’t panic and fall into disarray before the fight. I’ll get someone to find things out. Even if we redistribute property, we’ll strive to maximize the benefits,” he said while handing Stella the bag he held.

He continued, “Just now, I asked the nurse in the hospital for an ice pack. Remember to ice your face in a bit. After this, I’ll return to the firm and look up this matter properly. Stay at the hospital, and take care of your mom. Expect a call from me in the next two days.”

Stella breathed a sigh of relief. She said softly through teary eyes, “Thank you.”

Marshall saw the tears at the corner of her eyes and felt his heart tremble. Just as he lifted his hand, Vermont’s voice sounded behind them.

‘Marshall, Stella, is everything done?’

Marshall bent his fingers and lowered his arm in a natural manner.

Stella nodded.

“Thank you so much for today, Mr. Snyder. I owe you a favor. Feel free to ask if there’s anything I can help you with in the future.”

Vermont smiled, “No worries. I’ll pin the favor on Keegan.”

Stella pursed her lips, “Keegan’s Keegan, and I am me.”

After hearing her words, Vermont immediately knew the two had gotten into a fight.

The incident about Sophia blew up. Vermont had vaguely heard about how the Vinci Rivera Group handled the matter, so it was not strange for them to fight.

‘They’re a couple, so it wouldn’t be normal if they don’t get into fights,’ he thought.

He said teasingly, “The both of you are a family.”

Then, he immediately changed the topic, “I’ve got something to do at my company, so I need to leave first. How about you, Marshall?’

‘I’ll leave with you,” Marshall said.

Before leaving, he told Stella, “If anything comes up at the hospital, you can contact Vermont or me.”

Stella nodded and sent the two off from the hospital.

What happened during the day more or less affected Rainee; she started burning up at night.

Her body temperature was at 100.76°F. For normal people, a fever of this temperature would go down after a night’s sleep. However, this temperature could be fatal for Rainee.

Since Rainee’s body could not withstand too strong of drugs, the doctor recommended cooling her physically. Every hour, Stella wiped Rainee’s body so that she would feel slightly better.

She and the caretaker took turns wiping Rainee’s body up till midnight. Around two or

three o'clock, Rainee's body temperature finally dropped slightly. The caretaker saw Stella's tiredness, so they told her to lie down and sleep. Stella leaned back in the chair but did not feel sleepy. She took out her phone and tapped on Keegan's contact. She thought for a long time and called Keegan via WhatsApp.

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The phone rang for a while, but nobody answered. Stella hung up the phone. She pursed her lips and called Keegan's number again. However, a woman's cold, robotic voice sounded on the other end.

'Sorry, the number you are calling is currently busy. Please call again after this...'

Stella hung up the phone and threw it aside. Then, she leaned into the chair, stretched her hand, and covered her eyes.

'Keegan Kane, why are you never by my side whenever I need you the most?' she thought.

In Alodale, Keegan inexplicably jolted awake from his dream. He opened his eyes and looked at the ceiling above. He heard breathing sounds come from Aldor, who was lying in the chair beside him.

Keegan stunned. After a while, he suddenly remembered where he was.

Earlier, he suddenly dreamed of a multi-car pile-up incident at the North of Rivera City Route 3 Loop flyover two months ago. He saw Stella driving on the flyover with cars in front and behind her. She was sandwiched between the cars while waiting for the traffic light to change.

Suddenly, a cargo truck came charging toward the line of cars waiting in front of the traffic light. Then, it rammed into them. Some of the cars got knocked over the guardrails and fell off the flyover, while most cars got crushed together as if they were scrap metal. All of a sudden, the place was engulfed in flames, and there were crying sounds everywhere.

He saw Stella's body lying twisted in a car that had flipped over. She had blood all over her body as she yelled his name through the broken window. Keegan panicked and wanted to run over. However, the car suddenly exploded, and Stella got swallowed in flames. He was horrified and immediately woke up from the dream.

'It turned out to be a dream,' he thought.

He rubbed his temples.

'Even though I wasn't at the scene of the multi-car pile-up on the flyover, the dream just now was so vivid for some reason,' he thought again.

The moment the car exploded, Keegan broke out in cold sweat all over his body.

He took out his phone.

He had switched out his original SIM card when he boarded the plane.

Since the SIM card had been removed, WhatsApp kept prompting him to log back in.

Keegan's finger hovered over the 'Log In' button in hesitation.

Meanwhile, Aldor rolled over and turned his head. Under the dim lighting in the ward, he saw Keegan staring at his phone.

He yawned and said lowly, "Mr. Kane, the surgery is tomorrow morning; get some sleep. If it goes smoothly, we can return early."

Keegan snapped out of his daze and retracted his finger.

'What was I doing? I wanted to call her and ask her how she was because of a bizarre dream. With those sharp teeth and claws of hers, who could hurt her? If I called her, I'd probably be so furious and lose sleep because of that mouth of hers,' he thought. Keegan felt angry at the thought of the words that Stella said the night she left. 'Since she's the one who brought up the divorce, she'll have to be the one who regrets it first. If she says she regrets it, I won't fuss over what she did,' he thought again. At this thought, he asked, "Aldor, how's the necklace?"

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"I've already urged them once during the day, and they're already rushing to finish it. They said it'll be finished in the next two days, so it'll definitely be done before we leave Alodale."

'Mr. Kane isn't sleeping at this hour and thinking about this? Recently, he's been so occupied with love that he isn't thinking straight. It's like he's been much more attentive toward Mrs. Kane ever since he learned about her car accident at the flyover. I've worked for Mr. Kane for many years, so I know he's a slow-to-warm-up and cold person. He actually barely even cares or pays attention to Dahlia, the person who birthed him.

However, he'd remember what Mrs. Kane said, even if it were just a casual remark. For example, the 3-million-dollar bag, the earrings that were lost at the ball, and now, this expensive necklace. In terms of money, Mr. Kane goes as far as spoiling Mrs. Kane. He is someone who doesn't speak but acts. On the other hand, Mrs. Kane is a sweet-talker. In summary, a beautiful, sweet-talking hopeless romantic meets an arrogant workaholic of a straight man. If you think about it, they're quite cute together. After all, they're both eye candies,' thought Aldor.

The following morning, Zayla bought breakfast downstairs, and Stella ate a little. At eight o'clock, the doctor came for ward rounds.

Rainee's body temperature was rising a little again. Last night, it dropped to 99.14°F, but now it rose to 100.04°F. The doctor told them to check her body temperature every half an hour and to continue cooling her physically. If her temperature did not drop by noon, they would then adequately use some drugs.

Stella thanked the doctor and once again got busy.

Compared to the night before, it was much harder to lower her body temperature this time. Unfortunately, noon approached, and her body temperature had risen to 100.58°F. Stella immediately called for the doctor. After the doctor gave Rainee a checkup, they gave her some drugs and continued observing her.

With a tense expression, Stella watched Rainee lay on the hospital bed with a feverish, red face. She was already incredibly thin. Even though she had been getting the best drugs and the most responsible caretakers, she still could no longer withstand the gradual deterioration of her body.

She lay there with a blanket over her body. It felt like nothing was under the blanket; only a skeleton about to fall apart any time remained. An hour later, Rainee's body temperature finally lowered a little. When the caretaker saw how Stella had been a bundle of nerves, she advised her to go for a walk.

"I'm fine, Zayla. I'll be troubling you a lot in the following few days."

"Not at all; you're paying me to do this job. Even if you didn't ask, I'd still take good

care of Ms. Spade.'

While the two were talking, a nurse suddenly barged in.

"Madam Spade's dependent, please go downstairs to pay the bill."

Stella frowned, "I just paid yesterday."

"I don't know, but the people downstairs called. They said there was no money in your account and asked you to go over and pay. There's a physiotherapy session in the afternoon, so make haste," the nurse said.

Then, she left.

'I had reloaded 1 million dollars to the account yesterday, so how could there be no money?' Stella wondered. She had a puzzled look, but she still hurriedly ran downstairs.

When she got to the counter, she asked the receptionist. When they heard that she was Rainee's dependent, they said, "The bank requested to freeze the money you reloaded last night. They said there were some problems with your money. Anyway, the money can't be used in the meantime."

Stella frowned.

"What's the problem with the money?" she said.

"That's my paycheck from acting. I just got it last week, so what could be the problem?' she wondered.

"How should I know? I'm only responsible for charging. Why don't you give the bank a call? Also, you need to pay for the hospital bills again."

The person behind Stella kept urging her, so she could be bothered to ponder and took out another card.

"Use this one.'

#### Chapter 445

However, the machine beeped after the card got swiped.

The staff member said, "Your card got frozen."

Stella paled slightly. Then, she pursed her lips and took out a different card.

'This one's also frozen."

Stella took out her third card, fourth card... When she finally tried all of her cards, her expression had completely darkened.

All of the accounts under her name had gotten frozen by the bank.

'Is this Keegan's doing? No. If it were Keegan, he'd only freeze his subcards. Why would he freeze my own cards? Then, who is it? Who has this ability?' she wondered.

Stella racked her brain and set the target on Dahlia.

"Are you paying or not? Hurry up."

The dependents of other patients who were queueing behind her again urged her.

Stella hurriedly apologized.

"Sorry."

Then, she grabbed her cards off the desk and went aside. Stella first called the few banks where she applied for her cards.

They gave her vague answers and said someone took relevant procedures and applied for an asset freeze. However, they did not have the liberty to disclose who the specific person was.

'Someone they do not have the liberty to disclose; it's most likely Dahlia,' she thought.

Stella clenched her fingers and called Dahlia's number. It did not take long before someone picked up.

"Hello?"

Dahlia's icy voice sounded from the other end of the line.

Stella suppressed her emotions and said in a low voice, "Mom, it's me."

Dahlia asked nonchalantly, "What is it?"

Stella pursed her lips.

"When I was paying the hospital bills, the counter said my bank cards got frozen."

"Oh," Dahlia said indifferently. She continued, "I froze them."

Stella's heart sank.

"Why'd you do that?"

Dahlia laughed icily.

"Stella Jewell. You and Keegan will get a divorce once he returns from his business trip. So I have to prevent you from transferring assets, right? It now appears that being cautious is right. He just left for his business trip, and you're rushing to transfer the money in the account to your mother. Do you think the Kane family does charity work?"

Stella did not even have the time to dwell on how Dahlia found out that the two were getting a divorce when Keegan returned. However, her blood ran cold when she heard Dahlia say, "prevent you from transferring assets." In an instant, she flew into a rage.

"You can freeze Keegan's sub-cards, but who are you to freeze my own cards? I earned money in my cards myself; it has nothing to do with the Kane family!"

"Watch your tone when you're speaking, Stella Jewell! What do you mean you? You're insolent!" Dahlia said angrily.

She continued, "Your money? What money do you have? From your clothes to what you're using, which one wasn't bought using Keegan's or the Kane family's money?"

When Dahlia thought of the bruise Stella caused on Aurora's face, how Stella had snatched away the opportunity to organize the birthday banquet, and how Keegan even limited her expenses because of Stella, she was furious.

"Who knows if the money in your card is from Keegan's bank account? It's not like you've never backstabbed us while living on us. Since you two are divorcing, what's the matter with applying for asset protection when I'm Keegan's mother?"

Stella's lips trembled in rage.

"Dahlia Crosby, do you know the money you froze is the money to save my mother's life?"

Dahlia snorted sardonically, "The money I froze is the Kane family's money. If anything happens to your mother, it's because she has bad luck and has a daughter like you."

After Dahlia finished talking, she hung up. Stella paled. The next moment, Zayla called.

"Stella, your mother can't make it anymore. Quickly come up!"

#### Chapter 446

In an instant, the blood drained from Stella's face. She trembled as she held the phone.

"I'll be there immediately. Call for the doctor first," she said in a slightly trembling voice while playing calm.

Rainee's blood pressure dropped rapidly, and her heart rate slowed. Her pupils also showed signs of expansion, which was a really bad sign. After the doctor gave her a checkup, they began giving her injections.

The veins on Rainee's hands were incredibly obvious. The walls of her blood vessels were practically sticking together. The nurse failed a few times, trying to stick in the indwelling needle.

Stella felt her heart quiver as she watched Rainee's puncture-mark-filled hand. Shortly after, she was wheeled into the operating room.

The head nurse brought Stella a consent and waiver of liability and asked her to sign it. Stella's hand trembled as she held the pen. After a while, she finally signed her name crookedly. The nurse took the papers and said, 'Quickly go downstairs and pay the bills. The people downstairs are urging again, so don't make things hard for us.'

"I understand," Stella said hoarsely.

She added, "I'll leave my mother in your hands."

After Stella left the waiting room, she quickly called Felicity.

Felicity had been shooting a night scene with the crew last night, so she only got home at nine in the morning. So when she got a call from Stella, she was still in her bed, sleeping.

Felicity groggily accepted the call and heard Stella's choked-up voice come from the other end of the line, "How much money do you have right now, Felicity? Could you transfer me 300 thousand dollars?"

Felicity was immediately fully awake.

'Stella wouldn't not have 300 thousand dollars. So why is she suddenly borrowing money from me? And why does her voice sound like that?' she wondered.

'What's the matter? Why do you need to borrow money?' she asked. Then, she quickly added, "I'm just asking; I don't mean anything else. I've locked the royalty money I previously received to a fixed deposit, so I can only give you 100 thousand at most. What exactly is going on?"

"My mom might not make it. My card can't be used..."

Stella started crying the moment she spoke.

This was the first time Felicity ever saw Stella cry this way, so she panicked and hurriedly consoled her.

'Don't cry. I'll transfer you the money. You should go pay the bills first while I borrow money from my other friends,' Felicity said as she got off the bed. She started putting on her clothes and shoes, "I'll go to the hospital immediately. Be well. Your mother's still receiving emergency treatment, so don't keep thinking about negative things."

Stella sobbed uncontrollably; her voice was mingled with a fear of being powerless. Hearing this, Felicity felt her heart break.

After she hung up, she immediately transferred all her available funds to Stella. Then, she ran downstairs while calling her acquaintances to borrow money.

Since Felicity had only graduated for three years, all of her close friends were doing so-so; none were particularly well off. Those who had some money or got rich practically did not mingle with their friends of Felicity's social status anymore.

That was why Felicity only managed to borrow 40 to 50 thousand dollars after calling four to five numbers.

'How could this be enough?' she thought.

Felicity thought deeply. Finally, she bit the bullet and called her mother.

“Hello?”

The woman’s voice was cold and elegant on the other end of the line.

Felicity coughed, “Mom, transfer me some money, won’t you? It’s not much; just twenty thousand dollars.”

The person on the other end of the line hung up.

Felicity was speechless.

At the thought of the determined things she said when she ran away from home previously, she felt awkward.

‘This is a matter of life and death. So be it if it’s a slap in my face,’ she thought again.

She gritted her teeth and called the number again.

‘Mom, I know you’re angry with me, but now isn’t the time to be angry. I’m at the hospital right now, and this is a matter of life and death. Once the surgery ends, you can scold me however you want.’

As expected, the person on the other end panicked, “Did something happen to you?”

“It’s my friend. It’s all thanks to her that your daughter didn’t starve to death in Rivera, so don’t turn a blind eye to a dying person.”

“Stop wasting time, and send me your card number.”

Felicity quickly thanked her and texted her the card number. Moments later, she received a text message that said she had received one million dollars. 1

#### Chapter 447

Felicity did not even have the time to lament her mother’s sudden generosity. She hurriedly took the money and went to the hospital to look for Stella.

After Stella got Felicity’s call, she waited at the hospital entrance. The moment Felicity got out of the car, she saw Stella’s frail figure.

Her eyes were bloodshot, while her lips were a little pale. Even her usually rosy cheeks were now so pale they were almost translucent. Felicity quickly grabbed Stella and got straight to the point.

“I brought the money. Go pay the bill first.”

After Stella transferred money into the account, she brought Felicity upstairs.

On the way there, she did not speak. It was as if she had cried out all of her vulnerability when she cried helplessly on the phone. Right now, all that was left was a firm iron wall.

In the waiting room, Felicity handed Stella a bottle of water.

“How long has it been since your mother went in?”

Stella took the bottle.

‘Probably 40 to 50 minutes.’

‘It’ll be fine. Your mother’s very fortunate, so she’ll be alright.’

Felicity scanned the room and asked Stella, “Where’s Keegan?”

Stella’s gaze darkened slightly, “He’s gone on a business trip.”

“To hell with his business trip! Seriously. Why isn’t he here whenever he’s needed?”

That mutt is useless!” Felicity exclaimed furiously.

Stella was silent and did not say a word.

Felicity recalled a thought.

“Earlier on the phone, you said your cards can’t be used. What’s up with that?”

Stella pursed her lips slightly. After a while, she finally said, "Keegan's mother requested to freeze all of my cards, so I can't use any of my bank cards to pay."

'What the fuck? What's wrong with her? Who is she to do that?'

"She knows that Keegan and I are going to divorce and is preventing me from transferring assets."

Felicity was so furious that she was speechless for a long time. Finally, she said through gritted teeth, "She did it on purpose, right? Of all times, she did it the moment something happened to your family. She even chose to do it when Keegan wasn't around. She must be afraid that you and Keegan won't get divorced!"

Stella was no longer in the mood to talk.

Soon after, a nurse came to ask for Rainee's dependent. It seemed they needed someone to sign something, so Stella got up and went out. Felicity wanted to call Keegan and see what that bastard was doing. However, the call did not get through. She was so angry she cursed him out.

'Just when I thought you got a little useful, you unexpectedly are still just a piece of trash!' she thought.

Suddenly, the phone by the chair started vibrating. Felicity turned around and saw that it was Stella's phone.

The caller ID showed "50 Million".

She answered the call.

'Stella, the friend I asked, found out about the property division contract.'

Felicity was really skilled at recognizing people through their voices.

Besides, Marshall's voice was incredibly attractive and distinctive, so she instantly exclaimed, "The handsome Bentley guy?"

Marshall was stunned, "And you are..."

"I'm Stella's bestie, Felicity Thompson. The people in the operating room just asked her to go sign something, so she isn't here right now."

Marshall's tone lowered, "The operating room?"

"It seems like Stella's mother might not make it and is currently being rescued in the operating room," Felicity was also panicked.

She continued, "Mr. Moore, can you contact Keegan? Ask him to hurry back!"

"Keegan's phone is off. I also can't contact him," Marshall paused.

He continued, "You take care of Stella first; I'll be over immediately." i

## Chapter 448

A few minutes later, Stella returned.

Felicity did not dare to ask if the nurse said anything and could only pray that Rainee was fortunate enough to get through this safely.

'At this point, I'm scared that Stella will lose it if something happens to her mother. It's been years. To be honest, we all know the chances of her regaining consciousness are slim. However, people always have obsessions. As long as she was breathing, it felt like there was still hope. There's this saying: when your parents are still around, you still have the starting point of your life; when your parents are gone, only the ending point of your life remains. No one has the right to condemn Stella, a daughter, for being obsessed with her mother,' she thought.

Marshall rushed over soon. It only took him 10 minutes after he hung up his call with



Felicity. He tirelessly rushed to the waiting area.

For a moment, Felicity felt this man was much more reliable than that bastard, Keegan.

'He actually came when something happened,' she thought.

"Stella, how's your mom?"

Marshall was slightly panting as he spoke. He probably ran over the moment he got out of his car.

Stella was startled when she saw him. Felicity quickly explained, "When you went to sign the paper, handsome-Mr. Moore called and had something to tell you. He came over when he heard me say your mother was in the operating room."

Stella softened her expression and said quietly, "She's still receiving emergency treatment. There isn't news yet."

Rainee's lungs were infected, and the papers the nurse asked Stella to sign just now was a surgery consent form. Even though it was just a minimally invasive surgery, it was incredibly risky for Rainee.

The nurse told Stella there was actually no need for surgery, considering Rainee's condition. Even if they saved her, she did not have much time left. If Stella insisted on surgery, she might lose both money and Rainee.

However, Stella did not have the heart to say she wanted to give up on treatment. She could not stand by idly and watch Rainee die.

Marshall consoled her, "No news is good news."

Stella also hoped so, but some things do not just become true simply because one hoped so.

"Mr. Moore, why did you call?"

Marshall said, "Let's wait for your mother to finish surgery. It's not urgent for now."

'I wanted to tell him to leave if he has something to do. But on second thoughts, he might have rushed over after learning that something had happened. If I ask him to leave, it seems a little too inhumane,' she thought.

At this thought, she pursed her lips and did not speak. The three sat in a row and waited for the doctor in the operating room to announce Rainee's verdict. After around 10 minutes, the operating room's light indicator was switched off.

Stella shot up. Then, Felicity and Marshall followed suit.

The doors to the operating room opened, and the medical staff came out one by one. Stella felt her heart clench violently. She wanted to walk up to them, but she did not dare.

The doctor took off their mask and said with a serious expression, "Go in and see her for the last time. Give your proper goodbyes."

Stella's hands trembled, and she felt like she had fallen into an abyss. The sounds around her seemed to come from a far place, and only the doctor's voice could clearly be heard in her ears.

Felicity's eyes reddened as she supported Stella.

"You need to be strong, Stella," she said hoarsely.

#### Chapter 449

Marshall's lips moved. He said after a while, "Let's go in and see her."

Stella clenched her hands as she murmured, "I'm fine."

She then walked into the operating room after she said that.

Rainee was quietly lying on the bed, wearing an oxygen mask. The water mist from her breathing could no longer be seen on the mask. The numbers on the machine at the side had fallen to an extremely low value.

She was so thin that it seemed like she was melded with the operation bed she was sleeping on. All these told Stella that the person on the bed would soon pass. She held Rainee's hand.

Rainee always used pens. Her middle finger knuckle had callus all year long from holding pens.

When Rainee was in good health, she was not exceptionally slim. So, her hands were not bony. But now, her hand was as thin as a rake. The skin of her hand was touching the frame. The back of her hand was full of pinholes and bulging veins. Rainee's hands were so different from what Stella remembered.

It had been six years and eight months since the car accident. More than half of Rainee's hair was white now.

'She's very conscious of her appearance. I guess she doesn't want to wake up because she doesn't want to see how she looks now.'

Stella bent down to fix Rainee's hair.

Standing at the side, Felicity could not help but have a lump in her throat when she saw that. She softly said, "Stella, let Aunt Rainee go."

Stella's fingers trembled. She softly said, "Okay," and removed Rainee's oxygen mask.

The numbers on the machine gradually became zero. And a sharp machine beeping sound could be heard after that.

The nurse walked forward to say, "my condolences." Then, she gently covered Rainee's head with a white cloth. 1

She then asked Stella to get the paperwork done as soon as possible within these two days and to take Rainee's body away. Unfortunately, there was not enough space in the morgue of the hospital. So, Rainee's body was moved out of the morgue shortly.

Stella did not cry. She was not hysterical.

She thanked the medical staff and paid the caretaker her salary before she went to Rainee's ward to pack her stuff.

She was very calm and composed.

Rainee stayed in the hospital for many years. But there were not many things for Stella to pack.

She was either lying on the bed naked or wearing a hospital gown. There was not even a single cloth in her ward. There were only towels and basins that were constantly replaced. There were also a stack of opera cassettes and an old cassette player on the table.

Stella orderly put the cassettes in her handbag. She was busy. It was like nothing had happened.

The calmer Stella was, the more worried Felicity was. 'She should just cry. She's so calm that I'm so worried about her.'

"Stella, you don't have to pack the things now." Marshall walked forward to hold Stella's bag. Then, he tenderly said, "You should sit down and rest. We'll help you to pack the things later."

Felicity said, "Mr. Moore is right. Stella, take your time."  
Stella pushed his hand away. She lowered her eyes as she murmured, "I'm fine. But, Mr. Moore, I'm afraid I can't talk to you today."  
Marshall said, "It's okay. We can talk after you're done with your things and when you feel better."  
Stella nodded and thanked him. Then, she said, "It's late. You should go home. Felicity is here with me. I'm fine."  
Marshall stopped moving for a moment, 'Stella just lost her mother. Even if Keegan isn't here with her now, I shouldn't be the one staying with her. I'm just an outsider.' He, indeed, should not cross the line.  
Marshall's Adam's apple moved. He softly said, "I'll contact Keegan as soon as possible. Just contact me if you need any help." He paused momentarily before saying, "Bury aunty sooner rather than later."  
Stella said, "okay." She did not speak further.  
Marshall was still worried. He talked to Felicity. He gave her his phone number and asked her to help Stella find a funeral home as soon as possible. He also asked her to call him if something happened.  
Felicity said yes repeatedly. Just when she walked Marshall to the door, a crashing sound could be heard from the ward. She turned her head. Her facial expression changed dramatically, "Stella!"

#### Chapter 450

Stella collapsed on the floor. She was unconscious.  
Felicity panicked. She was loud when she said, "Stella! Stella! What's wrong? You're scaring me!"  
Marshall's expression changed slightly. He swiftly walked forward. He then bent down to hold Stella's upper body up.  
Her face was pale, her eyes were blue, and her lips were almost bloodless.  
While Marshall was holding her, he said to Felicity, "Stop shouting. Quickly get the doctor here."  
"Yes, yes. Call the doctor." Felicity came back to her senses. She then got up and ran outside. She shouted as she ran, "Doctor! Doctor! Help!"  
Marshall frowned. He had been holding Stella for a while, but she still had no response. So, he carried her in his arms.  
Soon, the nurses pushed a bed to go to them under the guidance of Felicity. Marshall then put her on the bed. After that, he and Felicity followed them until they reached the emergency room.  
Felicity worriedly walked in circles at the same spot. Finally, around ten minutes later, the doctor came out of the room.  
It was probably because Stella did not rest well for the past few days. She was also extremely tense and had minor anemia. She could not handle all of those at once. That was why she fainted.  
But the doctor still advised her to have a full body checkup. After all, she was still very young. It was not normal for her to suddenly faint. She had to get a full body checkup to be safe.  
Meanwhile, at Alodale, the light of the operating theater was finally switched off.

Keegan stood up. Not long after that, the doctor then pushed a bed out. It was Bella, who was still unconscious due to the anesthesia. Keegan walked past her to go to the bed behind her.

Coco was sleeping. Her tiny face was pale. She was clenching a candy she took from Keegan's car when she entered.

The doctor said she was talking about meeting with "Aunt Stella" after the operation. She was unconscious a few seconds after she was given anesthesia. But she kept holding the candy and did not want to let go of it.

Keegan gently opened her hand and took the candy away.

This was the mint candy Stella gave him in the car when he had a meal with her and Marshall back then. He had been putting the candy in the car. Coco found it in his car when he came to Alodale this time.

When she heard that Stella had given it to Keegan, she put it in her pocket. Unexpectedly, she even brought it with her into the operating theater.

Keegan pinched the mint candy as he looked at it. He then put it back in Coco's hand.

After the doctor came out, he asked, "Doctor Boyle, how's she?"

"The operation was very successful. But we still need to monitor her for the next few days. She'll be okay if there's no sign of rejection. She'll return to her normal condition if she adheres to taking medicine after that."

Coco was a premature baby. She also had severe aplastic anemia. And she had an uncommon blood type. So, she had many near-death experiences since birth.

She was almost seven years old but looked like a five-year-old kid.

If not because of her developmental problems, the operative risk would be lower if she had the operation when she grew older. Her growth was a lot slower than people around her age. So her surgery could not be delayed any longer.

Luckily, everything went well.

Doctor Boyle suddenly said, "Mr. Kane, what's your relationship with this kid?"

Keegan suddenly stopped moving. He glanced at him without speaking.

Doctor Boyle was the most experienced specialist that did bone marrow transplants in the country. So Keegan hired him to come here to Alodale to do this surgery. And all the whereabouts were hidden from others. That was why he was curious.

But Doctor Boyle realized he had asked a question that should not have been asked when he looked at Keegan's expression. So, he changed the topic, "As long as there's no sign of rejection in the first three days, you guys can leave if you have something to do. She must stay in the hospital for at least one month.'

What he actually meant was that the longer they stayed, the easier their whereabouts would be exposed.

Keegan did not reply to him. Instead, he turned away and left.

Stella said, "okay."

#### Chapter 451

After they settled Coco down in the ward, Keegan suddenly said to Aldor, ' Book the flight for the day after tomorrow."

Aldor was surprised, "Mr. Kane, she has to be monitored for at least the first three days."

"I'll go back on my own. You stay here. You leave after you arrange everything here

when Coco is out of critical condition.' He had not been sleeping well for the past two nights. He was constantly thinking about things in Rivera. He felt a little uneasy. He wanted to go back sooner.

In Rivera, Felicity ran up and down to get the paperwork done when she heard the doctor say Stella had to get a full body checkup. Marshall was there to help her. The body checkup was completed very quickly. Other than the complete blood count, all tests had been completed. 1

Stella still had not woken up after being placed in the general ward. But she looked better than before. It was late at night when everything was settled.

Stella was a married woman. It was inappropriate for Marshall to stay there. Felicity said, "Mr. Moore, why not you go home now? I'll stay here with Stella."

Marshall did not try to stay too. Instead, he told her to call him immediately if something happened to Stella. Felicity stayed up late to stay beside Stella. She only dozed off after three o'clock in the morning.

The next morning, a nurse came to draw Stella's blood for the checkup. She only woke up after nine o'clock in the morning. She turned her head. Felicity's jacket was on the visitor's recliner chair. 'She probably went to get washed up or buy breakfast.' Stella sat up. She stayed in bed for a while before she got up and went to the washroom.

When she left the room, the nurse came to her ward to tell her that her checkup report was out. There were some problems. The nurse asked her to go and see the doctor. So, Stella went to find the doctor.

The doctor was a woman around fifty years old. She was very friendly. She flipped through the report in her hand as she asked Stella, "Are you married?"

Stella nodded.

"Do you have kids?"

Stella shook her head.

The doctor frowned. She said after a while, "Was your stomach hit by something before this? And was your uterus hurt?"

Stella said, "I had a car accident a few years ago. The doctor at that time said my uterine appendages were slightly damaged. He didn't give me any medicine for that. He just asked me to rest and have it checked regularly. It was back to normal when I went to the hospital to examine it the next year."

"Do you take any long-term courses of medication?"

Stella shook her head, "No. My health is great. I rarely get sick."

Stella noticed the doctor looked serious. She lowered her voice, "Doctor, what's wrong with me?"

The doctor raised her head. It seemed like her eyes were filled with compassion. She said after pondering, "I suspect you might have the signs of premature ovarian failure."

Stella's expression changed, "Premature ovarian failure... What'll happen?"

'Premature ovarian failure has many symptoms. Endocrine disorders, menstrual disorders, and the most serious symptom is infertility.'

Stella looked pale. She could not accept the doctor's explanation, "I have a regular sleeping routine. And I exercise often. I also have periodic medical examinations. So why would I have a premature ovarian failure? Are you guys mistaken?"

'The data can't be wrong.' The doctor said, "Or when your period is over, come to the hospital for a hormone test and an ultrasound. But the results shouldn't have much different."

Stella felt extremely hopeless.

#### Chapter 452

The doctor comforted her, "Don't be too stressed. Although you have the symptoms of premature ovarian failure, the good news is that we detected it promptly. Take good care of yourself and have your medication timely. You might still be able to get pregnant. I had quite a few patients that had premature ovarian failures. They managed to get pregnant after receiving treatments. You're younger than them. You still have a good chance."

Stella almost totally did not listen to what the doctor said. The only thing in her mind was the word "infertility."

After the doctor wrote down the medication lists, she asked Stella again, ' Did you really not take any long-term courses of medication? I noticed that your complete blood count detected some pharmaceutical ingredients."

When Stella wanted to shake her head, she suddenly remembered that she had been taking an alternative remedy for a long time.

Her facial expression changed slightly. She murmured, "I've been taking an alternative remedy for a long time. It was to increase the chance of pregnancy. But I'd not been taking it for almost a month. Was this the medication that was detected in my blood?"

"I'm not sure. Do you still have that medication? You can give it to me and check what the ingredients in it are." The doctor printed out the list of medications and signed it with her name, "I feel that the medication you've been taking has something to do with your premature ovarian failure. After all, medicines are toxic. You've been taking it for a long time when you're healthy. You might develop health issues because of that."

Stella's heart sank. She slowly guessed in her mind.

'Dahlia dislikes me so much. So why'd she still rush me to get pregnant? She said grandmas value the first grandchild. So, Dahlia wanted us to give birth to a baby before Chandler and his family. Chandler and his family must know about it. Why is Jackson still not married? Does Dahlia truly want me to get pregnant?' i

Stella immediately called her housekeeper after leaving the doctor's office. She asked her to bring the alternative remedy Aurora gave her when she visited her last time at the hospital.

Although many bottles in that box of alternative remedies were broken back then, there were still a few undamaged bottles. Maria felt that it was not good to throw them away because Dahlia gifted them. So, she kept them.

Maria was very fast. She brought the things to Stella in less than half an hour.

Stella was waiting for her downstairs at the hospital. After she got the things, she immediately took them upstairs to have the doctor look at them.

After the doctor who examined Stella took the medicines, she then got two doctors from the alternative medicine department to come and find out the ingredients of the medicines.

Felicity did not see Stella when she went back to the ward. She then called her.

Stella said she was with the doctor. She told her she would go back to the ward in a short while. Felicity felt relieved when she noticed Stella's tone was normal.

"I've contacted the person in charge from the funeral home. Stella, pick a time for the farewell ceremony and the cremation. I'll then inform your friends about it. Let's get Aunt Rainee's funeral done soonest possible."

Stella answered, "Okay. We'll discuss it when I come out later."

After she ended the call, the three doctors had already written down more than ten ingredients of the alternative medicine on the paper in front of them. They even discussed it in front of her. Stella was anxiously waiting. She said, "Doctors, what's wrong with this medicine?"

The oldest doctor asked, "This is the medicine the doctor gave you?"

Stella pursed her lips, "I'm not sure. My mother-in-law had someone prescribe this medicine for me. She said this medicine can increase the chance of pregnancy."

The old doctor lifted his glasses, "Miss, this isn't a medicine that can increase the chances of pregnancy."

Stella's heart sank, "What's this then?"

"This medicine indeed has many tonics. It can replenish your energy and help with blood circulation. But some of the ingredients are very dangerous. Ladies trying to get pregnant shouldn't even touch or eat them. And you even took this medicine for a long time. No wonder you have premature ovarian failure at such a young age."

Stella looked cold gradually. A shiver ran down her spine.

I'd been taking this medicine for such a long time. But I didn't suspect anything. Not even once!

She suddenly remembered what Jackson had said to her at the company back then. He said, 'Stella, did you not ask yourself why you couldn't get pregnant after trying for such a long time?'

## Chapter 453

'At that time, I thought Jackson was just saying whatever he felt. But now it seems he knew what was going on long ago. If Jackson knew about it, what about Keegan?'

The scenes of Stella and Keegan spending time together appeared repeatedly in Stella's mind.

'When we had sex, Keegan never used protection. So although we avoided the ovulation period, there were risks too. It's impossible that he doesn't know about that.

Why was he so sure that I wouldn't get pregnant?'

Keegan... Did he know about this too? Or did he consent to this all this while? He doesn't want kids, right?'

Stella's hands started to tremble uncontrollably. She felt like she was in a major conspiracy. Everyone around her was devious. Even the person who slept next to her was plotting against her secretly.

The doctors did not notice the change in Stella's expression. He continued, "These few ingredients can make you very energetic. So, you look exceptionally healthy. But, you fainted not only because you were overtired recently. I guess it was also due to you stopping this medicine. After you stopped taking it, the medicine that replenished your energy and helped your blood circulation stopped working. So, your deficiencies in your body became apparent." The doctor sighed, "You must stop taking this

medicine. It's too vicious."

Stella came back to her senses. She pinched her palm to calm herself down.

"Doctor, is there a cure for my situation?"

"Premature ovarian failure is irreversible. But the good news is that you detected it early. So you can at least stop it from worsening with treatments."

"What about... Getting pregnant?"

Stella's voice was extremely soft.

The doctor remained silent for a while, "Just prevent it from worsening now. Then, we can slowly find ways to help with your other issues."

Stella's heart sank again.

At Dahlia's place, Aurora's wound was finally almost completely healed. When she went downstairs to drink water, she heard the phone conversation between Dahlia and Stella. She was very shocked at that time.

After Dahlia ended the call, Aurora said, "Mom, would Keegan blame us when he returns because of what you did?"

Dahlia coldly reprimanded, "So what if your brother knows? I'm his mother. What can he do to me? Did you forget who gave you the wound on your face?"

There was no way Aurora could forget about that. Her body would not stop trying to tremble whenever she thought about what had happened to her that night.

But the difference between Aurora and Dahlia was that Aurora was more afraid of Keegan than Dahlia. He locked her in the washroom for one whole night just because she locked Stella in the washroom.

'Now that the Jewell family is in a mess. If we get involved in their matter and if something happens to Stella, Keegan might not overlook it.'

"Mother, why not just forget about it now? We still have many opportunities to get back at her in the future. So let's not get involved in their mess."

'You're a disappointment!' Dahlia gave her a rude stare, "Where's your usual aggressiveness? Did Stella beat you already?"

"Mother, what are you talking about?" Aurora petulantly said, "All right. You're on your own. If Keegan gets mad when he returns, don't blame me for not warning you."

#### Chapter 454

After Marshall had finished working with the job at hand in the morning, he proceeded to go to the hospital. He and Vermont went together since he had already informed Vermont of the news about Rainee's death.

Vermont also tried to contact Keegan and told the Kane family. When he came two days ago, she was still fine. But, by the time he arrived today, Rainee was gone.

Vermont was lamenting that all things never stay the same. When they reached the hospital, they did not see Stella. Instead, they saw the bandit woman from that night.

Vermont was stunned for a moment, 'You...'

'You shut your mouth!' Felicity glared at him. Then, she turned around to say to Marshall, "You came so early, Mr. Moore?"

Vermont was at a loss for words. Marshall nodded, "I just finished up all the work on hand, so I came over to see what help I could provide. Where is Stella?"

"She is in the on-call room for doctors. The results of her checkup have come out. The doctors probably would like to have some words with her," Felicity said while looking



at the time, "Half the day is gone. Why isn't she coming out yet? Let me ask." As she spoke, the door to the doctor's on-call room opened. Stella came out of the room with the corner of her eyes drooping. There was an addition of, a strange sense of depression from her whole body. Felicity quickly went up, "Stella, how is it? Did the doctor say where the problem was?"

Stella seemed to regain her spirits from Felicity's voice. Her expression slightly eased, and she said in a low tone, "Nothing's wrong. The doctor said I had recently been staying up late too much; hence, my heart was beating slightly rapidly and disorderly. I would be fine after some proper rest."

Felicity breathed a breath of relief and hugged her, "It's good that you are fine. You really scared me yesterday."

Stella patted Felicity's back and looked at Vermont and Marshall, who stood opposite them, "Mr. Snyder and Mr. Moore, my mother's funeral procession will be done at the funeral parlor at Harmony Road. If both of you are free, you can come to send her away. My mother doesn't have many friends. So I want it to be a little livelier when I send her off."

Vermont paused and furrowed his brows, "Stella, it's a little too fast if it's tomorrow. Keegan has yet to return. You are a little too hasty about this."

Stella's lips pulled into a smirk, and she looked at Vermont sarcastically, "If he doesn't come back, my mother can't be buried?"

Vermont was shocked by this statement. Stella's words today seemed to be laced with gunpowder.

He explained, "I didn't mean it that way, I..."

Stella interrupted him, "If you don't want to come due to Keegan, so be it."

Vermont was at a loss for words. He did not say much yet; why was she still angry? In the end, Marshall came to ease the tension, "What time tomorrow?"

"Ten in the morning," Stella said softly, "After the funeral procession, she will be cremated and buried at two in the afternoon."

"Okay. We will definitely come on time," Marshall replied.

After they left the hospital, Vermont said with furrowed brows, "Marshall, why did you keep pulling me back just now? Keegan has yet to return. What would it look like when the funeral continues to be held? What would others say when they see it? It's such a disgrace."

Marshall glanced at him, "Are you able to contact Keegan?"

Marshall was forced to choke again, "Contact my ass. That fella is doing god knows what kind of shady business. All forms of communication are cut off. Even Aldor as well. There is no news at all."

When saying this, he sighed again, "I saw Stella's expression. I'm afraid she must be furious beyond compare. Something will probably happen if he doesn't return during the funeral."

## Chapter 455

Before this, even when Stella had a row with Keegan, she would still treat them politely. However, the aggression just now was never seen before. He instinctively thought that something was about to happen.

Marshall said, "However worse it was, you should never play the off-the-grid card."

Stella had already decided in her heart. If we talked on behalf of Keegan, it would only be counterproductive.”

Vermont sighed, “You’re right. I hope that son of a bitch would come back sooner. Or else no one could help him.”

Albert knew about the news of Rainee’s passing the night before her funeral procession. It was from a group chat among old classmates. He only knew when his classmates questioned him. He was a university schoolmate with Rainee. Many of these old schoolmates were mutual friends with both of them.

Stella sent an obituary through her social media circle. The old schoolmates quickly saw it through everyone’s sharing and started asking in the group chat.

“Albert, why did you not tell us beforehand about Rainee’s matter? It’s such a big matter, yet we only knew after someone had mentioned it. You really don’t think of us as friends.”

Some female schoolmates were voicing the injustice of Rainee, “It’s better that Rainee passed. If she were aware, she wouldn’t have been able to bear with this injustice.”

“Both of you are at least husband and wife in the end. This funeral of yours that you are preparing is too rushed. She had just passed, but you are so impatient to cremate her. You even chose such a small funeral parlor?

Indeed, you have forgotten about your previous wife when you have your new flame.”

The matter about Albert’s illegitimate child caused a ruckus online a few days ago. So naturally, the old schoolmates in the group heard about it. Although these schoolmates were mutual friends with him and Rainee, she and these people had a closer bond.

She was good at socializing and was caring and loyal. She may not have been considered a good wife and mother, but she was very devoted to her friends. As long as they open their mouth, she will always help them if it is within her abilities.

Examples would be spots for whoever’s child to attend school, performance track records for whoever’s insurance company, and the hospital for whoever’s father needed to be hospitalized...

Her methods in the business world are pretty resentful. Although she could be quite calculative about certain things, she still helped many schoolmates in dire need of help. Hence, when news of her passing away came out, all her friends could not help but feel sympathy and sadness. All of their words unavoidably had the dissatisfaction and sarcasm they had for Albert.

Rainee was the queen bee in their school department in the past and had many people chasing after her. Her family background was fine, and she did the best for herself. Back then, quite a few boys were pursuing her. In the end, she went with Albert, who had mediocre qualities. Not only was she fighting poverty her whole life, she ultimately ended like this. In hindsight, it was indeed not worth it.

Albert saw the notifications from the group chat. He was furious. He was mad because the gang of people in the group chat was spouting nonsense and slandering him. He was also angry that Stella did not even inform him about such a significant incident as Rainee’s death.

The more he thought about it, the more he felt that Stella did it on purpose. She had purposely let him embarrass himself in front of all his old schoolmates. While calling Stella, he had a sullen face, but it didn’t get through. Stella seemed to have blacklisted

him. This news made Albert feel terrible all over. However, when he remembered that Rainee had passed away, it left a foul taste in his heart. When Hylda brought drinks in, she saw Albert fuming with a sullen face. "Albert, what happened?" Hylda asked. Albert pursed his lips. After a long time, he said, "She died." Hylda was stunned for a moment. But then the corner of her lips twitched into a subtle smile. She lowered her gaze and said, "It's been so many years. She had suffered enough. Dying would be much better than living on for her." Albert did not speak. He then said after a while, "Stella issued an obituary. The memorial service is tomorrow. Should I go or not?"

#### Chapter 456

Hylda gave Albert a glance. Rainee was still his wife, after all, and they married under the freedom of love. Even if the process they went through was unhappy, at least they used to truly love each other. Yet, he dared not ask this question now.

'Should I go or not? Isn't this nonsense?' Hylda thought.

She suppressed her emotions and said lowly, "Of course, you should go. Stella's still your daughter. With her mother passing away, the Kane family has someone visit. If the Kane family came, many of Rivera's elite would want to go there. You're Stella's dad. If you don't go, the others will look at the Jewell family as a joke."

Albert then said worriedly, "We've talked about this. What if Stella makes a scene during the funeral? Then it wouldn't end easily."

"She wouldn't," Hylda said nonchalantly. "Stella respects Rainee a lot. She would never make a scene with you at Rainee's funeral. Her mother would be turning in her grave."

Albert pursed his lips. Hylda looked at the man before her. How could she not know what he had in his heart?

The incident about his illegitimate child was just exposed, and he was already afraid that he would be the butt of the joke if he went there by himself. However, he had to make this trip. If he did not go, how could he make the mother and child's identities official?

"Albert, you don't need to worry. I'll accompany you there then. I'll wait for you outside. If something happens, I'll endure it with you," Hylda said.

Albert's thoughts drifted for a moment. This sentence reminded him of Rainee in the past. Whenever the company was in a crisis, she would be at his side, comforting him when he was knee-deep in the mess.

She would say, "It's fine. At worst, we'd be broke. If we can earn it back the first time, we can earn it back the second time. Even if the sky falls and your plans fail, I'll always be there."

"Albert, sleep early. We will go there slightly earlier tomorrow and send Rainee off on her last journey," Hylda continued.

Albert came back to his senses. His throat constricted, and he answered in a low tone.

It was a flight for eight in the morning. Keegan rode a car to the airport at half past six. When he reached the airport and waited for the flight, he could not resist turning on his phone. When the cell phone connected to the internet, his Facebook app

immediately popped up with numerous messages.

His eyes scanned the screen once and he noticed that Stella did not send him any messages. He could not conceal his upset. Just as he was about to turn his phone off, one of Vermont's messages popped up. [Keegan, if you don't fucking come back now, you're gonna lose your wife!]

Keegan's expression changed, and he immediately gave Stella a call. She did not pick up.

Keegan quickly called Vermont. Vermont had just arrived at the funeral parlor. He saw Keegan's return call and almost cursed. He quickly accepted the call.

Keegan said, "What do you mean by that message you sent?"

Vermont said through gritted teeth, "Your mother-in-law just died. She's being buried today. If you don't return now, I'm afraid you won't be able to keep your wife anymore!"

Keegan's heart trembled, and he said thoughtfully, "When did this happen?"

The night before yesterday. She had a fever and passed away. Your wife had been acting odd these few days. You should come back right now. Her mother will be buried at two in the afternoon." When saying this, he could not resist complaining. "Where have you been running off to these few days? For heaven's sake, leave a way for people to contact you. You caused this whole mess, and your wife definitely assumed you went missing on purpose."

Keegan pursed his lips. "I'll tell you one day. What about Stella? Let her answer the phone."

"I wouldn't dare mess with her. It's best that you come back as soon as possible. I spoke up for you yesterday, and she said if you don't come back, then should her mother not be buried? I didn't dare answer her. It won't be enough if you spoke with her over the phone now. She might not even answer your call. The main thing is that you should hurry up and come back. If you don't make it back in time for your mother-in-law's funeral, I'm telling you... Based on my understanding of women, she'll hold this against you for the rest of your life!"

Keegan took a deep breath and said, "You help arrange the venue. I'll get off the plane at ten minutes past ten."

"Alright, you hurry a bit more," Vermont urged.

After hanging up the phone, Vermont saw Marshall pass him a bottle of water that he had taken.

"Who were you calling?" Marshall asked.

## Chapter 457

"Keegan." Vermont twisted the bottle and took a sip. "I was finally able to contact him. He'd probably arrive at half past ten."

Marshall paused and said in a low tone, "That's good."

Vermont turned around and took a look inside the funeral parlor. "What about Stella?"

"Watching the mortician do the makeup," Marshall answered.

Vermont shuddered and mumbled under his breath, "She really has a lot of guts."

The funeral parlor had done Rainee's makeup as per Stella's instructions. The makeup artist was quite proficient. When they called for Stella to take a look, she immediately felt like she was seeing Rainee as she was years ago. Her hair was still black, and there was still flesh on her cheeks. When she did not smile, she seemed

slightly serious. She lay there quietly as if she was asleep.

The mortician asked Stella if she wanted to give Rainee shoes to wear. There was a saying in Rivera that when a close family member passes away, if her next of kin helps her wear shoes, the deceased would be able to find their way home during Tomb-Sweeping day or Ghost Festival.

Stella refused. She said nonchalantly, "If people become souls when they die, I hope she would never return to this home."

'This wasn't even worthy of being called a home,' she thought.

Just before nine o'clock, people started to enter the funeral in droves. With Vermont and Marshall there, the venue seemed very orderly. With the two big shots, the Snyder family and the Moore family, present to pass the incense and lead the way, Rainee's memorial had at least seemed respectable.

Stella was dressed in all black. Her hair was coiled into a bun behind her head. A single white flower was stuck to the side, and she wore mourning apparel. She did not wear makeup, so her face seemed cold and clean. When she heard the people who had come to mourn say, "My condolences," she would numbly nod her head and thank them.

Outside the funeral parlor, Xavier got down from the car. He pulled the passenger side door open, and a girl wearing earth-colored clothes walked out of the vehicle. She was about 1.65 meters tall. Her complexion was fair, and she seemed very skinny. She had a tiny face with slightly elongated eyes. Her features were exquisite.

"Brother, this funeral parlor is tiny," the little girl mumbled quietly.

Trevor came down from the other side. He tapped her forehead once and said, "Don't talk nonsense later when you are in front of people. That's the person who saved your life."

Jaylene rubbed her forehead and said in a soft voice, "I know. Don't keep tapping on other people's heads. Do you know how old I am?"

Trevor twitched his lips to smile. "However old you are, you're still my sister."

He held Jaylene, saying, "Let's go and light an incense for her."

Albert had not expected that so many people would come today. Just by the gate alone, there were tens of luxury cars there. At such a small funeral parlor, there were so many people.

When he arrived at the scene, with just a glance at the venue, he did not want to get out of the car.

In the end, Hylda had to coax Albert to get out of the car. He walked into the funeral parlor carefully. Many people turned around to look at him on the way, but no one talked to him.

Albert shamelessly walked into the venue for the memorial. When Vermont saw him, he raised his eyebrows and thought, 'He really doesn't care to be ashamed, and he still has the nerve to show up here.'

Vermont was usually a talkative person and eloquent person. However, on this occasion, he was too lazy to bother with this person. He threw a few incenses at Albert and did not bother with him. Albert lit an incense for Rainee and walked in front of Stella. Out of habit, he spoke in a scolding tone to her that he used in the past, "Your mother passed away, yet why didn't you inform me?"

Stella's face fell. 'How could he have the audacity to ask such a shameless question?'

Stella thought.

Before Stella could answer, Trevor's voice came from behind. "Mr. Jewell, your wife passed away, yet you didn't know. Shouldn't you ask yourself that question?" i

#### Chapter 458

The mess that was the Jewell family had already been talked about in the social circle like crazy. However, it was Rainee's funeral today. Although everyone wanted to, they did not say much. As the saying goes, "De mortuis nil nisi bene", only the good should remain for the dead. There was no need to cause a ruckus at other people's funerals. Yet Trevor seemed to not care for this. As soon as he entered, he heard Albert reprimanding Stella and could not help but feel bewildered.

Based on the information Trevor had, besides the assertive personality of Rainee, she was actually a very outstanding woman.

'Why did she pick this heartless, ungrateful thing for a husband?' Trevor thought to himself.

Albert's figure froze, and he turned around, slightly irritated. He saw the unfamiliar face of a man and said with furrowed brows, "I'm talking to my daughter. Does an outsider need to butt in?"

As Trevor was about to open his mouth, he heard Stella say, "Albert, it's my mother's funeral today. If you're here for her last moments, shut up and light an incense. If you're here to make a scene, you can leave."

Albert's expression immediately turned ugly, and he said through gritted teeth, "How can you talk to me like this? I'm your father!"

Stella pulled the corner of her lips into a sarcastic smile. She said with a very low voice, "Don't insult that word. I don't want to argue with you here, but if you ruin my mother's funeral, I'll make your children suffer a pain worse than death. If you don't believe me, you can try."

After saying this, she paused and lightly spat out a few words, "Hillbank Primary School, right?"

Albert looked into Stella's eyes. His whole back was riddled with goosebumps, and he was shocked to the core. Stella actually knew he had a son and even knew the school the kid was studying at!

Remembering the methods she used to deal with Sophia, Albert could not help but feel terrified. His expression was a mixture of rage and shock, but he dared not open his mouth. With a sullen look, lit an incense before standing to the side.

Trevor passed a few pieces of incense to Jaylene. Both of them bowed and slotted the incense before walking toward Stella.

"Our condolences, Mrs. Kane."

Stella lightly nodded her head. "Thank you."

Jaylene looked up at the woman before her. She was so refined that she seemed like she had walked out of a painting. The languish expression could not falter the beauty of her features. Jaylene was studying fashion design. She had seen her fair share of supermodels and celebrities, but this was the first time she had seen anyone as stunning as Stella at first sight, i

She walked to the side and scanned the scene. Just as she wondered why there was no member of the Kane family present, she heard a commotion outside.

The Kane family had arrived. Once the car had stopped, Baldwin came down and opened the car door. An old lady exited the car and hurriedly walked into the funeral parlor.

Behind her, Dahlia came down the car and quickly followed the old lady. Dahlia held onto her and said in a low tone, "Cordelia, you should walk slowly."

The old madam flung her hand away and said seriously, "It's the mother-in-law's funeral, yet you come here now and didn't help Stella arrange it?" There were many people outside. Dahlia was being reprimanded by the old madam right in her face and she immediately felt embarrassed. She quietly explained, "Stella didn't inform me beforehand. I also just knew about it."

"If you had usually cared just a little and checked in once in a while, you wouldn't have known until the last minute!" Cordelia was furious. "When your parents passed away, what did your grandfather and I do? After so many years, you've shown no growth! Such a major event happened and you allowed Stella to endure it alone. Do you even have the dignity as an elder?"

Cordelia was such a sharp person. She had interacted with Stella for many years and naturally knew how thoughtful she was. With such a huge incident as her mother passing away, why would she not have informed the Kane family if there were no other reason? The incident had occurred too abruptly. Cordelia had not had time to look into the ins and outs of what happened. Still, it did not stop her from speculating who the perpetrator was.

Dahlia's expression switched between flushed and ashen. She gripped her hands tightly and could not say a word. Cyrene had enough of seeing Dahlia's sorry state and proceeded to hold Cordelia. "Mother, you should cool down. Dahlia had been quite busy recently and may have neglected it.

I ordered some wreaths and elegiac couplets and I've already sent them beforehand. We should go in to see Stella first. The child had been through a lot these few days and it's quite pitiful."

#### Chapter 459

The look on Cordelia's face improved. She then shot Dahlia a cold look before Cyrene walked her inside.

Even Aurora was not happy with Dahlia.

She specially told Dahlia not to interfere, but she did not listen. Even though terminating Stella's card would not kill Rainee, doing so at such a crucial time indirectly drove Rainee to her death.

Obviously, Aurora was not upset that Rainee died, but she worried that Keegan would also put the blame on her when he got back.

"Aurora, walk your mom inside," Chandler said flatly, standing at the side.

"Okay," Aurora responded. Even though she did not feel like doing so, she walked toward Dahlia and held her arm anyway. "Mom, let's go in."

Everybody else at the funeral gave way to the Kanes after they arrived.

Pursing her lips, Cordelia walked inside with a solemn look on her face.

She was walking a lot slower than she would usually. Marshall gave Cyrene a single white rose, and she handed it to Cordelia.

Then, they paid their last respects to Rainee, and Cordelia went to Stella.

It had only been a few days, but Stella looked much skinnier. Cordelia's heart broke when she saw Stella.

She grabbed Stella's hand and sighed before saying softly, "I'm so sorry for your loss, child. I should've been here earlier."

Stella felt a lump in her throat, and she almost cried.

She bit her lip and said hoarsely, "It's fine, Grandma."

"You're not." Cordelia touched her face graciously and said in a low voice, "Don't worry. You're a part of the Kane family. I'll always have your back. No one will be able to mistreat you on my watch." 1

Stella gazed downward and said, "Thank you, Grandma."

Cordelia did not speak very loudly. However, the mourning hall was huge, and nobody was really speaking at that time, so everyone there could hear every word she said to Stella.

Albert regretted what he did so much. 'I should've never listened to Hylda and turned things ugly between Stella and I,' Albert thought.

'What Cordelia just said to Stella was no different from telling everyone that the Kane family would support her no matter what.

'My family will have nothing to worry about if we maintain a good relationship with Stella now that she has the Kane family's support.

'I knew women could never be trusted! Why did I even listen to what they said?!

The look on Dahlia's face turned even uglier. The fact that Cordelia backed Stella up publicly so many times was an insult to her as the eldest daughter -in-law of the Kane family. She regretted that she did not make a move against Stella sooner!

Dahlia paid her last respects to Rainee and stood at the side with a nonchalant face.

Cordelia was very unhappy about what Dahlia was doing, but Cordelia did not criticize her for it because there were other people around them.

The memorial service started at ten o'clock.

It ended forty minutes later, and the morticians started preparing for the cremation.

Vermont kept calling Keegan's number while standing at the side.

'Didn't he say that he'd get here by ten thirty? What's he doing?!

Then, when the morticians were about to nail the coffin shut, he finally saw Keegan walking inside wearily

## Chapter 460

Vermont immediately stopped the mortician. "Hold up, her son-in-law is here. Let him pay his last respect!"

The morticians stopped.

Stella lifted her head.

Keegan was wearing a suit when he walked into the mourning hall with a grim face.

His eyes met with Stella's. Stella's gaze looked very nonchalant as if he was just a stranger to her.

Keegan could not help but feel a little crept out.

Vermont quickly approached Keegan and put a black armband around his right arm.

Cordelia said after seeing how Keegan just stood there. "Keegan, go on and pay your last respect to your mother-in-law."

Dahlia went to him and gave him a stalk of white rose. She said softly, "Put it in the



coffin.”

Keegan recollected himself. He went to the coffin and placed the white rose in it. Cordelia frowned after seeing what he did, but she kept quiet anyway.

Keegan was about to speak to Stella after doing so, but she turned away and said to the mortician, “Please nail the coffin now.”

Keegan pursed his lips.

The sound of nails getting hammered into the wood was the only thing that could be heard in the spacious mourning hall, and Rainee bid her last farewell to this world when the last nail hit the coffin.

The whole cremation process was going to take some time, so Vermont made a reservation at a restaurant nearby for the guests to eat something.

Most of the people who came to offer their condolences had left, and Cordelia was starting to get tired too. She said something to Stella and went back to the car. She also shot his eldest grandson a glance before she left.

Keegan went to Stella. He gulped and said, “My flight was delayed.”

Stella ignored him as she turned around and said to Felicity, “Felicity, do you want to use the washroom?”

Felicity did not want to go, but she changed her mind after glancing at the look on Stella and Keegan’s faces. “Sure.”

Vermont frowned. “What? Didn’t you just come back from the washroom? Is something wrong with your bladder?”

‘What’s wrong with this uncivilized woman? Can’t she tell that Keegan and Stella are in a fight? She’d better not add fuel to the fire!’

Felicity’s mouth twitched as she glared at Vermont. “Worry about yourself first!”

Then, she grabbed Stella’s arm and left.

Vermont was speechless.

He then saw how Keegan stood there like a statue. He was about to console him, yet he could not stop himself from roasting him.

“You’re always very good at talking, no? Did you realize what you just said? What do you mean by your flight was delayed? You were supposed to do anything you can to be at your mother-in-law’s funeral on time! You should show your wife that you’re just as worried and upset as her, and not give her such a horrible excuse for being late!

“Her mother just passed away and she’s at the lowest point of her life. You should’ve done more to show that you care if you’re not going to hug her in your arms to make her feel better. That was her biological mother and you’re her husband! How could you just stand at the side after paying your last respect?”

Keegan paused. “I didn’t know what to do at all.”

Vermont’s blood boiled. “You’re the son-in-law! Did anyone tell you that Stella spent the entire night praying for her mother yesterday?”

Keegan kept quiet.

The Kane family had never held a funeral in more than twenty years, and he was not familiar with funeral etiquette. Also, he had no idea what he was supposed to do as a son-in-law on an occasion like this.

Dahlia told him to place the flower in the coffin, and he thought that it was everything he needed to do.

‘Dahlia has attended so many funerals. I’m sure she knows very well what I was

supposed to do.'

Keegan frowned and asked, "Did anything happen in these few days?"

"Yeah. A group of people went to your mother-in-law's ward and removed her oxygen tube while asking Stella to pay something back. She called me and I went there with Marshall. Fortunately, we it made there on time.

Those scums tried to hurt Stella, and the only reason I didn't break their arms was we were in the hospital."

#### Chapter 461

Vermont paused before he continued, "It's possible that your mother-in-law only passed away before her oxygen supply was disrupted."

The look on Keegan's face turned ugly. Do you know who they are?"

"No idea. However, I'm sure that they didn't do that for money because they left right after knowing that we were going to call the cops. The surveillance cameras in the hospital probably captured their faces, and we'll know who's behind everything once we have a look at the footage."

Vermont paused again. "By the way, where have you been these days? I couldn't even call you. What were you doing? What about Aldor? Did he come back with you?"

"I was helping a friend of mine," Keegan said flatly.

"What is it about? Why so secretive?"

"My friend's identity is sensitive information," Keegan answered.

Vermont stopped asking more questions after hearing that.

'Sensitive information, huh? That person is either from the border or one of the boss man's friends. I'd better stay out of this.'

"How sensitive?"

Marshall's voice could be heard. Then, he continued, "Do you have any friends that we don't know?"

Keegan pursed his lips and kept quiet.

Vermont teased Marshall, "You left us for so many years, and it's only normal for us to get ourselves some new friends. Are you jealous?"

Marshall then turned around and said to Keegan, "Stella has not been in a good shape since a few days ago, and she even fainted on the day Ms.

Rainee passed away. You should pay more attention to her these days."

Keegan clenched his fists and felt a dull pain in his chest.

The cremation was done at one in the afternoon.

They started making their way to the cemetery at half past one.

Stella held Rainee's ashes in her arms.

Keegan finally became smarter after what Vermont said to him previously.

He went to Stella and took the urn from Stella's hand and said softly, "Let me help you with that."

Stella did not resist it. Then, someone passed her Rainee's memorial portrait, and she took it.

Keegan and Stella sat in the same car, but none of them spoke.

Keegan wanted to start a conversation, but he had no idea what to say to Stella.

Stella did not look like she wanted to talk to him at all.

He would rather she at least argue with him.

It was just too quiet. Not only did she not speak, but her eyes were not red at all too. Keegan began to feel uncomfortable in this depressed atmosphere.

The car finally arrived at the cemetery.

Cordelia did not get off the car. She stood too long in the memorial hall just now, and her legs hurt. However, she told Baldwin to remind Keegan to do the right things.

After all, it was Keegan's first time going through something like this, and she did not want him to look discourteous just because he was unaware of the etiquette.

The burial went rather smoothly, but the only bad part of it was the noise of Albert wailing at the side.

He sounded disgusting and pretentious.

Stella stood up when the urn was covered with the last pile of dirt.

She turned around and looked at Keegan with a nonchalant face.

A gust of wind blew by, and Keegan heard Stella saying, "Keegan Kane, let's get a divorce."

## Chapter 462

For a brief moment, Keegan thought that he heard Stella wrongly.

Everyone else around him was just as shocked as him to hear that.

Albert was exposed for having a love child and Rainee just passed away. Stella had no one to support her anymore in the Jewell family, yet she wanted to divorce Keegan before the Kane family abandoned her. It was just an insane thing to do.

Keegan's gaze turned dark after he came back to his senses. "It's not the time to talk about this now."

Albert got nervous too as he scolded, "Stella, what nonsense are you talking about?"

Stella ignored him and said to Keegan, "To me, now's the best time. Didn't we agree on divorcing after you came back from this business trip? We should honor that agreement now that you're back. Let's make our way to the civil affairs office and get it done, so we won't have to meet again tomorrow."

Keegan's face immediately turned cold.

There were so many people at the cemetery looking at them, yet Stella asked him for a divorce. Clearly, she did not want to give him another chance to turn things around between them anymore.

Keegan realized that and his heart sank. 1

He then gritted his teeth and said in a low voice, "I don't want to talk about this now!"

"Well, I do." Stella sounded very determined like never before. "Don't worry, I'm not going to take one penny from you, so you don't have to shift your assets somewhere else. The only thing I want is a divorce certificate. I'll leave the Kane family without taking any of your possessions away."

Vermont hurriedly tried to reason with her after hearing what she said. 'Stella, calm down. We've just done with your mother's burial. Scold him however you want when you get home later. Everything will be fine.'

He winked at Felicity after saying that, signaling for her to back him up.

Felicity rolled her eyes at him. 'No way!

'Where was he when Stella needed him? Why is he even pretending to be a filial son-in-law now? He needs to get out of our sight!

'Stella has no one to worry about anymore now that Aunty Rainee has passed away.'

She's not going to need a single penny from the Kane family!  
Felicity would teleport them to the civil affairs office right now and divorce them herself if she could, so Stella would not have to live with these heartless people anymore!  
She just could not get over the fact that  
Keegan's mother froze Stella's account when she needed the money to save Rainee's life.

Vermont got so mad, his head hurt after seeing how Felicity just kept quiet.

'No wonder they're best friends! She's always on Stella's side!'

Keegan had his pride too. He could not bear it anymore when Stella insisted on divorcing him in front of so many people.

"Stella Jewell, I'll give you one last chance. Do you really want a divorce?"

"I've never wanted it more than now." Stella looked at Keegan emotionlessly. "Find whomever you want to be your new wife. I'm done."

Keegan felt like his heart was getting trampled on.

He wanted to see her so badly these days, yet she said something like that in front of everyone. He felt like he was betrayed and stabbed in the back by someone he trusted with his whole heart. Even worse, that person did all that to him and told him that she was done with him.

Stella turned his life into a mess, so he decided to satisfy her. His pride would just not allow him to give in and persuade her to stay.

He clenched his fists tight and said in a low voice, "I'll see you at the civil affairs office tomorrow morning at nine."

Baldwin frowned and said softly, "Mr. Kane, don't act on impulse."

Keegan was too mad to listen to anything he said.

Stella frowned. "Do you have anything else to do today?"

Keegan gritted his teeth. "It's your mother's funeral today!"

Keegan thought that it would not be right for them to get a divorce on the same day.

Stella smiled sarcastically. "You didn't even come back when she died."

Stella was implying that Keegan should not be bothered by that since he was not there when she needed him.

Keegan did not feel like staying there anymore, so he turned around and left.

### Chapter 463

Dahlia shot Stella a glance. Then, she smirked and left too.

Albert felt like he was about to explode with rage. He immediately went after Dahlia when he saw her leaving.

Everybody else followed suit after the Kanes left.

Most of them only came here for the Kane family's sake. There was no reason for them to stay anymore since Stella was going to divorce Keegan.

Trevor only went to Stella and said after most of the guests left. "Mrs. Kane..."

Stella cut him off. "Mr. Saun, you don't have to speak any further if you're going to convince me not to divorce him."

Trevor was stunned. Then, he smiled and said in a gentle voice, "I was just asking if you have any plans after this."

Stella gazed downward. "Not for now."

Too many things happened in these few days, and she still had not composed herself.

“Would you be interested to join Elegant Media?” Trevor asked in a gentle manner, looking very friendly. “Keegan owns some company shares of Neon Nebula, but Elegant Media is a totally independent company. Obviously, Trevor was telling Stella that signing a new contract with him was the best choice if she wanted to cut ties with Keegan completely after the divorce. However, Stella could not figure out why Trevor would give her such an offer since she was not related to the Kane family anymore. She was pretty sure that Trevor had better options. She was just an inexperienced actress, and she had no idea why Trevor would invest in her. She pursed her lips. “Mr. Saun, do you really think that I can make money for your company?”

Trevor smiled. “I wouldn’t tell Daniel to retain you when you barged into his casting room in the hotel if I don’t.”

Stella paused.

Suddenly, she remembered the pair of men’s trousers that flashed before her eyes when Daniel closed the door during her audition.

‘That was Trevor?’

‘Does that mean that he knew me a long time ago?’

“Ms. Jewell, I’m very confident in my choices and I’m certain that you won’t let me down. You’ve got to have a plan for the future, right?” Trevor paused before continuing, “You’re going to fight a lawsuit soon, and you’ll need plenty of money.”

Stella pursed her lips. Then, she looked at him and said, “Let’s talk about the contract details tomorrow then.”

Suddenly, Trevor felt very relieved. “No problem.”

Jaylene had been waiting for some time. She asked right after Trevor got into the car, “What were you talking to her about?”

“Nothing much.” Trevor paused. “You’re too impolite. Why didn’t you say at least say hi to her? She saved your life, after all.”

Jaylene replied softly, “She was saying something about divorcing with her husband just now, and I didn’t dare interrupt them. I’ll talk to her next time. Dad said he’s going to eat with her, right?”

Trevor kept quiet.

Stella went back to Felicity’s place.

She did not eat for the whole day, so Felicity made a bowl of noodles for her. Stella did not have much of an appetite, but she ate some of it anyway because she did not want Felicity’s efforts to go to waste.

Felicity asked after seeing that she got a little better, “Stella, do you want me to go with you tomorrow?”

“It’s fine.” Stella did not lift her head. “We’re just going to get some procedures done. I can go alone.”

Felicity wanted to ask her if she had really decided to divorce Keegan, but she figured that she would sound like she was not on Stella’s side. So, she used a different approach.

She was not expecting Stella to answer her question without having to think at all. ‘I guess she had made her mind up.

'Whatever. Keegan doesn't treat her like his wife anyway. Why should I help him? I'll stand on Stella's side no matter what!

#### Chapter 464

Felicity thought that Stella was fine until she heard her sobbing in the living when she woke up in the middle of the night to get some water.

Stella was not as tough as she looked. She was just not willing to expose her weakness to somebody else.

She had no one left to depend on anymore now that Rainee had passed away.

Felicity sat against the door. She listened to Stella crying and got sad too.

Then, she sent her mother a text message. [Mom, I won't make you mad anymore.

Please live longer and spend more time with me.]

Felicity's mom replied to her after a few seconds: [You're crazy!]

Felicity was speechless.

Indeed, showing affection was not a thing for her and her mother.

On the other hand, Keegan just got home, and Maria started cleaning things up.

Keegan untied his tie and looked in the hallway. He realized that most of Stella's belongings were still in the same place as if they were never moved.

He frowned and said, "Did she not come back home these days?"

"No, sir. Things went wrong with Mrs. Kane's mother not long after you left, and she had been staying with her mother since. I went to give her some clothes during that time. Oh, I also gave her the medicine that Madam Dahlia brought home."

'Medicine?'

"Yes, sir. Do you remember that Mr. Jewell Sr. got into an argument with Ms. Kane when she came here to give Mrs. Kane some medicine? There were a few bottles that didn't break, so Mrs. Kane asked me to bring them to her."

Keegan took off his blazer. "Why would she need that medicine?"

'Mrs. Kane didn't tell me about that. However, she did not look like she was in very good shape when I brought her the medicine.'

Keegan frowned. "Did anything else happen these days?"

Maria shook her head.

Keegan stopped asking more questions.

Maria stopped him when he was going upstairs. "Mr. Kane, is Mrs. Kane coming home tonight? Should I leave the door unlocked?"

Keegan curled his fingers, and after a while, he said, "Sure."

He opened his bedroom door and could still smell Stella's scent lingering inside.

He was about to open the window, but he stopped. Then, he closed the curtain and went to lie on his bed.

The scent of Stella was stronger on the bed. Keegan breathed it in and his heart broke when he thought about how determined Stella was during the funeral.

He took out his phone and pulled up WhatsApp. He stayed in the dialogue box for very long before he typed, [Let's not split up, okay?]

He hesitated for some time before he hit the send button. He decided to delete the message if he did not get a reply from Stella in two minutes.

However, Stella did not give him the chance to do that.

Keegan looked at his screen. He found out that he could not see Stella's profile

picture. There was only one tick under his text, and he froze in place. Stella had blocked him.

Keegan tried to look at her status, but nothing was shown.

He could not see anything about her at all.

He could not accept it at all. 'Is she really in such a rush to cut ties with me? I

Keegan threw his phone to the side. 'I don't care anymore!'

The next day, Felicity followed Stella to the civil affairs office because she was worried about her.

She planned to leave after Stella got all the procedures done, but the office kept calling her because there was something urgent. So, Stella told her to leave first.

Stella wore a fitted white tee with a pair of wide-leg jeans. She waited for Keegan in front of the office.

It was already nine o'clock, yet Keegan was nowhere to be seen.

She frowned and dialed Keegan's number.

The call connected after a while, and she heard Keegan's deep voice." Hello."

#### Chapter 465

"Mr. Kane. It's already nine. Where are you?"

Keegan pursed his lips. "I'll be there in a while."

'How long is a while? Five minutes? Ten minutes? Give me a specific time.'

Keegan frowned. "We've spent three years together. Can't you just wait for a while more?"

'I can't," Stella said flatly. "I couldn't even spend another second with you when I started to have the idea of divorcing you. Please be here earlier. You're not the type of person that would dawdle around."

Then, she hung up.

From afar, Keegan looked at the entrance of the office and saw the woman who had just called him. Suddenly, he was baffled at how reluctant he was.

He left the house at seven o'clock and had been circling this road countless times. He watched Stella getting off the car, becoming impatient, and eventually calling him.

'She gave up on me. She doesn't want her name to be next to mine for another second.'

He pursed his lips and parked his car. Then, he got out of the car with the documents.

Stella's gaze paused as soon as she saw him. Then, when he got closer, she said,

"Let's go."

She turned around and went inside before him.

The marriage registration counter was filled with joy, but it was the complete opposite at the divorce department.

While they were lining up, Stella saw a few couples arguing in the queue. Some of them even cursed at their ex-partner and the atmosphere was just awful.

Compared to her and Keegan who did not really talk with each other throughout the whole process, they were considered a more peaceful pair.

Keegan turned and looked at her.

Stella looked nonchalant. However, her eyes were a little swollen, as if she had cried last night.

He wanted to say something, but their queue number was called. Stella stood up and

said, "Let's go. It's our turn now."

Keegan kept quiet and followed behind Stella reluctantly.

The officer took their ID. He looked at it and asked before verifying their identities, "Why are you getting a divorce?"

Keegan heard Stella speak before he could say anything. "I cheated."

Keegan was speechless.

The officer looked at her in surprise before shifting his gaze to Keegan.

Then, he said, "Did you cheat on him with... Brad Pitt?"

Stella kept quiet.

She understood what the officer was implying. He did not believe that she cheated on Keegan because of how handsome he was.

Then, she pursed her lips and added, "I cheated emotionally."

"Well, that's not entirely cheating. Perhaps it was just a temporary feeling. You two have been married for more than three years now, and there's no history of you both filing for a divorce. Your relationship with each other is rather stable, so why don't you think about it again?"

"It's fine." Stella gave the officer her documents. "Please get it done."

The officer looked at Keegan. "What about you, sir?"

Keegan pursed his lips. "Whatever."

'Whatever, what?'

Stella rushed him. "Please be quick. I have something else to do."

The officer asked again because Keegan did not make himself clear about his decision. "Do you guys have children? Have you agreed on the division of matrimonial assets?"

Stella's eyes turned cold. "We don't have any children. I got myself a car when we married, and the house belongs to him entirely, as I didn't pay for it at all. I cheated emotionally, so I'm not going to take anything from him. The car will be the only thing I want, and he can have everything else."

The officer frowned. "That sounds like a very sloppy decision."

Then, he asked Keegan, "Are you okay with that?"

Keegan was already very mad at how Stella lied that she cheated on him as a reason for their divorce, so he said angrily, "Yeah. Just do as she said."

The officer stopped talking and handed them two documents. "Please have a look at this and sign if everything's correct."

#### Chapter 466

Stella scanned through the document and signed it.

She did that quickly without hesitating at all.

However, Keegan held the pen and took his time.

Stella's phone rang. She reached for it and saw that Felicity had sent her a post on Facebook.

It was a candid photo of Bella in the airport.

Bella was wearing a pair of sunglasses and a face mask. She had covered herself up in a very casual outfit. There was no fans waiting for her in the airport, and it looked like she was on a private trip. However, one of her fans recognized her and snapped a photo of her.



There was nothing special about the picture since Bella was a rather famous celebrity. It was perfectly normal for a fan to take photos of her.

However, there was a person in the photo that made it look not so typical.

It was Keegan.

He was very tall, and his features looked exceptionally attractive. It was very easy to recognize that it was him by the way he carried himself.

There were few other passengers between him and Bella, but Stella could tell they were at the boarding gate, judging from the angle of the photo.

Also, the photo was taken on the same day Keegan went on that business trip.

Then, Felicity sent her a WhatsApp message. [Keegan is such a scumbag! He disappeared for these few days because he went on a date with that bitch, Bella!]

Stella paused. After that, she put her phone away without replying.

The officer noticed how Keegan just held the pen there without signing the document as if he had not made his mind up, so the officer asked tentatively, "Why don't you guys think it over again?"

Keegan was about to say something, but Stella beat him to it. "It won't be necessary. We have no feelings for each other, and it'll be nothing but torture to the both of us if we force ourselves to be together." Then, she looked at Keegan. Mr. Kane, be with whoever you want after signing this. You won't have to be sneak around and do things behind my back anymore. I'm very disgusted."

Keegan frowned. "Stella Jewell, do you always have to be so mean?"

Stella chuckled and looked at Keegan mockingly. "Mr. Kane, how long have you known me? I've always been like this. I only acted like a good wife because I wanted your one billion. There's no reason for me to please you anymore now that I'm not going to take a penny from you."

The look on Keegan's face turned ugly. He tightened his grip on the pen and signed the paper aggressively.

Stella handed the signed documents to the officer, and he verified them again. Then, their marriage certificate turned into a divorce certificate.

Stella kept her ID. Then, she stood up and left.

Keegan pursed his lip and took their marriage certificate. Then, he looked at the officer and asked, "When can I get a remarriage?"

The office paused and then spoke after a while. "Any time after today."

Then, Keegan took his set of documents and left.

Trevor called Stella as soon as she left the office.

"Ms. Jewell, are you done with everything?"

"Yeah," Stella replied. "I just left the office, and I'll take a cab now."

"It's okay. My assistant is already there to pick you up. The car plate is A66688."

What a flashy plate number.

"Okay, thanks."

As soon as he got outside, Keegan saw Stella talking on the phone.

Stella hung up and looked somewhere else. He walked toward her.

Keegan stood beside her and pursed his lips. Then, he said, "Stella, it's official now. You won't have any of those branded bags and jewelry that you love anymore. You can't regret it now. You'll have to pay the price for not thinking this through." Then, he paused and coughed before continuing. "For the sake of our three-year marriage, I

can forgive you for this. I'll give you another chance if you'd just apologize to me, and we can get remarried tomorrow."

He did not get any response after saying his piece.

He turned around and found that Stella was not there anymore as she had walked away.

Then, he noticed an Aston Martin parked in front of the office.

## Chapter 467

A man stepped out of the car and opened the door for Stella.

She bent down and got inside. After that, the car started and drove away.

Keegan stood there and stared after them.

He looked downward at the divorce certificate he was holding and was overwhelmed with regret.

'Why can't she just give in for once?

'I wouldn't have signed the papers if she did.'

Xavier drove and peered at Stella.

'She divorced Keegan Kane right after her mother passed away, and now she's going to sign a new contract with Elegant Media.

'Yet, she's acting so normally. I'm surprised by how strong her heart is.'

"Is there something on my face?"

Stella spoke flatly. She was looking outside the window, but she could see Xavier looking at her from the corner of her eye.

Xavier coughed. "Ms. Stella, you don't have to be in such a rush. After all, you just finished taking care of what happened in your family. You should take a few days off."

"That won't be necessary," Stella said emotionlessly. "I just had a divorce, and I need money."

Xavier kept quiet.

From what he knew, Keegan actually treated Stella pretty well. Keegan even defended her when she got physical with Aurora, even though his boss got to her before Keegan could.

He just could not figure out why Keegan would end the marriage without giving her any money, not to mention that her mother had just passed away. He thought that what Keegan did was heartless.

An idea popped into Xavier's head when he realized how much his boss cared about Stella.

'Is Mr. Sean interested in Mrs. Kane?' 1

He looked at Stella again and realized that she did look very pretty.

Then, he fell into a dilemma. On one hand, he wondered if he should give his boss a hand in pursuing Stella, but on the other hand, he was not sure if that would be the right thing to do.

He thought to himself for quite some time before he spoke. "Ms. Stella, what do you think of my boss?"

Scrolling through her phone, Stella replied without lifting her head. "He's pretty nice." She did not know Trevor very well and, out of courtesy, that was all she could say about him.

"Hm... Do you have any plans on getting into a relationship now?"

Stella was stupefied.

“My boss is around the same age as Mr. Kane and he’s single too. He likes to drink, doesn’t smoke regularly, plays poker occasionally, and doesn’t have any bad habits. He had two exes but had completely cut ties with them.

“Also, he owns dozens of companies, so he’s just as rich as Mr. Kane. He’s an easygoing and kind person too. There’s no harm giving him a chance.”

Stella was speechless.

Trevor purposely went to the office because he knew that she was coming to sign the contract.

He got somebody to clean his office up and put on a new cologne too.

Stella followed Xavier to the office and saw Trevor sitting behind his desk in a suit while looking at her with a smile.

The faint fragrance in the room caught her attention. The light green tea and woody scent smelled very pleasant and refreshing. She had never smelled this fragrance on Trevor before.

“Ms. Stella, please have a seat.”

Trevor put his hand on top of another and greeted her with a smile.

Stella pulled a chair and sat opposite him.

Then, Xavier handed her the contract that they had prepared in advance.

“Ms. Stella, please have a look at this. We’re open to negotiating if there are any conditions that you’re not satisfied with.”