Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted by Eleven Jewell

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Chapter 532

Stella had no bad angles. Her looks were outrageously perfect, whether viewed from the front or the side. Though her facial features may not be the best-looking when separated, they looked amazing when combined.

Looks were based on more than just refined and prominent facial features. Cosmetic surgery was getting more advanced nowadays, yet people would still know if someone had any work done on their face. That was because the excessive pursuit of perfection for each facial feature often causes the neglect of facial alignment, the most challenging aspect to control during plastic surgery.

Stella was striking at first glance because her facial alignment was perfect. She did not possess what society deemed women needed to be beautiful – small shoulders, voluminous hair, or an hourglass figure. Stella's shoulders were broad, and her hair was flat due to the hat she wore, but neither affected her beauty.

The haters who wanted to capture ugly photos of Dusk Galaxy and bash her on the internet turned pale when they saw Stella's face. No matter how much they disliked her, they could not go against their conscience and say that Dusk Galaxy was ugly. On the contrary, she was good-looking and had good posture. She emitted elegance. Stella's posture was practiced over the years, and nobleness was engraved in her bones. Someone like Bella simply could not compare.

Some sharp-eyed reporters recognized Stella as the psychotic corpsecooking cannibal from Jurisdiction's panel a while ago. 'Dusk Galaxy was the queen of the legal drama that all the verified users supported!'

While Bella's fans were crazily gossiping and criticizing her for being an 'arrogant bitch', the queen was busy helping the local TV channel with a public service video. Even though Stella was getting canceled so badly at the time, she did not use her blue verification badge to justify herself. Instead, she quit the internet and abandoned her account, which had millions of fans.

Every step she took was ruthless and decisive, so when the tables turned, everyone was elated. Such a groundbreaking plot could be news for several months to come: [Fight Between the Legal Drama Queen/Top

Voice Actor and the Famous Little Influencer], Media reporters would not have to worry about their second half-of-the-year bonus.

Aldor glanced at his boss and saw that he was staring at the person at the plaintiffs table with a sullen face, hoping to draw them to him with his gaze.

Aldor sighed quietly. He thought Keegan's pursuit of his wife would go smoothly since he cared for her despite having a wicked tongue.

Moreover, the two already had history. Keegan was also trying to maintain a good and positive attitude. Aldor thought it would be a matter of time before the two reconciled. But things were no longer looking optimistic now that he was staring at Stella in the plaintiff's seat.

'Mr. Kane stole his wife's voice-acting role for Bella at the time. When Bella's name

was overturned due to the voice acting incident and was slapped in the face by Dusk Galaxy, Mr. Kane paid someone to settle it.'

'What Mr. Kane did was equivalent to throwing would away when his wife was trying to grab it. Or if she was trying to get a sip of water in the car, he'd immediately hit the brakes. Or if his wife got ready to sing a song during karaoke, he'd change the playlist.'

In short, he was bringing Stella down.

'I guess the road to getting Mrs. Kane back is long and challenging if we add up all the trouble Mr. Kane had caused...' Aldor suddenly felt a little sympathetic for his boss. Keegan looked gloomy, but he was also shocked at the same time, not because he had just found out that Stella was Dusk Galaxy, but also because her attorney was Marshall.

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'On the night Marshall brought Stella as a date to the charity event, he didn't know she was Keegan's wife. He even called her Ms. Thompson. At that time, Marshall smoothed things over for her and told us that he was involved in her family lawsuit. He even mistakenly thought that her surname was Thompson.'

'Could this be the lawsuit that he was talking about back then? There are so many famous lawyers in Rivera. What a coincidence it is that Stella met Marshall, who had just returned to the country?' Keegan stared at the plaintiff, and his eyes darkened. He did not believe that there were so many coincidences in this world.

The judge's assistant read out the court rules, but Stella could not focus. When she entered the venue and saw Keegan there, her heart sank.

Keegan had made an inexplicable warning in a call last night. He must have known about the lawsuit, but he did not know she was the plaintiff. So, it was clear that he was not there for her.

A few days ago, Marshall asked someone to find out more about the defendant, a girl named Tammy Gull. He dug out everything he could, from her birthplace to her life experiences.

Stella had thought that Bella would not have registered the account under a stranger's identity if she was the one behind the hate account. They then found out that Tammy Gull and Bella Young were cousins. They grew up together and had a tight-knit relationship.

Thus, today's lawsuit was not only about winning. Stella thought that it would be great if they could pry something out of Tammy to drag Bella into the mud.

Keegan did not know that she was the plaintiff, so that meant he was there for the defendant. 'That mutt! Standing up for his little sidepiece while transferring money to me! Ugh! What a jerk!'1

After the judicial assistant read out the court rules, the trial officially began. Marshall displayed the collected evidence on the big screen while explaining each of them. Most of the evidence consisted of insults and slander against Dusk Galaxy by similar accounts. The viciousness behind the words was simply beyond human morals. "The defendant used the internet as a shield to verbally attack and abuse my client for a long period of time. This can be considered as cyberbullying. In July 20XX, my client could not bear the abuse anymore and lost control of herself. She took an excessive

amount of sleeping pills to kill herself and was later diagnosed with depression..." Keegan clenched his fists and stared at the medical report on the screen. It was the first time he had seen the document since Stella had never mentioned it to him. 'July of last year... What happened last July?' Keegan scanned through his memory and finally recalled them having the most serious fight they had ever had.

The two of them had been married for more than two years and had no children at that time. Everything was fine, but Stella suddenly became anxious and struggled with the matter for some reason. Keegan sometimes wanted to relax with her after coming back from work late at night, but she kept asking him to make a baby with her. Stella was not eager to have a child before that, so when she suddenly changed her mind, Keegan could not stand it. He had always thought the best time to have children was when both parties were physically and psychologically prepared. Children were not just the product of pleasure, they were a huge responsibility.

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Stella's health was not in a good state, and she was still a child at heart. Keegan did not understand why she wanted a baby. 'It's like a child taking care of a child!' he thought. Keegan felt like it was not the best time to have children, so they had a huge argument about it.

At that time, the quality of Albert's products was also a problem that involved Stella. This incident made an impact on Chandler's project, and the board members of the company kept asking Keegan for an explanation. Paired with the disagreement about the children, the two got into a serious argument.

After they quarreled, Keegan went back to cleaning up Albert's mess, so he was not home for a while. 'Both of these issues occurred during July of last year...' Keegan thought, and his heart tightened.

He did not know about the sleeping pills nor when the medical report was released. A lump started to form in Keegan's throat as he realized that though Stella hid Dusk Galaxy from him, she never once hid her feelings.

He was the one who ignored them. Stella was not good at keeping her emotions to herself. If Keegan had paid more attention to her, he would have known everything earlier.

When Marshall finished his opening, the judge began to ask for the defense's case. Bella had hired a good lawyer for Tammy. He did not deny Marshall's evidence but instead questioned the medical report.

Stella's medical report was issued in July of last year, and the defendant only really started making snarky comments about her in January of this year. So, the defense attorney asserted that Stella's depression did not have a direct relation to the defendant's remarks.

"In summary, we maintain that there's no necessary causal relationship between the two events. There's no denying that the plaintiff suffered from depression, but it's evident that it was not caused by my client's actions. Her poor mental health could have derived from different reasons. Maybe she had a bad life, or maybe she is someone who is predisposed to mental illness." He then looked at Stella and said, "Your honor, if I may, I would like to ask Ms. Jewell some questions."

"Sir, I think the defense attorney is one of your college classmates."

The defense lawyer was Ted Eldrich. As his name suggested, he would take on any case as long as money was involved and did not care whether his clients were guilty. One of the most famous cases he covered was the poisoning case in Calton University's laboratory five years ago. Various parties provided testimonies that pointed directly at the suspect. However, since no fingerprints or DNA were found in the lab, there was no direct evidence linking the suspect to the crime scene. In other words, there was no way to prove that the suspect had planted the poison.

The suspect had brought the poisonous substance back to their dormitory, and it was found in the laboratory's water dispenser. However, they could not find a link in the chain of evidence. They could only prove that the suspect illegally carried the highly toxic substance.

Ted honed in on this detail and turned the case on its head. What started as a poisoning case was reclassified as involuntary manslaughter. The suspect, found carrying poisonous substances, was only sentenced to five years for causing death due to negligence.

The case became sensational at that time. Though netizens criticized Ted all over the internet, it still did not affect his reputation. Many rich people hired him to represent them in court to escape from being sentenced to prison, and Ted mainly made money from them.

Keegan did not like how the man dealt with things, so he never tried to befriend him. During the poison trial, Ted questioned the witnesses and found flaws in their testimonies, which turned the entire case on its head.

So, Keegan's heart sank when he heard Ted say he wanted to question Stella.

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After deliberation from the jury, the judge said, "You may proceed."

Ted looked Stella straight in the eyes and said, "Ms. Jewell, from your background profile, we can see that you graduated from acting at Trinity University three years ago with the highest distinction. Yet, you were unemployed. Can you tell us what you have been doing for the past three years?"

Marshall frowned. The other party obviously came prepared. Keegan looked sullen while Ted tried to divert the case to public opinion. Stella looked at Ted without fear and said, "Does my life after graduating have anything to do with today's case?" Ted paused and said, "Not for now."

'Then I refuse to answer that guestion.'

'The plaintiff has the right not to answer questions that are unrelated to the case at hand. You may ask another question, Mr. Eldrich."

Ted nodded and asked the second question. "According to the documents, Ms. Jewell, your mother was bedridden." He paused for a while and continued, 'You must've been sad, right?"

Stella scowled after hearing that. 'What kind of bullshit question is this dude asking? If we weren't in court, I would have asked you if you would be sad if your mom were lying in the hospital bed 24/7!'

"Relevance, your honor," Marshall said solemnly. The judge allowed the ruling, and Ted proceeded to ask a third question.

'Ms. Jewell, did you have an assessment for your depression before July of last

year?"
Stella pursed her lips and replied after a long time, "No."

Ted smirked and said, "Ms. Jewell's mother had been ill in bed all year round. Ms. Jewell was sad about the matter and fell into a dark state. According to the data shown here, Ms. Jewell's mother's condition turned critical in June of last year. Ms. Spade also had a history of depression, so we have reason to believe that Ms. Jewell's mental health was due to her mother's critical state, excessive stress, and genetics. It has nothing to do with my client's comments.'

"Objection!" Marshall said with a sullen face. "My client's mother, Ms. Spade, was admitted to the hospital in a car accident seven years ago and was diagnosed to be in a coma. If Ms. Jewell's depression was hereditary, why did it take six years to surface? There's also no reliable source to show that depression can be caused by genetics."

The public gallery began to burst into a discussion at that moment. Ted's questions had opened up Stella's scar to the public.

The two girls who were fans of Bella behind Keegan were aware of the situation and immediately felt that there was hope for a comeback. "Did she really think she could win this case by saying that she has depression? Hah! Everyone is depressed nowadays. How stupid of her to say that the mean comments caused her to be depressed."

'Her mother was in a coma after a car accident and has been in the hospital for so many years. Where does she get her money from if she was unemployed for these three years?"

'Where else would she get her money? With that face of hers, I'm sure guys would gladly pay for her services. I mean, how clean could she be with all that plastic in her face?"

As soon as they said that, Keegan suddenly got up and kicked the chair behind him. The two girls screamed in fright, which alerted the bailiffs in the courtroom.

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Stella looked over to where the shrieks came from and saw Keegan standing sullenly at the public gallery. He was staring at the two girls in the back row with a cold and gloomy expression. Before the girls could process what was happening, they trembled as they met Keegan's eyes. "W- What are you doing?"

Keegan gave them a cold look and replied expressionlessly. "Calcium deficiency. Leg

The corners of the girls' mouths twitched when they heard that. 'Who the hell kicks someone else's chair when they have a leg cramp?' However, Keegan emitted a scary aura, so they did not dare retaliate, even if they knew he was making things up. Aldor glanced at the two haters in the back and thought they were lucky to be girls. Otherwise, Keegan would have kicked more than just their chairs.' People who sexualize women because they're pretty are disgusting,' he thought.

The bailiffs maintained order at the scene by saying, 'Silence in court."

Stella did not see Keegan kick the chairs, so she had no idea what had happened. But by looking at his expression, she knew in one glance that the man was angry.

'How dare he get mad in court after coming here in support of Bella!'

Following this scene, the judge then announced a ten-minute break.

When the court was adjourned, Keegan got up to find Stella, but Ted suddenly stopped him. "Keegan, long time no see. Are you here to witness this hearing today?" Stella saw how close Ted and Keegan looked, and her eyes darkened. "I need to use the restroom," she told Marshall.

Keegan responded casually to Ted and turned around, but he found that Stella was gone. Frowning, he walked toward Marshall and asked, "Where's Stella?" "She went to the restroom."

Keegan was about to chase after her when Marshall stopped him. "There are many reporters at this courthouse today. People are already speculating about her past after the defense attorney's speech. She's a public figure now. Have you ever thought of what would happen if people caught you two together?"

Keegan then abruptly stopped in his tracks.

"Don't worry. I won't let her lose this lawsuit," Marshall whispered.

Keegan turned to look into his eyes and saw that it was dark and gloomy, like a bottomless hole. 'When did she ask you to represent her?" he asked.

"Before the charity event," Marshall replied.

Keegan's face darkened a bit when he heard that. "Why didn't you tell me she was Dusk Galaxy if you knew all this while?"

Marshall's gaze was blank. "Keegan, I'm a lawyer, and Stella is my client. Protecting the privacy of my clients is the most basic requirement an attorney should practice. Plus, I didn't think that her identity affected your marriage."

What Marshall meant was that Stella did not divorce Keegan because of this, so there would not be any difference even if he knew.

However, Keegan did not understand his intended meaning. He clenched his hands tightly, and his voice became slightly lower. "Control yourself, Marshall. Stella's mine. I don't care what you think of her, but I'll kill you if you ever lay a finger on her." Marshall stopped adjusting his sleeves and looked at Keegan with indifference. "I have always been in control of myself when she was your wife. But now that she's not, I think you're the one who should restrain your thoughts."

Keegan's face turned grim. The two stared at each other, and neither one gave in. "How did you know Stella's mother got into a car accident seven years ago?

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Keegan's question was carefully crafted. Ted only mentioned that Rainee was bedridden, but Marshall knew the details and the specific time and date of the accident. 'How could he have known all these when he has only known Stella for a little over two months?' Keegan thought.

However, instead of answering his question, Marshall asked him another question. "Did you know how Rainee passed?"

Keegan's fingers curled. He did not pursue the answer to this after the funeral since they had no relationship. To him, Rainee was nothing but a vegetable. They never even spoke a word to each other before. It would be a lie to say that he missed her. Keegan did not have a great relationship with his mother, Dahlia. So, he could not empathize with Stella, especially when she asked for divorce at the funeral. He thought that she was being unreasonable. When Marshall posed the guestion,

Keegan was a little scared to know the truth.

"When we went to the hospital, Ms. Spade had not completely lost her vital signs yet. It was Stella who took off her oxygen mask. She was your wife. You were supposed to protect her for the rest of her life, for better or worse, in sickness and health. But since you did not fulfill your duties as her husband, you have no right to ask any questions." After speaking, Marshall turned around and left the courtroom without waiting for Keegan's reaction.

Keegan stayed where he was with a tense face. After a long while, he returned to his seat at the public gallery. When Aldor saw his grim face, he did not dare ask what Marshall had just said to him. "Don't worry, Mr. Kane. Their evidence is quite solid, and Mr. Moore has a lot of experience with such lawsuits. I'm sure they won't lose this," he whispered.

Initially, Keegan's face was pale because Marshall declared war, but it turned even paler when he heard Aldor praising him. 'She won't lose even if he weren't the one to represent her! I have the money to hire the best lawyer!" he said through gritted teeth. Aldor was speechless. 'Why does Mr. Kane sound like he's mad as hell?'

The hearing continued a few minutes later, and Stella returned to the plaintiffs table once again. She looked more in control of herself compared to what she was earlier. The attorneys from both sides continued to counter each other's statements. Though Ted's skills were not inferior to Marshall's, Marshall did have sufficient proof to support his claims. Stella quickly presented new evidence regarding the questions that Ted had asked her earlier.

After she was diagnosed with depression for the first time, she went to the hospital for monthly checkups, and at the end of last year, her symptoms completely disappeared. Her mother entered a critical stage several times, but her mental state was normal. She showed no signs of depression after that. This proved that her mother's health did not play a role when she was diagnosed with mental illness last year.

Ted did not have a counterargument and could not produce new evidence at that point. He was gradually slipping into a disadvantage. Marshall then took the opportunity to win the case by asking the judge if he could ask the defendant a few questions, and the judge allowed it.

Tammy pursed her lips tightly when she knew she would get questioned. She had not spoken since the beginning of the trial because her lawyer advised her to stay silent to avoid any slip-ups.

"Ms. Gull, when did you register your Facebook account, and when did you make your first post? What's the specific content that you wrote? Does anyone else have access to your account? Did you ever lend your account to anyone before?"

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Marshall threw Tammy a series of questions, and she got confused. "I don't remember the exact time, but the account was created... the year before last year. My first Facebook post was a repost, I think. I'm the only person with access to the account, and I've never let anyone else use it," she muttered.

Marshall's expression was calm. It was impossible to tell if he had what he wanted to hear. Tammy was worried that she had said something wrong, but seeing that her lawyer did not say anything, she relaxed a little.

'May I know when your birthday is, Ms. Gull?" "July 16th."

"July 16th…" Marshall repeated the answer and suddenly said, "To my knowledge, Ms. Gull, you wished yourself a happy birthday in a post you made on February 19th. I'm sure you don't have two birthdays now, do you?"

Tammy's face changed. February 19th was not her birthday, but Bella's. Bella had always used that account, so she did not know what she had posted. 'Oh, what an idiot! Why did she post her private details on a burner account?!'

"Answer the question, Ms. Gull."

Marshall was even more intimidating than the judge, and Tammy unconsciously became nervous.

"February 19th is my client's idol's birthday. Fans wish their idols happy birthday all the time. So I don't think there's a problem with that, right?"

"No, of course not," Marshall said lightly. "I just find it strange that you wrote 'happy birthday to me' instead of 'happy birthday to my idol'. This is my first time seeing a fan post something like that." He then turned to the

judge and said, "No further questions, your honor."

The crowd went into a craze of discussion once again. Bella's birthday was certainly no secret to her fans. It was also very common for fans to create birthday posts for their idols, but wishing yourself a happy birthday on your idol's birthday was rather bizarre. Moreover, fans usually post pictures of their idols along with their birthday wish, unlike Tammy's post, which included a picture of a cake and the caption: [Happy birthday to me],

Marshall finished his questioning and left the people to speculate the rest. After presenting all the evidence and counterarguments, the jurors discussed their decision on the spot and came up with a judgment.

Tammy and the others were convicted of insult and had to publicly apologize to the plaintiff on Facebook and other public platforms. The apology letter will be publicized for more than seven days, and the offenders had to provide a total of seventy-six thousand dollars as compensation for emotional damages. A sentencing date will then be chosen for the crime of defamation.

The result of the lawsuit was well within Stella's expectations. Though seventy-six thousand dollars from four people was not much, the end judgment was significant. Cyberbullying was not a matter to joke about. In recent years, this form of abuse had cost people their lives while the perpetrators often escape from responsibility. Victims of cyberbullying could really benefit from the law being by their side so they could have the courage to stand up against the abuse.

Stella did not mind being the leader of this movement. After the trial ended, reporters who had been waiting to interview Stella rushed to surround her after she left the court.

Stella was kind to the people. She stood at the steps in front of the courthouse and said, "Safety first, everyone. There's no need to push. I promised to make some time for an interview, and I intend to keep my promise. You can ask me anything you like, but please keep in mind that I only have 10 minutes to spare. I still have some personal affairs to attend to, and I hope you can understand that."

The reporters thought they were interviewing an angel since many big-shot celebrities

nowadays don't see the paparazzi as people anymore. They often needed the media to create exposure for them, but diss the entertainment journalist career both secretly and openly.

Stella, on the other hand, was frank and respected the people, which made her highly attractive.

"Ms. Jewell, do you know that everyone calls you the queen of legal drama? Stella was a little surprised. She had not been on the internet since she had a lot of stuff going on and did not know people called her that. "Is it because I'm good at acting like a psycho?" she asked.

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The crowd laughed. Someone played along with her words and joked,' You're indeed psychotic when you're being a psycho."

Stating the obvious always seemed humorous, no matter when it was used.

"Stella, are you currently only on Jurisdiction? Have you considered acting in dramas or films?"

"Stella, do you really have no plans on voice-acting anymore?"

'Stella, are you currently single?"

"Stella, are you signed to an agency?"

They asked all sorts of questions, one after another.

There were questions about her relationship status and about her grudge against Bella.

Stella had been fighting a battle of wits and courage with Dahlia for years, so she answered their questions flawlessly.

Marshall timed their questions. After 10 minutes, he came over and reminded Stella, "It's time to go."

Then, Stella said, "Excuse me. That's it for today. We can talk again next time if there's a chance."

The reporters were disappointed, but they made way for her.

Marshall shielded one hand in front of Stella. It hovered around her waist and prevented the brash reporters from bumping into her.

When they reached the car, he opened the car door for Stella. Then, the two of them got into the car one after another.

Keegan was in the car behind them as he watched the scene that had happened just now. His lips were pursed into a straight line.

After the car in front of them started moving, he finally said in a low voice, 'Follow them."

Once Stella got into the car, she leaned back into the chair and breathed a sigh of relief.

Then, she finally said, "Great work today, Mr. Moore."

Marshall laughed. "I'm not working for free. I charged you for this." Stella chuckled.

'Marshall really did earn quite some money from my lawsuit. When I went to Marshall's law firm previously, I heard from assistants at the firm that it's rare for lawyers of Marshall's level to take lawsuits below a million dollars. They usually take big cases. Since cases like mine are laborious, they rarely take them. I totally owe him

a favor for being willing to take my case,' she thought.

Stella was in a much better mood after winning the lawsuit. She asked, 'Let's have a meal together. What do you want to eat?"

Marshall turned the steering wheel and said warmly, "I'm fine with anything. What do you want to eat?"

"Let's have something good." Stella smiled with her eyes.

She continued, "How do spicy skewers sound?"

Marshall also started smiling.

"Is that considered something good?"

Stella said, "The people on set are usually really strict when it comes to my carb intake, so this is considered something good to me."

After hearing Stella's words, Marshall said, "Alright."

In front of them, the traffic light turned red. Just as Marshall stepped on the brakes, there was a loud sound behind them.

BANG!

Something had rammed into their car, causing it to lose control and slide a few feet forward.

Stella frowned and looked backward.

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Stella looked into the rearview mirror and saw a gray-colored car. However, she could not clearly see the exact model of the car.

She frowned. 'Is this person a novice driver? How'd they ram into our car?' 'I guess we'll be having our meal a little later." Marshall chuckled warmly.

Stella said, 'Let's handle the incident first."

'Give me a moment," Marshall said in a low voice. Then, he switched on the hazard lights, unbuckled his seatbelt, and prepared to get out of the car.

"I'll go with you," Stella said as she unbuckled her seatbelt.

'Marshall has a really gentle disposition. What if the other driver is unreasonable, and Mr. Moore can't outtalk them? I need to tag along and see. If Marshall cant outtalk the person, I'll talk instead. After all, I'm pretty brazen, and I've never lost when it comes to arguing,' she thought.

Marshall laughed and said, "Alright."

And so, Keegan saw Stella and Marshall get out of the car. Stella even purposefully went around the car and walked to Marshall's side.

She was wearing a white-colored hoodie and had her hair casually draped over her shoulder. She had a cool expression on her face as her hands were angled and tucked in the pockets of her hoodie. Her red lips were pursed, and she gave off an intimidating feeling that prevented others from getting close to her. She looked like she was not to be messed around with.

She walked ahead of Marshall, her stance shielding him behind her.

Seeing her actions, Keegan could not help but darken his gaze.

In the first year of their marriage, they went to Keegan's grandmother's birthday together. He was driving then.

When the traffic light turned green, a scooter sped out from a blind spot as soon as their car moved. Keegan reacted quickly and immediately slammed the brakes, but

their car still rammed into the scooter.

The person on the scooter was a middle-aged woman in her 50s. She even had a child that was five or six years old on board.

After they got hit, the two fell off the scooter.

Keegan told Stella to call the Collision Reporting Center and the insurance company while he got off the car to check on the situation.

While Stella was on the phone, the middle-aged woman got up from the ground.

Then, she swung her helmet and smashed Keegan's car.

Since Keegan was a man, it was obviously inappropriate for him to put his hands on an older woman with a child. However, the woman upped the ante and started cursing while smashing the car. She even wanted to kick Keegan.

Back then, Stella was enamored of him and newly wedded to him, so she could not stand seeing her man get beaten up. She immediately whipped out a golf club from the backseat and smashed the scooter without warning.

Her movements were swift and relentless. The golf club was made of alloy material and incredibly sturdy, so it only took a few hits before the scooter's windshield got smashed to pieces. When the child beside them saw this, they were so frightened they started crying.

When the old woman realized Stella was a tough nut, she could no longer play the bully and quickly went to protect her grandchild and the battered scooter.

The traffic police and insurers came. They took some photos and collected evidence. The car's initial damage was not too bad after it got hit by the scooter that ran a red light.

Since they also had car insurance, the scooter driver probably only had to compensate 10 or 20 thousand dollars as a lesson, and the matter would have been considered closed.

However, the old woman was being a bully. She ran a red light and blamed them for not watching their way while driving. She smashed their car and hit them, so her actions were considered intentional damage to another's property. The repair costs alone were at least several hundred thousand dollars. When the old woman heard the compensation amount, she immediately twisted the truth and she accused Stella of smashing her scooter first.

The result was predictable. The dash camera had clearly recorded the person who started it first.

Stella smashed the scooter and only had to pay her two to three thousand dollars for compensation. The middle-aged woman had it bad and had to pay a couple hundred thousand dollars.

Stella was really fierce when she smashed. After they handled the incident, she got in the car and took off her sunglasses. Her voice immediately softened as she said quietly, "Honey, don't be mistaken. I'm not usually like that. Everyone says I'm gracious, intelligent, ladylike, and virtuous."

Keegan was speechless.

'I almost would've believed her nonsense if I hadn't seen how ruthless she was when smashing the scooter. Stella had never been a tame little bunny. She just liked pretending to be one,' he thought.

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Keegan's thoughts ran. 'It's just as Stella said. "She put her hands on you first, my own husband. If anyone hits him, it only can be me." She's very protective of the people or things in her domain. Back then, the person she shielded behind her back was me. But now...'

He stared intensely at the two who were slowly walking over.

'Even if it weren't him, I'd still want to pull that person aside and stand there instead!' he thought again.

Stella frowned.

'The two of us have already gotten out of the car, yet the person in the car behind us hasn't budged at all. They've got bad driving skills and collided with the rear-end of our car, yet they're still being arrogant,' she thought.

Marshall knocked on the driver's window, and the window slowly winded down. Just as Stella wondered if the driver was a man or a woman, she saw Aldor smiling apologetically. He greeted them. "Mr. Moore, Mrs. Kane, what a coincidence." Stella was speechless.

Marshall was also stunned momentarily.

"Aldor? Why are you here?"

Aldor got out of the car. 'I'm driving Mr. Kane to his grandparent's residence. I'm not used to driving this new car, so I didn't manage to hit the brakes on time. I'm terribly sorry," he said as he glanced at Marshall's car. Then, he said with an apologetic look, "The damage looks pretty serious. I just contacted the Collision Reporting Center and the insurance company. They'll come and collect the evidence in a bit. Sorry for holding you up, Mr. Moore."

The corner of Stella's lips twitched.

'How good are Aldor's driving skills? I'll put it this way, he could do a 360 spin on the spot with his skills. How could the assistant Keegan hired

make such a rookie mistake? Did that mutt, Keegan, tell him to do it?' she thought. Stella stared at the passenger's seat window in annoyance.

Even though she could not make out the person within, she still could feel Keegan's gaze.

Forget about him helping my rival with their lawsuit. He's even ramming into my car.

Why is Keegan getting increasingly annoying after our divorce? 'she wondered.

While she was glaring at the window, it got winded down.

Keegan was in the backseat dressed in a suit. He lifted his head slightly and looked over. "How is it. Aldor?"

Aldor answered, "Mr. Kane, this is such a coincidence. The car we rammed into is Mr. Moore's car. Mrs... Ms. Jewell was also in the car. Mr. Moore's car looks pretty badly damaged. Even its tail lights are cracked."

Keegan frowned. "How long will it take to settle things?"

"Probably 20 to 30 minutes. It's currently peak hour and it's a little congested, so the people from the insurance company will take some time. Mr. Kane, why don't you give Madam Kane a call and say that you'll arrive a little later?"

Keegan pursed his lips. Moments later, he finally said, "Ask them to hurry up."

Seeing his look of annoyance, Stella started to wonder if she was overthinking.

'Ever since the car window got winded down, Keegan hasn't even looked at me,' she

thought.

Right after Keegan spoke, his phone rang.

His phone was connected to the car speakers via Bluetooth. Keegan answered the phone, and Baldwin's voice sounded from the speakers, "Sir, how much longer until you arrive?"

Keegan answered, "There's been an accident. Maybe after half an hour."

"Is it serious? Did you get hurt?"

"I'm fine." 'Why don't you take a cab here? I fear Madam Kane can't hold on any longer. If you don't come right away, something might happen."

Chapter 542

Stella's heart abruptly sank.

'Grandma looked pretty healthy when I saw her at the funeral. Why's she suddenly not able to make it?' she wondered.

She had a tense expression as she subconsciously tightened her fists.

Since Stella's mother had just passed away, she was currently very sensitive toward the health of the people around her.

Only people who had experienced such things understand how unpredictable life can be.

Keegan could not help but darken his expression slightly. Then, he said in a low voice, "I understand. I'll be there immediately."

After he hung up the phone, he unbuckled his seatbelt and got out of the car.

He glanced at Stella and Marshall. Then, he turned to Aldor and said, "Stay here and wait for the people from the insurance company to handle things.

I'll take a cab there."

Right after, he walked in the opposite direction at a hurried pace. Stella could not help but have her heart in her mouth. She subconsciously called out to him. "Keegan!" Keegan stopped walking. He turned to look at her with an indifferent gaze.

Stella pursed her lips and asked in a soft voice, "What happened to grandma?"

Keegan met her eyes and said in a serious tone, "I'm not sure either. If you want to know, we can go there together."

Stella dug her fingers into her palms.

'Keegan and I are already divorced. Is it appropriate to go at a time like this?' she wondered.

Keegan waited for a few seconds. A hint of disappointment briefly flashed across his eyes when he saw her remain still.

"I'll be leaving first," he said indifferently.

Stella's throat closed momentarily.

'I can be oblivious when something happens to anyone in the Kane family. But if it's grandma, I can't turn a blind eye when I know something's happened.

'Madam Kane has been the kindest to me in the entire Kane family, so I can't ignore my conscience and pretend I didn't hear Keegan's words,'

thought Stella

That was why she called out to Keegan the moment he turned around and said, "Wait for me."

Then, she turned to Marshall. "Mr. Moore, I'll treat you to a meal another day. I'll go

visit grandma first."

Marshall softened his expression and said in a low voice, "Go ahead.

Contact me if anything happens."

Stella breathed a sigh of relief and thanked him. Then, she ran after Keegan.

Marshall darkened his gaze as he watched the two leave. Moments later, he finally withdrew his gaze.

Aldor smiled apologetically. 'I'm terribly sorry for holding up your time, Mr. Moore." Marshall laughed. "It's fine. I've got time."

Aldor's smile faltered. For some reason, he understood another meaning from Marshall's words.

'He's got time to repair the car. He's also got time for her,' he thought.

Chapter 543

Keegan pursed his lips and said in a low voice, "Congratulations on winning the case today."

Stella smiled, but she did not open her eyes.

"You're probably very disappointed that I won, Mr. Kane. You've wasted so much attorney fees for nothing and even had to pay compensation."

Keegan frowned. "What would I be disappointed about?"

Stella opened her eyes and glanced at him through half-opened eyelids.' You really spent a fortune to hire Mr. Eldrich as your lawyer."

'Marshall said Ted Eldrich's attorney fees are really expensive. Besides, it's not like one can hire him simply with money. He also considers his client's status. Bella may not be able to hire him, but Keegan definitely can,' she thought.

At the thought of how the two exchanged pleasantries in the courtroom, Stella could not help but darken her expression.

'Why is he putting on a show?' she thought.

"You think I paid money to hire Ted Eldrich?"

Stella glanced at Keegan. "Otherwise, why'd you come to the hearing? Mr. Kane, when you talk with Mr. Eldrich, at least do it in private. Also, make your acting more realistic. You can't deny things just because you lost the case."

Keegan was speechless.

However, Keegan became level-headed after hearing Stella's cynical words. He started rethinking the things that had happened in the past two days. 'Stella is Dusk Galaxy, so she's definitely not behind the photo incident. So who's the person who wanted me to come to this hearing? And what's their objective?' he wondered. Keegan froze and suddenly looked at Stella. She was looking at him coldly. There was a hint of cynicism in her eyes.

'I think I know the person's objective behind asking me to come to this hearing. They wanted Stella to think that I helped them with the lawsuit. They obviously achieved their objective based on Stella's current gaze on me. Stella and I are currently already divorced, so there's a barrier between us. I'm working hard to remove it. Yet, someone's increasing the barriers, causing me to never be able to overcome them. Who is this person?' he wondered.

Keegan racked his brain for someone suspicious. Suddenly, he realized there were too many people with this motive.

'Too many people are eager for Stella and me to get divorced. Too many are concerned about Stella,' he thought again.

Keegan explained, "There's a misunderstanding here. I did not know you were involved in this lawsuit. Ted and I are merely acquainted. In the courtroom, he only greeted me, and it wasn't because I hired him."

Stella listened to him justify his actions before she finally said, "Why'd you show up at the hearing when you don't know a thing?"

Keegan was silent. After a long while, he said, "Someone sent me a letter and asked me to attend."

Stella could no longer hold back the anger she had been holding in the entire day. "Keegan, shut up if you're really just going to make excuses! You came just because of a letter? Then why didn't you answer when I called you that many times when I got into a car accident? Is a letter more important than your wi... ex-wife?" Keegan was at a loss for words.

"I'm not lying to you."

Stella put on her earphones. She turned to look out the window and ignored him. After the student got out of the car, the cab driver went straight to Keegan's grandparents' residence.

They got out of the car the moment they arrived at the estate. Baldwin was already waiting for them behind the gates.

"Mr. Kane. Mrs. Kane."

Baldwin still addressed Stella the way he used to. However, Stella was anxious to know of Cordelia's condition, so she did not dwell on how he addressed her. She asked in a low voice, "Baldwin, how's grandma?"

Baldwin paused. He glanced at Keegan, who had an indifferent expression, before he pursed his lips and said, "I'll take you two to see her."

Chapter 544

Stella and Keegan followed Baldwin into the house.

Baldwin had a serious expression on the way there, so Stella dared not ask any questions. However, as they kept walking, Stella realized Baldwin was not leading them to Cordelia's room but to the turf at the back of the estate.

Stella frowned and whispered, "Baldwin, are we going the wrong way?"

"Nope." Baldwin continued warmly, 'Madam Kane is here."

Soon after, they arrived at the horse stable. Stella immediately spotted Cordelia looking healthy as she sat outside the stable with Juno.

Cordelia held an apple and muttered, "Have a bite, sweetheart. Look at you, your coat is no longer shiny, and your face has gotten longer. If you keep getting skinnier, you'll turn ugly. Then, it will be even less likely that Stella would come and visit you."

Juno made grunting noises and anxiously kicked its hooves as if it were throwing a tantrum.

"Why don't you just have a bite? You haven't pooped in two days. You're making me worried."

Stella was speechless.

'Didn't they say the old lady can't hold on any longer? Which part of her can't hold on any longer? Isn't she alive and kicking? She's even got the energy to feed a horse!'

she thought.

Then, Stella could not help but glare at Keegan, who was pursing his lips and had an unchanged expression.

Baldwin said loudly, "Madam Kane, Mr. and Mrs. Kane are here."

Cordelia paused and turned to Stella. She immediately looked as if she had seen her savior.

"Stella, come, come! Hurry up and come take a look. Juno hasn't been eating or drinking for the past few days. I don't know what's wrong."

Stella could not give Cordelia an attitude and leave, so she had no choice but to walk up to her.

'Have you asked a vet over to take a look at him?"

"I did." The old lady frowned. She continued with a look of worry, "The vet said it's psychological. Juno's been yearning for someone until he fell sick, so he's throwing a tantrum and refusing to eat."

"Yearning for someone until he fell sick?" Stella's eyebrows twitched. She could not help but silently think about how absurd it was.

'Can even horses yearn for others until they fall sick?' she wondered.

She coughed. "Did you get Juno a girlfriend?"

Cordelia shook her head. "He misses you. You haven't played with him for over half a month now. He's angry and throwing a tantrum."

Stella was speechless.

'I have a feeling the old lady is uttering nonsense,' she thought.

However, Juno quickly gave her a response. It turned its head and glared at her with its big eyes as it panted heavily through its nose.

This was a sign that a horse was excited.

'Is Juno that fond of me?' she wondered.

Stella was not certain either because Juno had an unpredictable temperament.

Juno was an exceptional horse, so it was bound to have quite the temper. Besides, Cordelia spoiled Juno, so it would not let anyone it did not acknowledge touch it. But of course, it was also not friendly with the ones it acknowledged.

Cordelia handed the apple she was holding to Stella. "Try feeding Juno."

Stella had no choice but to accept it. Then, she handed it to Juno's mouth.

Juno stared at her for a few seconds before it opened its mouth, bit the apple, and threw the apple on the ground.

Stella was speechless.

"I told you it has nothing to do with me..." Before Stella could finish her sentence, Juno suddenly stuck out its neck and bit on Stella's shirt sleeve.

There was a loud ripping sound, and Stella's shirt sleeve got ripped off from her shoulder.

Juno excitedly galloped circles within the stable with Stella's shirt sleeve in its mouth. The corners of Stella's lips twitched.

Chapter 545

'I bought so many hair accessories for this rotten scoundrel for nothing. Not only did Juno not accept my kindness, he even bit the hand that fed him! As expected, he's the same as that mutt, Keegan,' Stella thought. At this thought, she glared angrily at Keegan.

Keegan was confused.

The old lady did not expect such a thing to happen. She immediately smiled awkwardly. "Maybe he likes your scent."

Right after Cordelia finished her sentence, she suddenly exclaimed in shock. "Juno's eating! Quick, look, Stella! Juno's eating!"

Stella looked at Juno. The horse picked up the apple it had thrown onto the ground just now. This time, it was obediently eating the apple.

The old lady quickly gave it a carrot. Unlike earlier, Juno ate the crunchy carrot and no longer refused to eat.

"I told you Juno misses you because he hasn't seen you for too long." The old lady laughed. She continued, "The moment you came, he made a fuss, but his appetite suddenly improved. He's already used to your coming to play with him every week. He misses you when he doesn't see you. Stella, come over when you're free. Juno's happy when he sees you. I'm the same."

Stella smiled slightly. Then, she said ambiguously, "Well see how it goes then, grandma. I've been pretty busy recently."

'Today's an accident. I really thought something had happened to grandma. I lost my cool because of how concerned I was. If something had

happened to grandma, we should be headed to the hospital, not the estate, 'she thought.

The old lady did not insist. She turned to Keegan and said, "Keegan, take Stella to get a change of clothes. After this, well have a meal together."

Just as Stella wanted to reject her, Cordelia continued, "After we have a meal, you and I will have a chat."

Then, Stella shut her mouth.

Initially, there were Stella's clothes in Keegan's room. However, the two did not stay there often, so the old lady worried the clothes would get dusty. She told Corrin to put them away. There were only two flimsy pajamas in the wardrobe, so Stella obviously could not wear them.

One of Stella's arms was exposed, and her bra strap was even faintly visible. Stella looked rather unsightly, so she sat in Keegan's room waiting while he went to look for Corrin for Stella's change of clothes.

Stella's phone kept vibrating in her bag, so she took it out and glanced at it.

Felicity had forwarded her a few Facebook posts.

Stella's lawsuit this morning had become a trending topic.

#DuskGalaxyAppearsInCourt

#DuskGalaxyStella Jewell

#DuskGalaxyJurisdiction

#DuskGalaxyLiveVideo

#DuskGalaxyWinsPersonalityRightsCase

#DuskGalaxyCaseDefendantAllegedlyBellaYoungAssistant

The entire entertainment section was covered in these hot topics.

The discussions under these related topics were intense.

[WTF? The psychotic corpse-cooking cannibal is Dusk Galaxy!]

[Why do Bella Young's fans have the cheek to cyberbully her? Don't they know whose

voice-acting made their idol popular? You eat from the hand that feeds you, but bite the same hand when you're done?]

[I was at the hearing today and saw Dusk Galaxy in the flesh. She even said hello to me!]

[How was it? Is she pretty?]

[Totes! Only a handful of people in the entertainment industry can beat her looks. She looks even better in person compared to Jurisdiction. She's so fair that she's glowing!] [Is the defendant really Bella Young's assistant?]

[I also heard about this expose on those Facebook pages. They said they saw that person on set when Bella was shooting. However, the photo is a little blurry, so the person's face can't be seen clearly. Regardless, the person's silhouette is really similar.]

[Damn! If that really is her assistant, did she really not know her assistant was cyberbullying Dusk Galaxy?]

[How could she not know? Who knows if she herself instructed her? When Secret Sweetheart was being aired, her fans were having a feud with Dusk Galaxy. Then Bella herself posted some original audio video, saying she wanted a showdown with Dusk Galaxy. In the end, that blew up in her face! Her voice was no match for Dusk Galaxy's, so she threw shade at Dusk Galaxy's looks. Now that Dusk Galaxy's looks are much better than hers, let's see what shell use to compete with Dusk Galaxy. She could win a grand prize if they competed in paying to be a trending topic.] [The commenter above is so ballsy. I like your words. Don't forget to turn off your replies!]

Chapter 546

Felicity called Stella via WhatsApp.

"Bella can't stay still any longer. She's paying to have the trending topics removed!" Bella paid many Facebook pages to promote her new drama. She tried to cover the lawsuit using the popularity of her new drama.

Right after Stella refreshed the app, some of the trending topics were already losing popularity.

Stella asked, "How much does it cost to buy a trending topic?"

'Don't think about it. It's more than your paycheck. You're currently broke. You can't afford it."

Stella said, "I've got several hundred million on my card. How am I poor?' Felicity was speechless.

"I suddenly feel like Keegan's pretty generous to you. Why don't you remarry him? You can divorce him again if you find him an eyesore. Don't forget to take several hundred million from him when you divorce him again. When you no longer find him an eyesore, marry him again. Then, divorce him again and divide his assets... And the cycle repeats itself. Isn't this more profitable than acting?"

Stella's lips twitched. "You're so smart."

Felicity laughed slyly. Then, she asked, "Are you really going to buy a trending topic?" 'Nah. I even hesitate when buying property. I should spend money on more important things instead."

Felicity strongly agreed. "There's no need to waste such money. Bella's persona is made up. It's only a matter of time before she's exposed, so don't waver. If you end

her with a single hit, you'll make things too easy for her. It's more painful to kill someone with a blunt knife. We need to let her be in pain for a longer time! 'Why should we panic? She's the one who should panic. She and Stinky Cucumber are about to terminate their contract. Stinky Cucumber's really stingy, so he definitely won't spend any more money on her. Maybe she even paid to remove the trending topics out of her own pocket. Let her be in pain!"

"You're right, but..." Stella paused.

"Why are you calling Vermont a Stinky Cucumber?"

Felicity paused and said, "Which decent man would routinely change his woman? He's a Stinky Cucumber!"

Stella said, "Mr. Snyder isn't a bad person. He's rather righteous, and he's in our circle. You might even need his help in the future, so get along with him. Regarding his personal life... How do I put this? Anyway, as long as he isn't messing with us, there's no need to force our morals on him."

"He's a…' Felicity gritted her teeth. Moments later, she finally said," Whatever. Anyway, just stay far away from him!"

She continued. 'Are you dating Mr. Moore right now? I saw a video of you and Mr. Moore coming out of the courthouse together online today,' she said as she giggled. 'The golden boy and girl... You two are quite the match. Why don't you just date Mr. Moore? You could also irritate Keegan by doing that."

Felicity was a little dense, but she could tell Keegan still had feelings for Stella. 'Which ex-husband would occasionally transfer money to his ex-wife after they've gotten divorced? He's even added his ex-wife's bestie's WhatsApp account just to peek at his ex-wife's current situation. Ahem! Well of course, I didn't tell Stella that Keegan had added me on WhatsApp. I didn't accept Keegan's request when he first added me on WhatsApp. Keegan, that mutt, told Vermont to talk to me. Then, Stinky Cucumber-Vermont- threatened me with what happened on his birthday, so I was forced to accept Keegan's friend request. While Keegan did not say anything after adding me on WhatsApp, it always feels like I'm a spy. Besides, I can't tell Stella about this. Because if I do, I can't hide the fact that I slept with Stinky Cucumber. It's too humiliating, and I don't want Stella to know,' thought Felicity.

Felicity was pissed, but she also did not dare wrong Keegan. Her insistence on asking Stella to consider Marshall has something to do with her petty grudge.

'He's pursuing his ex-wife and not currying her bestie's favor. Instead, he's threatening the bestie? Continue pursuing her a little longer then,' Felicity thought again.

"Don't play matchmaker. After the lawsuit, Mr. Moore and I will be parting ways.

Besides, I'm currently at Keegan's grandparents' residence."

Felicity frowned. "Why are you there? Keegan's mother and sister aren't there, right? Don't get bullied by them."

Stella laughed. "If we meet, who knows who'll be the one bullying who?

Chapter 547

'Back then, the two ordered me around on the account that they were Keegan's closest family. I tolerated them for the sake of Keegan and out of respect toward elders and juniors. However, who's Keegan to me now?' thought Stella.

"When will you be back today? Do you need me to pick you up?"

"Nope. You should finish work earlier so that you can go home and rest. I'll be fine taking a cab home."

'Alright, then. Call me if there's anything you need, okay?"

After Stella hung up the phone, she glanced at the time.

'I've been on the phone for over ten minutes. Is Keegan getting the clothes or making the clothes?' she thought.

Stella walked to the mirror and stood in front of it. She looked at the blouse on her. Not only was her shirt sleeve torn off, but there was even a rip on the back of her shirt. She wanted to see how badly ripped her shirt was, so she lifted her arm. However, she heard a loud ripping sound. The rip that originally only reached her shoulder blade had now reached her waist. The fabric on her back loosely dangled below, exposing most of her back.

Stella was speechless.

She turned around and looked in the mirror. She felt as if she were wearing lingerie that did not reveal her shoulder.

Stella waited a few more minutes. Seeing how Keegan still had not returned, she stood up and took a set of pajamas from the wardrobe. After throwing the pajamas onto the bed, she started unbuttoning her blouse.

Right after she unbuttoned two buttons, she suddenly had a thought.

'Is there still a need for me to unbutton this shirt?' she wondered.

And so, she removed the hem of her shirt from her pants. Then, she crossed her arms and pulled the bottom of her blouse, intending to take off her blouse by pulling it upward to her head.

Just as Stella lifted the shirt to her head, she heard the sound of the door knob twisting.

She hurriedly tried to pull the blouse back down, but the button on the blouse got caught in her hair. With it stuck in her hair, she could not take the blouse off or put it on. Stella heard the door about to open, so she shouted in panic, 'Don't come in yet!" Right after she spoke, Keegan opened the door and froze.

Stella stood by the bed with her hands and blouse stuck above her head. She only had a bra on her, revealing a large area of snowy, white skin.

The blouse was firmly stuck to Stella's head, so she could not see the person in front of her at all. However, she knew he might have a look of mockery after he saw how stupid she looked.

She said through gritted teeth, "Get out first!"

Keegan did not speak.

His gaze slowly moved up from her slim, fair waist and landed on her full breasts. Since Stella was in a panic to get the blouse off her head, she was breathing heavily, and her chest heaved up and down.

Keegan's gaze darkened slightly.

He pursed his lips and slowly walked up to Stella in silence.

Stella evidently noticed him approaching. She could not help but move backward.

"Why are you coming over? I told you to get out!"

Keegan threw the clothes he was holding onto the bed. Then, he reached out and gripped her flailing arms.

"Don't move." he said in a low voice.

Stella obviously did not listen to his words. She did not even listen to him when they were married, let alone after their divorce.

Right now, Stella only felt immense humiliation.

'I fantasized about taking revenge and outdoing myself after our divorce and acting pretentious to give him a slap the success of my career in his face. However, the reality is too embarrassing,' she thought.

Chapter 548

'I managed to get a shirt stuck on my head when taking it off and even let my exhusband see me in the act. I really want to bury myself alive! Why does Keegan always see me in my most embarrassing moments? As expected, Keegan's my kryptonite!' she thought.

"Get out! You liar!"

Stella shook her head and attempted to dodge his touch. She also did not forget to drive him out.

Keegan frowned. "What did I lie to you about?"

'You lied to me that grandma couldn't make it? Which part of grandma can't make it? Aren't you afraid that you'll shorten grandma's life by making such a lie?!"

"Since when did I tell you that grandma can't make it?"

Keegan said in annoyance, "Use your brain and think. What did I tell you back then?" Stella reflected momentarily.

'It seems like Keegan really didn't say anything. It was Baldwin who called and said grandma couldn't hold on any longer. Besides, Keegan had a serious expression, so I obviously thought grandma might not make it.

Who would've thought that Baldwin had shortened his sentence? The original sentence was probably, "Hurry. Madam Kane has been feeding Juno at the stable for too long. She can't hold on standing any longer." While I did misunderstand the situation, Keegan did not explain it to me either, she thought.

'Who cares about what you said? Either way, you're a liar! Don't touch me!" Stella said while dodging him.

Keegan missed grabbing her hands a few times, so he simply hugged her waist and threw her onto the bed. Then, he gripped her wrist and had him under her.

'Are you going outside with your blouse above your head? Stay put, and I'll help you undo it!"

Stella gritted her teeth. "You're acting like a hooligan even when untangling my hair? Get off me!"

Stella stuck out her legs to kick him while speaking.

Keegan pressed one of his legs onto her knee to hold her in place. Then, he helped her untangle the hair caught on the button, saying, "Aren't you the one acting like a hooligan? You knew I was coming in to bring you clothes, yet you didn't lock the door while taking your clothes off? It's not too much to say that you deliberately left the door unlocked to seduce me, right?"

When Stella heard how Keegan twisted the truth, her face turned red in anger. "Alright. Even if I had deliberately left the door unlocked to seduce you, don't you know how to knock on the door before coming in? Even if you didn't knock, aren't you supposed to leave after seeing such a scene upon entering?"

Keegan answered unapologetically, "I don't have the habit of knocking on doors in my own house."

'What a darn good reason!' Stella thought.

She gritted her teeth. "Then why didn't you leave after seeing such a scene when you're worried about being seduced?"

Keegan was silent for a while before he finally said, "Outright taking off your clothes as a form of seduction is a little low, even for you."

Just as Stella wanted to make a comeback, Keegan said into her ear in a low voice, "But it works on me."

Her ears instantly reddened.

'Is Keegan teasing me?' she thought.

Stella was embarrassed and angry.

"Keegan, we're already divorced now. If you dare do anything to me, I'll sue you for indecent assault!" she said through gritted teeth.

"I won't touch you," Keegan said as he untangled another strand of hair. He continued, "I won't push you to do those kinds of things anymore unless you're willing." Stella was so furious her face flushed red.

'Who the hell would be willing?" "I've got a question." Keegan looked at the flushed chest of the woman under him. He said in a low voice, "Are my skills really that bad?"

Chapter 549

Stella was speechless.

'Why's he asking me this kind of question? He may be shameless, but I'm not.' Stella pursed her lips as she remained silent.

Keegan saw her refusing to answer him. He was a little unhappy as he asked again, "Am I bad at it?"

Stella was tired of being asked questions. She stared at him through her shirt, saying, "How'd I know whether you're bad at it or not? I'll let you know after I get a new boyfriend. I'll sleep with him and make a comparison."

Keegan was angry. His displeasure was clear in his voice. "You want to try it with someone else?"

"What's wrong? I can't have a sex life after we've divorced?" It seemed like Stella found a way to irritate Keegan. She squinted as she said, "Other husbands are vigorous. They can do it seven to nine times a night. And you? You can barely do it once! I was tricked by you because I was too inexperienced! I should try a few more guys before I remarry. I won't marry a guy like you!"

The corners of Keegan's eyes twitched. He looked furious.

"Seven to nine times a night? Do you think it's animal breeding? You can't even close your legs after two times. And you want to do it seven to nine times. Are you planning on riding a pig to go out the next day?"

Stella was stunned. She was not angry with what Keegan said. She was surprised by the filthy language that he blurted out.

After all, she was always the one who spoke rudely back then. Even if Keegan spoke vulgarly, he would not speak too offensively. Unlike her, she would always just speak rudely without controlling herself.

And after hearing what Keegan said, she even imagined the way she would walk the

next day. She even felt that the way Keegan described it was exceptionally fitting! But her expression immediately turned ugly when she remembered he was describing that about her.

"It means you're bad at it if I can get down the bed the next day!"

Keegan stopped untangling her hair. He looked intimidating as he stared at her. "Do you want to try the feeling of not being able to get down the bed?"

Stella realized his tone did not seem right. She covered her breasts with her elbows.

She clenched her teeth as she said, "Even if I want to try it, I won't try it with you.

Don't forget what you said just now!"

Keegan held her waist. His voice was deep. "What did I say?"

Stella was afraid that he would get aroused. After all, they were in a sexual position now. "You said you wouldn't force me to do this kind of thing with you!"

"Did I?" Keegan gently caressed her soft waist with his finger. His voice was deep, "I always break my word."

He unstuck the last strand of her hair as he said that. He then removed her shirt from her head. He grabbed her hands as he stared into her eyes which were filled with rage with his dark eyes. He then kissed her on the lips while she looked at him. He instantly smiled like a kid who had successfully pranked someone as he said, "What can you do even if I touched you?"

Stella fumingly stared at him with her eyes wide open.

'I shouldn't have believed the crap that this piece of shit said!'

Stella opened her mouth and bit his shoulder.

Keegan only wore a shirt. She bit him very hard. He was in so much pain that he frowned.

He simply allowed her to bite him. A few seconds later, he suddenly asked, "Is this the mark like the one in those Omegaverse novels you read? Biting on the other person's gland to mark the person?"

Stella was very surprised by what he said. She gradually stopped biting him after hearing that. She then released her bite and stared at him. "You looked at my tablet?" Keegan glanced at her. "Can you turn off the cloud storage function when you read those nasty things? I don't want to see those that stuff when I use my computer to search for information."

Keegan paused. "What does knotting mean?" 1

Stella was speechless.

Stella expressionlessly said, "It means entangled."

Keegan raised his eyebrow. "Entangled inside the body?"

Stella looked annoyed.

'Keegan's such an asshole. He clearly knows what it means!

'He must've read all those novels that I saved. He even knows about the markings in those Omegaverse novels!'

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'I had to be secretive when I was downloading those novels. I was afraid Keegan would think badly of me if he knew what I was reading. But this piece of shit knew about it long ago. And yet, he still pretended as if he didn't know about it!

'I wonder what he thought about me when I lied to him about learning Yostrainian

whenever I was holding the tablet to read those Yostrainian novels back then! 'Those Yostrainian words that took me a long time to understand, Keegan instantly knew that they were sex terms when he looked at them. He's a lot better than me in Yostrainian!'

Stella was furious. 'Keegan's such an asshole!'

Keegan was enjoying the changes in Stella's expression when she was annoyed, angry, and looked like she wanted to kill him. He unconsciously smiled slightly. He gave a faint sigh. He softly whispered in her ears, "It'd be great if we can mark someone in real life."

'Keep dreaming!" Stella stared at him. "This kind of thing only sounds good in graphic novels. Once someone is marked, he or she can never remove the mark. Alphas can mark any Omegas. But Omegas can only be marked by one Alpha. Alphas can cease to be faithful and love someone else. But Omegas can only be faithful to one person in their whole life. Why is that? If we could mark people in real life, the first thing I'd do is remove my gland. Nobody can mark me!"

'I read those kinds of erotic novels just for fun. Who'd want to encounter such a horrible experience in real life? I'm so angry!'

Keegan glanced at her. "What if you're the one who marks someone?"

Stella fantasized about it. She narrowed her eyes. "Then I'd mark a few young men." The corners of Keegan's eyes twitched.

'She's such a hypocrite!'

They did not realize they got off the topic until someone pushed the door open. Cordelia saw the two of them lying on the bed. She then immediately closed the door. Stella was speechless.

She then glanced at Keegan who was on top of her. She kicked his calf. 'Get off of me! Stay away from me! We're divorced! Grandma will misunderstand if she saw us!" Keegan then slowly got off of Stella.

Stella immediately grabbed her shirt and put it on.

Not that Stella was shameless. Keegan and Stella had seen each other naked for several years. That was why she did not feel awkward when she talked to Keegan in her lingerie. After all, she had to wear only a bra to sit in the bathtub in front of so many people while she shot bath scenes. She was used to it.

Once she was ready to leave the room, the two of them walked toward the door. When Keegan pulled the door open, he then saw that Cordelia's ear was against the door. Cordelia almost lost her balance when Keegan suddenly opened the door. Stella deftly grabbed Cordelia's arms.

'Grandma, be careful.'

After Cordelia steadied herself, she raised her head to size them up. She frowned as she said, "That's awfully fast."

Keegan and Stella were left speechless.

'What's grandma thinking?'

Stella explained, "I was just changing my shirt."

After hearing that, Cordelia instantly glanced at Keegan in disgust. She murmured, 'You're worse than Juno!'

Keegan looked confused.

Cordelia had someone cook for them. Stella could not refuse Cordelia's kind offer. So,

she stayed for the meal.

During the meal, Cordelia did not talk about Stella and Keegan's divorce. She just asked Stella what she was doing recently.

'She's such a hypocrite!'

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Stella told her that she was recently shooting a show. Cordelia was very happy when she heard that/ "That means I can see you often on the television in the future?" Stella smiled. "It's not a very important role. But you'll still be able to see me." 'You just started filming. You'll have more opportunities in the future. Get the best actress award and show them that you're capable."

Stella chuckled. "I'll do my best."

While they were talking, Keegan's phone rang. He then grabbed his phone and walked outside to answer the call.

Cordelia took this opportunity to say to Stella, "Stella, the Kane family wronged you. I only knew about the divorce between you and Keegan after some time. I don't know how to face you."

Stella's expression changed. "Grandma, don't say that. Keegan and I divorced purely because we had some issues among ourselves. It has nothing to do with you. You treat me well. I'll always remember that. No matter what the relationship is between Keegan and me, you'll always be my elder."

Cordelia pursed her lips. "Answer me honestly. Did you divorce Keegan just because he didn't attend your mother's funeral?"

Stella curled her fingers. She said after pondering, "Grandma, I might not be able to get pregnant. If so, will you still allow Keegan and me to be together?"

Cordelia was stunned. She instantly frowned. "If he divorced you because of that, you should just ignore him forever! You should just leave this kind of man who only cares about procreation and preserving the family name."

Stella was confused.

Keegan heard that from outside. He unconsciously looked unhappy.

He felt that his grandmother was advising Stella to leave him instead of advising her to get back with him. 'She didn't say anything that's beneficial to me.'

"But surely Keegan isn't this kind of man. He knew from the very beginning that..." BAM!

A loud noise could be heard from the living room. Cordelia stopped talking for a moment. She coughed and said, "I'm an old woman who's going to die soon. There's nothing that I'll disallow. I just want you two to be happy.

I don't have many years left. Why would I still go against you two and give you guys trouble? Moreover, the current medical technology is very good. Any medical issue can be treated as long as it's not a terminal illness.

You're still very young. Don't be so pessimistic. It's a happy ending as long as you two want to be together. Don't always care about other people. They don't matter!" Stella was speechless.

'I feel like she didn't listen to what I said.

'It seems like grandma doesn't care about that.

'But she clearly wanted to have a great-grandchild back then. She got over it so

quickly?'

"Why don't you and Keegan set a time to get the marriage certificate back? It just so happens that my birthday's coming up soon. Why don't we have the wedding ceremony and the birthday celebration on the same day? It'd be a double celebration!" The corners of Stella's eyes twitched.

'Why do I feel that grandma seems so much like a trickster, tricking me to go register with Keegan as a married couple again?1

"Grandma, let's eat."

Stella picked up some food for Cordelia. She obviously wanted to end this conversation.

Other than the problems between her and Keegan, she could not forget what Dahlia did.

Cordelia knew Stella wanted to stop talking about it. So, she just remained silent. 'My grandson is disappointing. There's nothing more I can say.'

"Right." Stella took out a card and the emerald thumb ring from her bag.' Grandma, I should return this thumb ring to you. Keegan and I are divorced, I shouldn't keep what's yours. You should keep it. And this card. After we divorced, the money that Keegan transferred to me is all in this card. The password is the reverse order of my birth date. Help me to return this to Keegan."

After Dahlia talked to her, she kept this emerald thumb ring in a box inside her bag. She wanted to return it to Cordelia when she saw her. And today was a good opportunity. She would not need to purposely look for Cordelia just to return the ring to her in the future.

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Cordelia chuckled. "Stella, once I gifted this thumb ring to you, I never planned to take it back. It isn't expensive too. You can just wear it for fun. And for this card, this is a matter between you and Keegan. It's his money. He can use the money in any way he likes. You can talk to him personally about it if you don't want to take the money. It's not up to me."

Stella pressed her lips together.

She would not ask Cordelia to help her if Keegan was willing to take the money back.

Now she could not return the money to him if Keegan did not want to take it.

'Keegan is such a piece of shit. He causes me so much trouble even after we divorced.'

After Keegan came back from taking the call, Stella looked unhappy whenever she looked at him.

While they were eating, Baldwin suddenly knocked on the door and walked in. Madam Kane, Mr. Moore is here to visit you."

Keegan stopped moving.

Stella immediately raised her head to look outside.

Marshall was holding a gift box. He was politely standing behind Baldwin. He smiled slightly as he looked at her.

"Mrs. Kane, I came uninvited. I hope I didn't interrupt anything."

Cordelia was extremely happy. "Of course not. I wish you guys can visit me every day just like when you guys were kids." She paused for a second." Have you eaten? If you

haven't eaten, sit down and eat with us."

Marshall gently said, "I dropped my car off for repair just now. I didn't have the time to eat."

Keegan was speechless.

He suddenly realized how Trevor felt when Trevor looked at him that time when he took the alcohol to Wenham's room at The Deli.

After hearing that, Cordelia immediately said, "Baldwin, get a set of tableware."

Baldwin got Marshall a set of tableware soon after he took his gift.

Marshall thanked him. He then sat opposite Stella and Keegan.

"Marshall, just take any food you want to eat. Make yourself at home. Don't be shy." Marshall jokingly said, "Since when have I treated myself as an outsider in front of you?"

Stella pushed the honey-grilled pork rib to Marshall. She softly said, "Mr. Moore, eat this."

When she discussed her case with Marshall back then, they talked about some unrelated topic. She got to know that Marshall liked sweet food.

Other than the honey-grilled pork ribs, everything else was cooked to Keegan's and her taste. The food was either too bland or a little spicy. She thought Marshall probably did not like those.

But this action of hers made Keegan frown.

However, Stella did not notice that.

Marshall had a gentle expression as he thanked her. He then turned his head to chat with Cordelia.

Cordelia liked Marshall a lot.

Not only was Marshall sensible, but he was also very polite. When Keegan was a child, while he was still fighting over things with Vermont to compete with him, Marshall was already a modest kid who knew how to protect everyone's feelings. He was very sensible. He was too sensible for his age.

Elders really liked especially thoughtful kids.

Among the grandchildren of the Kane family, only Keegan was a decent person. The others were all good for nothing. So, Cordelia really hoped Marshall was her grandchild whenever she met him.

Cordelia knew Dahlia wanted Marshall to be her son-in-law. Naturally, Cordelia wanted to facilitate this marriage too.

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Although she hoped that can happen, Cordelia was not blind. Marshall was clearly not interested in Aurora. Moreover, Aurora had a bad temper.

Marshall deserved a better wife. That was why even though Dahlia repeatedly explicitly or implicitly talked about that matter, Cordelia never promised her anything. She merely said it was up to the kids.

They rarely got to eat together. Just like any other elder would, Cordelia inevitably asked Marshall about his relationship status.

"Marshall, you've been back for a long time. Did your parents set you up on a blind date?"

'They did. But I didn't have the time to go." Marshall gently said, "I have a lot of work

to do at the law firm. It's more important to get those work done."

'You have to work. But you shouldn't overlook your love life. I know quite a lot of decent girls. If you don't like the girl your mother set you up with, just tell me your requirements. Education background, looks, personalityjob, and so on. Anyway, just tell me. I can help you with it."

Marshall was a little tense. "There's no hurry."

"You should! Just tell me your requirements. It'll enhance the chance of a successful blind date."

Stella subconsciously felt amused as she looked at Marshall's awkward face. 'Even Mr. Moore doesn't know what to do when he's being pressured to get married.' Cordelia constantly urged him to tell her. Marshall had no other choice. So, he told her some of his requirements.

'Looks decent and has a university degree. I don't have any other requirements."

'Decent looking is a very high requirement." Cordelia calmly said, "Back then, Keegan also said that he just wanted a decent-looking girl. But in the end, he chose Stella out of a few hundred girls. If girls like Stella are only considered decent looking for you guys, then I guess you won't be able to find a girlfriend in Rivera."

'Ahem, ahem!" Stella almost choked on the soup. She could not help but cough. Keegan glanced at her without speaking.

He did not think Stella was very decent looking when he first saw her. But after they got married, he found her increasingly attractive.

After Marshall heard what Cordelia said, he smiled as he tenderly said,' Stella does indeed look decent."

Keegan stopped moving. He looked gloomy.

Stella also felt that what Marshall said was a little weird. She then changed the topic. "Grandma, don't just chat. You should eat too. Or else, the dishes will get cold." As she said this, she went to take a piece of the honey-grilled pork ribs for Marshall. But before she could reach the plate with her fork, the plate full of honey-grilled pork ribs just now suddenly had none on it. All of them were now on Keegan's plate. There was already a pile of eaten ribs next to his plate. And his plate was still full of pork ribs.

Stella's mouth twitched. She murmured, "You don't like to eat sweet food, right?" Keegan glanced at her. "I feel like eating it today. Can't I?"

'You could've just taken a few pieces if you wanted to eat it. Why must you take all of it? How can the others eat it now?'

Stella inexplicably thought about what happened a few days ago. Keegan was drunk. He took all the prawns from the plate for her.

'Should I be grateful that he didn't take all the pork ribs for me?

'Or else he'll embarrass me too.'

There were no pork ribs left. Stella did not want to take any food for Marshall. She was afraid that she would take food that he did not like for him.

After eating, Cordelia chatted with them before she asked them to rest for a while. She then went to the horse farm to bring Juno to run a few laps. After that, she went upstairs to rest.

Corrin cleaned the dishes. Stella got up and followed her to the kitchen to prepare some fruits. Only Keegan and Marshall were in the living room.

Keegan swirled the tea leaves in his cup as he faintly said, "Your car is still not fixed. Why did you rush here?"

Marshall smiled. "I was worried about Mrs. Kane. I was also worried that Stella couldn't find a taxi when she goes back."

Keegan stopped moving his cup. He immediately stared at Marshall.

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Marshall's gaze met his and was unwavering. There seemed to be no ripples underlying his gaze, yet a turbulent tidal wave hid inside.

Keegan took a sip of his tea and then put the cup on the table. "Your worries seem to be unfounded. I have many cars at home. There's no difference if I gift one to her." Marshall also chuckled. "I was afraid Stella wouldn't be willing to get in a car since she doesn't like to take advantage of others."

Keegan seemed to not have understood who the "others" Marshall meant in his sentence. Instead, Keegan said nonchalantly, "It's good that you know. You've had your meal, spoken your conversation, and drank this tea. You should go home soon." Marshall was speechless. The corner of Marshall's lips twitched. As he was about to answer, Keegan said, "Oh, I suddenly remembered that your mother said you would have trouble sleeping after drinking tea."

When saying this, he took over the cup of tea in Marshall's hand and sipped. "It's better you don't drink the tea. Leave quickly."

Marshall was once again at a loss for words. After not seeing each other for a few years, Keegan has grown to be more outrageous. At the same time, Stella brought out a fruit platter that was freshly cut. She beckoned Marshall to eat them. "Mr. Moore, have some fruits."

Marshall's expression softened, and he thanked her kindly. Keegan initially wanted to stretch his hand out to take some but found that Stella had cut a plate of mangoes. He gave Stella a look. "Weren't there strawberries?"

Stella glared at him. 'Mr. Moore doesn't like to eat strawberries."

The corner of Keegan's eye twitched hard. 'How long has she known Marshall, that she knows what that "other person" likes or dislikes to eat?' Keegan thought. Stella naturally was bullshitting. How would she know what fruits Marshall likes? However, Stella did not want Keegan to eat the fruits she had cut herself. She purposedly cut up a plate of mangoes due to Keegan being allergic to mango. Strawberry was the fruit that Keegan liked. Hence, she did not cut them on purpose. Marshall seemed to be very pleased and spoke to her in a low voice about the issues regarding the follow-up processing for the defamation case.

Stella listened earnestly and would respond once in a while. Keegan was listening on the side but could not help but feel sore from gritting his teeth in jealousy.

"It's almost time to bring Juno for a jog," Keegan said softly. Then he glanced at Marshall, saying, "It would probably be for one or two hours. You're so busy at your law firm, so I won't keep you here."

Stella looked at the time. It should be two hours after Juno has eaten. They should be running rounds at the race track based on their usual habits.

Marshall put down the fruit salad fork. "During court trials, the law firm usually has no other arrangements, so it wouldn't be that busy today. I also haven't seen Juno in a

long time and miss it quite a lot. If you don't mind, we can go and see it together." He then said to Stella, "After that, I can bring you home on the way."

Stella immediately answered, 'Of course, that would be great." Carpooling would also save her the cost of calling a cab. How great was that? The lawsuit helped her win some compensation and even helped her save money. If Marshall was not an angel, he was definitely a leprechaun to her.

'Even with the victory in the defamation case, there's still the property settlement between Albert and Rainee. I need to form a good relationship with Mr. Moore. If I win the property settlement case, wouldn't it be another big paycheck?' Stella thought. Keegan saw the look Stella had while she stared at Marshall with smiling eyes. His expression unconsciously fell.

Juno had finished its meal and was already restless in the stables. Keegan and the group had just arrived, and Juno could not resist squealing. Its nostrils huffed and puffed while its hooves did not stop stomping in small steps while staying in place. Its eyes were black, bright, and sharp. Its mane was soft and flowy, with the fur around its body shining from its dark color. Stella seemed to understand why Cordelia had named it Juno because it looked so beautiful.

Keegan had changed into attire for horse riding and opened the gates to pull Juno out. Juno was not in a rush to follow Keegan. Instead, it circled Stella with its hooves clickclacking in front of her. It shook its neck with an eager look.

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Stella was slightly bewildered. She checked the horse from top to bottom. Her line of sight suddenly fell on Juno's hooves. Then, she exclaimed in shock. "You changed shoes?-

Juno instantly raised its head and jogged a few steps in front of her in a cocky manner. It had changed into new horseshoes that made clicking sounds when stepping onto the ground. It even purposefully stomped heavily like a kid who bought new shoes. It flaunted by walking back and forth in front of its friends. Stella was crying and laughing at this. She highly suspected Cordelia had bought it then because it was so anthropomorphic.

Marshall chuckled. "I was thinking why it was walking back and forth. Turns out it was showing off its shoes."

Stella smiled while touching Juno's mane. "It even flaunted its hairclip to me before this. Apart from Juno being unable to talk, it's like a small child."

"It's that smart?" Marshall said while imitating Stella's movements as he stretched his hand out and wanted to touch its mane. As a result, Juno turned its head to avoid him so Marshall could not touch it.

Keegan saw this scene while pulling the reins. The corner of his lips raised slightly. "This horse is not touchable by just anyone."

What Keegan said was the truth. Juno recognized its master. Besides the horse trainer, only Cordelia, Keegan, and Stella can touch it. Aurora wanted to ride it before her friends to show off once before but was shaken off its body mercilessly. After that incident, Aurora would not dare mess with Juno again. However, the truth spoken by Keegan was not pleasant to the ears.

Stella feared that Marshall would be embarrassed and explained, "Juno is unfamiliar

with strangers. It'll be fine when you get familiar with each other in the future." Marshall laughed. "Good stallions recognize their masters. It's not surprising to me." Juno anxiously spun in place, itching to run on the race track. Keegan said to Stella, "Put on the harness. You can bring it to warm up first."

Stella did not refuse. Her riding skills were average, but she quite liked riding horses. These types of violent-tempered horses, like Juno, were more exciting to ride when tamed. Hence, she naturally did not refuse. It was unknown if it was due to not seeing each other for some time since she usually needed to coax Juno when riding it. Instead, Juno was exceedingly well-behaved and allowed her to get on its back without a fuss.

Stella tugged at the reins, and Juno ran onto the race track in small steps. Stella swung the horsewhip and struck Juno's back. Juno received the order and started to increase its speed. Stella leaned down and squeezed the horseback while feeling Juno's blazing speed.

Marshall stared at the valiant woman riding her horse on the race track. Profoundness was deep in his gaze.

Keegan glanced at Marshall and said nonchalantly, "I was the one who taught Stella how to ride."

Marshall regained his thoughts and replied, "Really? That's quite hard to imagine. Stella said you don't even have the patience to dance with her."

The underlying meaning was that Keegan might be making up his statement about teaching Stella how to ride horses. Keegan was speechless.

'This woman would really say anything to outsiders! When did I not have patience? It's just that I didn't like to dance. Two people intimately twisting their hips and shaking their butts on the dance floor. What beauty is in that? 'Keegan thought.

Stella finished running two rounds and came back. A light layer of sweat had built up on the tip of her nose. She jumped off the horse and pulled Juno in front of Keegan. She threw the reins to him while she said, "Juno was too excited, and I almost couldn't pull him in. You go on."

Just as Keegan took the reins, Marshall took a bottle of water, and twisted it halfway before passing it to Stella. "Drink some water and have some rest."

Keegan's eyelids twitched harshly while he watched this.

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Stella thanked him while taking the bottle over. Then, she twisted it open and drank almost half the water bottle.

'Your riding skills are quite good," Marshall complimented her.

"It's just average," Stella was very humble. Her skills, in the eyes of others, might have been presentable. However, in the eyes of professionals, it would be inadequate. Keegan glanced at her, "Marshall had learned horsemanship systematically. If he says

you're good, then you are good."

Stella was a little surprised. The last time Trevor came to challenge Keegan, Marshall did not join. Hence, Stella assumed that Marshall did not know how to ride horses.

"You even learned horse riding professionally on purpose?" Stella asked.

Marshall chuckled, "I learned it together with Keegan. I wouldn't consider it especially professional. It's just that I know a little bit about riding horses."

All locals speak very humbly of themselves. When Marshall said he knew a little bit, he definitely did not just know a little about it. Remembering Marshall's resume on the law firm's website, she could not help but be in awe that someone could be so versatile. Keegan saw with his own eyes how Stella's expression had turned from astonishment to amazement, then to admiration. The jealousy in his heart started to churn.

He said to Marshall, "Why not we have a duel by running two rounds together?" Marshall smiled and said, "Better not. I haven't ridden horses for so long. I most probably am rusty."

Keegan's lips twitched into a smile, "If you're rusty, I'll let you start early by half a round."

Marshall's body froze. If he was letting him start early by half a round, then the intention for provocation was too obvious. Naturally, Stella also heard it. She said with furrowed brows, Mr. Moore, if you don't want to ride, then don't ride the horses. There is no need to acknowledge him."

Keegan stared at Stella while his expression fell slightly. Marshall suddenly gave a single chuckle, No matter." When he said this, he looked at Keegan, "We can have a duel, but there is no need to let me start early by half a round. I can win gracefully and also lose graciously."

Keegan tightened his lips and threw the keys to the room for harnesses to Marshall, "Prepare yourself and choose a horse."

After ten minutes, Marshall walked out wearing protective gear and had chosen a brown horse from the stables. This horse seemed to have been bought by Cordelia recently since Stella had never seen it before. However, the horse's physique was on par with Juno's. The muscle definition on its body was smooth, and its height was even taller than Juno's. However, it lacked steadiness compared to Juno, as if it had not been wholly tamed and still had hints of its wildness.

Stella said in a low voice, "Mr. Moore, you should change to another horse. This horse doesn't look very docile."

Marshall pulled his lips into a smile while saying, "If it's too docile, it won't outrun Juno."

Stella heard this and could not bring herself to say anything more. The competitiveness in a man cannot be revoked with just a few words of advice. Keegan had made such a blatant provocation, and Marshall was hot-blooded. Despite how gentle he was, he could not swallow this disrespect.

Keegan looked at Stella's worried look, and his expression fell even more. By the time Marshall had got on his horse, Keegan had swung his horsewhip and ran into the race track first. Marshall followed closely behind.

On the horse trainer's count, the two stallions ran off together. However, unlike the last time when Keegan competed with Trevor, he had purposedly slowed down to make the other person mistakenly believe that he could catch up. This time, he had started to speed up from the beginning.

Juno was born as speed incarnate. Under Keegan's command, he ran forward with glee. However, Marshall did not relent as well. The brown horse seemed to be feeling excited due to being able to have a showdown with another horse on the race track. It followed Juno tightly with the speed of lightning.

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The speed of the two horses was unexpectedly equally matched. Keegan pressed his body down and stared forward with a sullen gaze in his eyes while swinging his horsewhip at the appropriate time to alter the direction.

When turning a corner, Juno outpaced the brown horse with a leap. This move of overtaking Marshall made him slowly accumulate disadvantages.

Although their speed was still fast, the two- or three-meters distance could not be shortened regardless of any method used.

Keegan turned around to look at Marshall. The corner of his lips twitched into a smile. He turned his head back around and sped up again. Marshall focused his gaze and flung a single harsh whip onto the horse's body. The brown horse shrieked and accelerated its sprint speed. The brown horse was unknowingly frightened at the final bend and pressing onto the finish line. With another loud shriek, it shook Marshall off its back.

Stella was shocked and screamed out, "Mr. Moore!"

Marshall's whole body was flung to one side of the saddle with one leg dangling. The other leg was hooked at the stirrup while both his hands had a deathly grip on the reins. He had a tightened expression due to the exertion of force, and the veins on his forehead were popping.

The brown horse was out of control. It carried Marshall while galloping desperately. Stella was so scared that a layer of cold sweat broke on her back as she shouted Keegan's name loudly.

Keegan also noticed that Marshall's horse had gone out of control and quickly rode Juno to chase them. The brown horse left the racetrack and had a rampage on the field.

Unexpectedly, it ran toward Stella. Stella's expression changed drastically. She seemed to have noticed this and turned around to run toward places with obstacles. However, how could a human's speed be comparable to a horse's?

Seeing the horse get closer and closer to Stella, Keegan's expression turned serious. He stood on the horse's back with one hand, releasing Juno's reins. He looked for the right opportunity and jumped onto the brown horse. He pulled at its reins hard and forcefully changed its direction.

The brown horse seemingly grew more frenzied due to the pain. Keegan looked at Marshall, who was dangling on the other side of the horseback. His hand was changing color due to being constricted by the rein. The veins on his hands were popped out, and his fingers were quivering faintly from withstanding his weight in the air for long periods.

Keegan said with a severe tone, "When I let you jump off in a moment, you let go and roll over while protecting your head."

Marshall tightened his expression while looking at Keegan, then nodded with pursed lips. Keegan tried his best to control the direction with a solemn face while trying to soothe the manic horse. However, it did not seem to work. The more he wanted to control it, the more maniacal the brown horse grew. Keegan could only find the correct timing to use his leg to kick Marshall off when the horse passed through the buffer zone.

In Marshall's head, he was still thinking, 'Didn't he say he would shout, let go?' When

his whole body had already been released from the horseback. He quickly protected his head and tumbled a few rounds on the sand pit of the buffer zone before stopping. Stella immediately came over to check on Marshall's injuries. His palm and elbow were slightly scraped, while his other parts were fine.

Stella released a breath of relief and looked at the field. The brown horse was still not controlled. It even started to run while jumping back and forth, trying to shake Keegan off its body. With such a high speed, it would not be funny once you fell off.

Stella helped Marshall to a safe zone and then tightened her expression. She followed Keegan's movements through momentary glimpses. Her throat would unconsciously tighten whenever he was about to be flung off.

The horse trainer had already ridden Juno to chase the brown horse, but the distance was too large. Besides that, its erratic course made pursuing it harder.

Keegan was covered in sweat and dust throughout his body. The protective gear on his hands was already worn. His palms were sweaty, and the reins he was gripping onto were starting to slip. If this continues, he will be flung off sooner or later. Keegan's gaze focused, and he simply slipped to the other side of the horseback. His

legs were bent and prepared to jump off when the brown horse turned. However, before they turned around, the reins suddenly snapped. This caused Keegan to fall directly off the horseback.

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Stella saw this scene, and her heart sank. Keegan's reaction was very swift. The moment he slipped from the reins, he immediately let go. However, he was still dragged for a few meters before rolling onto the grass field.

Stella held onto her breath until Keegan sat up on the grass field. Then, her gripped fingers unfurled. Marshall furrowed his brows while watching the scene. He then said in a low voice, "Is Keegan fine?"

"If he can get up, what problem could he have?" Stella replied.

Marshall's movements froze, and he glanced at Stella silently. After Keegan fell off the horse, The brown horse started to decelerate slowly. The horse trainer quickly chased up to it and took control of the runaway horse.

Keegan's arm was excruciatingly painful. He stood up with an ashen face. He saw Stella, who stood not far away. He could see that she was fine and sighed a breath of relief deep down. He then walked toward them.

When he got close, he asked Marshall, "How are you?"

Marshall opened his palms to show him. A layer of skin had been scraped off, with certain places already bleeding.

He chuckled and said, "Just some minor injuries. Luckily, you held on at the right time, or I would have forfeited my life here. Thank you."

Stella said in a serious tone, "Why are you thanking him? If it wasn't for him insisting on a duel, how would you get injured?"

As she said this, she looked at Keegan, "You clearly knew that Mr. Moore has the condition called migraine, and still you dragged him to play in these types of events. Can you take responsibility if he had fallen off the horseback and hit his head?" Keegan's expression turned ugly when he saw her protecting Marshall. His heart was filled with jealousy and rage as he said with gritted teeth, "Are you blaming me? I

didn't put a knife to his neck to force him to ride!"

'You might as well put a knife to his neck then! If he was injured, he could sue you for battery!" Stella glared at him, then turned her head to say to Marshall, "Mr. Moore, I'll bring you to the clinic to get patched up."

Marshall saw Keegan's ugly expression and said in a low tone, "Keegan is probably injured. Take a look at him first."

Stella huffed coldly, "No need to care for him! He is so skillful. How could he be injured?"

While saying this, she dragged Marshall toward the outside of the racetrack. Keegan stared at the heartless woman. His heart felt cold and in pain. He bit down hard and said in a low tone, 'I didn't need your care from the start!"

By then, Stella had already gone far away. How could she have heard what Keegan had said?

The horse trainer had finished soothing the brown horse. After tying it at the stable, he quickly came over to check on Keegan's condition.

Keegan's face was white, and the posture of his left arm was at an odd angle. The horse trainer was shocked, "Master Kane, is your arm dislocated?"

Keegan took a deep breath and said in a low voice, "Could you reattach it?" "I can," the horse trainer replied. Cordelia hired him from the professional competitions. He was already used to minor injuries like these. These injuries were naturally nothing to them as an athlete, but Keegan was a young master of a wealthy family. He said to Keegan in a low tone," However, it might be a little painful. You must bear with it for a while."

Keegan replied with an ashen face, "Mhm."

The horse trainer held onto Keegan's elbow and lightly rotated it. He found the correct position and twisted it slightly. Keegan grunted with his face still white as the dislocated part was reattached. His arms could still move, but the joint still hurt terribly. The horse trainer continued in a low tone, "At the moment, you should go to Madam Kane Sr.'s place to get some ointment to rub onto it. It should stop hurting after two or three days."

Keegan thanked him, took his clothes, and left with his face filled with dismal. After Keegan left, the horse trainer checked the horse's condition again. The brown horse was sent here last week. It was a fierce horse but was not as unruly as Juno at the start. It could even run along with the other horses these few days. He even assumed that it had been tamed and did not expect such an incident to occur today.

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The trainer threw the lead aside and cleaned the dust off the brown horse with a bristle brush. The brown horse suddenly moved violently and panted when he touched its neck. It even stomped its hooves repeatedly as if it was feeling very uncomfortable. The trainer felt very strange. He took a close look and found out that there was a faint scar under its neck, and it was still bleeding. The hair under its neck had a darker shade of brown. The scar was right under the lead, so he did not notice it. He frowned and examined the scar.

It looked like a cut, but he could not be sure because the lead mangled up after the flesh around the scar. He could not really see what the scar looked like initially.

He finally figured out why the horse became more uncontrollable when Keegan pulled the lead. The pain felt worse for the horse whenever Keegan pulled, so it became more restless.

He had no idea where the scar came from. He told Baldwin about its injury so that he could get a vet to treat it. After all, Cordelia liked the brown horse very much.

Stella dragged Marshall out of the horse farm and left the manor. Her face looked very tense, and Marshall just followed her without saying anything. Both got into the car after leaving the manor. Then, Marshall said, "We should've at least told Mrs. Kane about it."

Stella started the car as she said, "Keegan has a mouth. He'll take care of it. • Marshall pursed his lips. After that, he said in a low voice, "Are you worried about Keegan?"

"What?" Stella said flatly, "I'm not related to him anymore. I'm just mad at him for being so inappropriate. I'm glad that you weren't hurt."

Marshall's eyes relaxed as he said gently, "It's just a scratch. I'll be fine. You can't blame Keegan entirely, as I agreed to race with him too."

"You don't have to defend him. He's already so old, yet so childish!"

Stella did not want to talk about Keegan anymore, or she would remind herself about how he fell from the horse just now. Instead, she shifted the topic and began discussing the lawsuit with Marshall. Then, the car arrived at the nearest clinic shortly after.

Stella sent him back to the law firm after his wound was taken care of.

She gazed downward and saw dust on her shoes after leaving the law firm. Her shoes got dirty because she fell when Keegan jumped from Juno to the brown horse. She squatted down and wiped her shoes with a tissue. Then, she thought of Keegan again. She felt very irritated.

Suddenly, her phone rang. She reached for a phone and saw an unknown number calling her. She picked it up.

"Hello." A hoarse man's voice could be heard on the phone. "Is this Miss Stella Jewell?"

That man's voice sounded very strange, and it was not someone Stella knew. So she did not answer his question. Instead, she asked, "Who's calling?"

"Did you send me an email a few days ago?"

'Email?*

Stella paused before she remembered what she had done.

"Are you Detective Karl?"

"Yeah, and I've read your email. Do you have time today? Why don't we meet in person to discuss it in detail?"

Stella immediately replied, "Of course."

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Karl told her the time and location to meet. Then, he asked before hanging up, "Do you know Lena well?"

Stella said, 'I'm very close with her husband's brother."

Karl asked no more questions and said, "See you later."

Detective Karl was a very famous private detective in Rivera. He did not have an

office and was very difficult to find. However, he posted his email address on a public forum.

Anyone who wished to hire him could send him an email. But, he would only reply if he was keen to take the job. If he did not reply after a week, he was uninterested. Stella started to think that the accident from seven years ago was suspicious after she found what was in the safe and knew that Rainee wanted to divorce Albert at about the same time when the accident happened.

She called Lena and asked about the case after she was done with Rainee's funeral.

Lena was in the Criminal Investigation Department, but she knew someone who worked in the traffic department.

So, Lena asked her friend's help to reopen the file from seven years ago. She found out that the officer in charge of that accident did not collect Rainee's blood sample, so no drug test was conducted. That being said, it was not proved whether Rainee consumed anti-depressants.

In other words, the police officer assumed she took anti-depressants because Albert said Rainee was going through a depressive episode. However, there was no proof at all to back it up.

Lena said plenty of surveillance cameras were around the scene, so they could see exactly how the accident happened. Besides, the other party involved in the accident wanted to close the case as soon as possible, so they handled it as just a normal road accident. The cases ended with a private settlement.

Lena added, "One of my senior's colleagues was in charge of this case. He told me that both parties wanted to close the case immediately. The traffic department was having a transition at that time too. They did not want the cases to pile up, so they took care of it promptly. However, the traffic department did suggest conducting a blood test, but Albert Jewell rejected them by saying that your mother was still in the ICU as an excuse."

Lena could help Stella discover more about what happened, but Stella had the option to find it out by going through the proper channels. After all, she was the driver's family member, and it would only take more time if she were to do that.

All Lena did was save her some time. However, she told Stella that there were other things that she could not disclose to her after walking her through the case summary. Clearly, she was reminding Stella of something from a personal perspective. The case was way too suspicious.

A drug test was not going to require a lot of blood. Rainee had a major injury to her head, but she had enough blood supply after getting a blood transfusion. It was strange that Albert refused to do a blood test because of that.

Besides, the drug test could not wait long because the substances would be metabolized over time, and detecting them would be very hard. Albert acted as if he did not want to prove his wife's innocence but just wanted to get out of the case. The police officers were suspicious of him too, but he had to listen to his superior. Their superior officer told them to end the case, so they had no choice but to follow. Stella started to get more skeptical after learning more about the accident from Lena. However, the car involved had been scraped after so many years. So, she could not apply to bring the case back to court again without new pieces of evidence.

So, Lena recommended Detective Karl to her and gave her his email to give it a shot. Stella played smart. She figured that Detective Karl would not necessarily be interested in an old traffic accident because Karl usually only accepted popular unsolved cases or cases involving wealthy men having an affair.

Yes, that was both his extremes when picking a case to investigate. The former was to make a name for himself, and the latter was to make money.

Stella was worried that he might ignore her, so she wrote that she was a friend of Lena at the end of the email. She did so because she felt Lena knew Karl well when she introduced him. So, she pushed her luck, thinking they might be very good friends.

And it worked.

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Stella went to a valley in an old town following the address given by Karl. She looked everywhere and finally found a small restaurant that served roasted beef.

She pushed the door open. The restaurant was only about a hundred square feet big but crowded with patrons. There were men, women, and children, but none of them looked like a detective.

Someone patted Stella's shoulder when she was still trying to find Karl.' Are you Miss Jewell?"

Stella turned around and saw a young man in a black hoodie and a pair of jeans standing behind her.

That young man was almost a head taller than her. He had a rather skinny build, fair skin, big eyes with bushy brows, and a young-looking face. He looked like a university student.

"...Are you Karl?"

Stella asked hesitantly.

The young man smiled. "Is it surprising?"

Stella had never met him, so she said, "You look very young."

Karl ordered a set of roast beef and pulled the chair before sitting down casually, "Don't be deceived by my looks. I'm already thirty-seven years old."

Even though he was older than Keegan by a few years, Keegan could easily look like someone else's uncle if he brushed his hair back. Stella sat down too, and started chatting with Karl.

The food was then served. Karl started eating while listening to Stella. He ate in a very hurried manner, as if he had not eaten for a few days. Stella did not feel like continuing the discussion after seeing how he ate. "Would it be better for me to continue after you eat?"

Karl did not look up as he replied, "It's fine. Go on. I'm listening."

So. Stella continued.

Karl was almost done with his meal when Stella finished talking. He wiped his mouth with a tissue as he looked at Stella. "Are you suspecting that your father or his mistress made that accident happen?"

Stella replied in a low voice, "I just think that there are too many coincidences."

Chapter 562

Elegant Media.

Trevor finally went back to the office after going on several blind dates. He had five meals and four cups of coffee in just a day. He felt like skinning Keegan alive. The women Keegan introduced him to looked decent, but their personalities were very weird.

Three of them were considered normal, but one asked him when he planned to marry her right after she saw how handsome he was. The other directly asked him if he wanted to rest in a hotel.

'Is going to a hotel on the first date even appropriate?

'Are we really going just to take a rest?' Trevor thought to himself but did not expose the lady who suggested it. He even suspected Keegan was not trying to get him a girlfriend but just a friend with benefits.

'Why would he sign the divorce paper if he worries I'll be with Stella? Does he think that Stella will still belong to him even after the divorce? Where did he get his confidence from?'

Trevor was thinking about ways to take revenge on Keegan. He waited for a long time, yet Keegan would not show up. Finally, he got impatient and dialed Keegan's number.

Keegan just came out of his grandparents' residence when he heard his phone ringing. He accepted the call. He did not sound as assertive as he was while texting. Instead, he spoke softly like a defenseless puppy, "Can I help you?"

The edge of Trevor's mouth twitched. "Aren't you coming to my office? Look at the time now. Where are you?"

Keegan forgot about that. Then, he pursed his lips and said, "Let's meet somewhere to grab a meal."

Trevor lifted his brows. "Thanks to someone, I've had five meals in six hours. I can't eat anymore."

"It's fine. You can watch me eat."

Trevor's eyes twitched. 'How could he say that?'

Trevor hung up the phone. Then, he grabbed a jacket and left the office after deciding where to meet with Keegan.

Jaylene went into his office right after he left. She could not see him anywhere in the office, so she called him. Trevor had just exited the elevator when he received her call.

"Yes, Jaylene?"

"Bro, where did you go?" Jaylene asked.

Trevor replied, "I'm going to eat with a friend. I just left."

"What friend?" Jaylene made fun of him, "Are you going on a date?"

"No, it's Keegan."

"Oh, Mr. Kane." Jaylene was a little surprised before she continued, "I haven't eaten yet. Bring me along."

"Are you sure?" Trevor smiled and asked.

"I don't have anything to do at home anyway."

"Come downstairs then. I'll wait for you here. Oh, yes. Would you go to my office and bring me the essential oil from my third drawer?"

"Sure."

Jaylene hung up. Then, she went behind Trevor's desk and opened the third drawer. She saw the light blue essential oil in a box as soon as she did that. She took it out and saw a photo frame under the box. She took out the photo after pausing momentarily.

It was a family portrait from a long time ago.

A pair of young parents held a little boy around four to five years old in their arms. The little boy was Trevor, and the man was Wenham. Jaylene pursed her lips when she looked at that woman.

That woman had a pair of amorous eyes and an alluring aura. Her features looked very delicate, as if she came out of a painting. The little boy in her arms had a bright smile on his face.

She saw a photo of this woman in Trevor's room when she was younger. She was stunned by her beauty when she first saw her and only found out that she was Trevor's biological mother afterward. 1

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However, Jaylene was too young then and forgot about that woman after seeing that photo. Also, they did not want to remind themselves of that woman, so they put away all her photos.

She looked at that woman's face again and felt like that woman looked surprisingly familiar to Stella. Then, she realized why her father looked like that when he met Stella at the dinner that day.

She stared at the photo for a while before putting it back. Then, she closed the drawer and left with the essential oil.

Keegan said he wanted to grab a meal with Trevor but did not eat after they met. Instead, he ordered some alcohol. Trevor felt strange after seeing how gloomy he looked.

"Did your uncle chase you out of the company?"

Keegan glared at him. "If anything, I'd be one chasing him out."

"Oh, then..." Trevor squinted and said in a low voice, "Did you find out that I'm getting together with Stella?"

Keegan paused and said without holding back, "She's not attracted to people like you."

Trevor's mouth twitched. "She's attracted to you, yet she dumped you too."

Keegan pursed his lips. Surprisingly, he did not refute Trevor. It seemed like it really had something to do with Stella.

Keegan poured two glasses of alcohol and pushed one of them to Trevor. He picked the other glass up and started drinking without asking Trevor to join him.

He downed it and said, "What do I have to do to be a shareholder?"

"It's very simple." The conditions that Trevor offered him were very harsh as he was treating Keegan as a dupe, "Pay me a billion in return for ten percent shares of my company. You won't be getting any bonuses in the first two years. If you're fine with this, I'll get someone to prepare the contract. Otherwise-"
"Deal."

Keegan immediately agreed, making Trevor feel he should have asked for more

money. He only spent fifty million on his registered capital, and his company had not achieved anything yet. However, he asked Keegan for a billion in return for ten percent of his company shares. It was nothing but robbery in broad daylight.

He was not expecting Keegan to agree at all. Otherwise, he would have asked for ten billion without bonuses in ten years!

"When are we going to sign the contract?"

Trevor glared at him. "Tomorrow."

Jaylene came out of the washroom. Then, she saw Keegan drinking alone and Trevor sitting beside him without doing anything to stop Keegan.

"Bro, Mr. Kane can't drink much. What if he got drunk?"

Trevor held his chin, looking as if he was not bothered. "Let him be, then. He's a grown man. What's there to be worried about?"

Jaylene was speechless. Then, she persuaded Keegan, "Mr. Kane, don't drink too much. It doesn't feel good to be drunk."

The smell on her was very strange, and Keegan did not like it. So, he frowned and backed away, saying in a low voice, "Don't touch me!"

The edge of Trevor's eyes twitched. "Leave him alone. We can just dump him beside the road and leave if he gets too drunk."

Jaylene could not convince Keegan, as he did not allow her to get near him. So, she frowned and sat at the side worriedly. Trevor sipped on the glass of alcohol and suddenly said, "Jaylene, what do you think of Marshall Moore?"

Jaylene looked away from Keegan and frowned. "Mr. Moore's third son?" Trevor nodded.

"He's fine. I don't really know him. Why do you ask?"

"Darcie brought it up yesterday." Trevor chuckled. "She thought that you two would go well together. I think she wanted to introduce you to each other."

Jaylene felt very strange. "I barely know him. My mom isn't thinking straight. I don't like lawyers. How will I win an argument with a lawyer if we ever get into one?"

Trevor smiled and mocked Jaylene, "Marshall rarely argues with anybody. You won't be easy to deal with either if you get into a fight with him."

Keegan staggered to his feet and said he wanted to use the washroom as they chatted. Trevor ignored him. However, he took a few steps forward and knocked over a chair. He wobbled and almost fell. Jaylene quickly grabbed him and turned around to glare at Trevor. "Bro! Help me out over here!"

Trevor slowly stood up and grabbed Keegan as he said disdainfully, "What a loser!" Then, he helped Keegan to the washroom. Trevor's phone was on the table when it rang after they went to the washroom. Then, a text message popped up on the screen.

[Mr. Saun, the hospital replied. The result will be out two days later.] i