

Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted by Eleven Jewell

Chapter 84-100

Chapter 84

When the news of my marriage with Keegan broke out, a socialite jumped off the building and committed suicide because she couldn't accept it.

Of course, I heard that from Vermont. That guy is full of lies. So, this still needs verification to know whether that incident really did happen or not. But, Keegan is truly very popular in the socialite circle."

Stella and Keegan had been married for three years. She occasionally could still find some anonymous letters in their mailbox. The words used were romantic, and the contents were sentimental. The bolder ones even sent Keegan their intimate photos.

She found out about that when she modified the sound card data using Keegan's computer.

At that time, they had been married for less than a year, and they still had not consummated their marriage. When she saw the photos, she was stunned. She thought Keegan was cheating on her.

She was still young at that time. She was very innocent. She thought Keegan did not have sex with her because he liked the type of girls in the photo. She was angry and sad. She also faintly felt a little reluctant to give in. So, she did something so foolish that she still felt extremely embarrassed even when she thought about it now.

She went to a sex shop to buy a set of clothes that looked exactly like the one the woman wore in the picture. And one night, after drinking half a bottle of vodka, she boldly went inside Keegan's blanket.

She did not really remember what happened next...

When she woke up the next morning, Keegan had already left. Her body was exceptionally tired. But, she felt very nice.

That afternoon, Keegan called her and asked her where she had bought the outfit she wore yesterday. Stella thought that Keegan had enjoyed what happened and called to flirt with her during the day. She shyly and sheepishly answered him. And, Keegan said, "The design department just sent me the final image a few days ago. Someone pirated the

product when it wasn't even out on the market yet. I'm tracking down the source of the leak now."

Stella was speechless.

"Are you talking about the sample that was sent to your email?"

Keegan froze for a moment. "How did you know?"

Stella was speechless again.

Only then did she realize that, indeed, many girls had sent private photos to Keegan. But the one she saw that day was his lingerie subsidiary company's new product that year. The picture that they sent to Keegan was a rendered image.

She threw away the set of lingerie that night. But, a few days later, Keegan brought back the same set of lingerie. It was the authentic product this time. He gravely told her that it was the trial product that the company had given him.

The lingerie was still hanging in her cloakroom now. He would always laugh at her for foolishly losing her virginity

"Aurora, whos this?"

After they chatted for some time, someone finally asked about Stella, who had remained silent the whole

time

Aurora glanced at her as she casually said, "She's my sister-in-law."

Everyone then lost most of their enthusiasm. A girl with slender eyes smiled as she said, "Your sister-in-law wore a suit instead of a dress to this kind of setting. She's quite the character

Aurora shrugged her shoulders and said, "I know, right? To a certain extent, having bad manners and being rude is a type of personality too."

Stella smiled as she said, "You didn't need to describe yourself so frankly."

Aurora was speechless.

Everyone else was speechless too

Although the bitter words were against her, she could still skillfully talk back with a smile. It seemed as though everyone was too dogmatic when they said that Stella was cowardly back then.

The people around them were Aurora's friends. So, she could not lose her temper even if she was furious. She carried her dress and walked into the elevator with a sullen face.

Meanwhile, Stella followed her

They went to the twelfth floor. And, as soon as they got off the elevator, Aurora said that she wanted to go to the washroom.

Stella did not have an invitation letter, so she could only wait for her outside.

But, after waiting for more than ten minutes, Aurora still had not come out. Just as Stella was about to call out to Aurora, a sudden scream came from the washroom.

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Stella frowned. Then, she went to the door and knocked on it.

"Aurora?"

There was no response. But, Stella could hear the sound of running water.

Stella raised her voice. "Aurora, stop messing around. Answer me if you can hear me."

No one answered her still.

She pushed the door open and walked in without hesitating.

There were only three cubicles in the washroom, and all of them were tightly closed. The sound of a toilet flushing came from one of the cubicles. It seemed like there were still some other sounds coming from it. This is probably the sound I faintly heard from outside."

"Aurora... Before she could finish talking, someone ruthlessly and suddenly pushed her from behind.

Stella was not aware of it, and she reeled a few steps forward. The phone in her hand slipped out of her palm and was sent flying.

When she turned her head, she then noticed that the door of the washroom was closed by someone from outside

Stella had a bad feeling. She walked to the door and pulled the handle. But, the door was indeed locked from outside.

Aurora is so childish!

Stella clenched her teeth as she strongly knocked on the door. "Aurora, what is wrong with you? A prank like this isn't funny at all! Open the door!"

But, there was no movement outside even after a long time. Did Aurora walk away?

But then again, looking back at the nasty things that she had done before, I think she's really capable of locking me inside the washroom.'

The hotel's soundproofing was very good. So, no one noticed it, even after she knocked on the door for a long time.

She wanted to call the hotel and ask the staff to come and solve the problem. But, she only noticed that her phone cracked when she picked it up. The whole screen was cracked, and she could not read the screen at all.

Now, she could only wait for someone to come to the restroom and help her open the door

What Stella did not know was that before Aurora left, she put up a maintenance signboard in front of the restroom. If the workers did not notice that, it was very likely that no one would pass by the washroom. The hotel's washroom was squeaky clean, and there was no weird smell. The washroom was even perfumed. But even so, Stella still had a very hard time in the restroom.

She fiddled around with her phone, trying to open the contacts in her phone based on her memory. She wanted to just simply find someone to help her contact the hotel.

But, before she could make a call, she heard a hoarse breathing sound coming from one of the cubicles

initially. Stella thought that she had heard it wrong

But very soon, she could hear the sound again. It sounded even more rapid than before

Stella took two steps back. Then, she bent down to look inside the cubicles through the gaps below the cubicles doors. She was scared out of her mind. It seemed like someone was kneeling on the floor

She immediately went to knock on the door.

"Are you alright? Can you talk?"

The person inside the cubicle just continued making the husky breathing sound. The sound was heavy but weak.

The cubicle's door was locked from the inside. She could not open it.

If it goes on like this, the person inside won't make it if no one is coming.

Stella acted quickly, and she turned to the other cubicle. She then climbed over the partition with the help of the toilet and the rack for ladies to put their bags.

Luckily, she wore a suit. It did not hinder her from climbing over the partition.

After she jumped into the cubicle next door, she noticed that the girl's face was starting to turn blue. The voice that came from her throat was getting weaker.

"Where's your medicine?"

While she asked that, she then noticed the asthma medicine that had fallen into the toilet and was rolling with the current.

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Stella took a deep breath and took off her coat. She reached into the toilet bowl to fish out the nebulizer and took it to the sink to give it a rinse. Then, she sprayed it to see if it still worked. Fortunately, the liquid medication for the nebulizer was well-sealed.

Stella quickly squeezed the girl's mouth open and gave her the medicine. After Stella had sprayed the medication, she gradually stopped wheezing. Stella bent down to lift her up and help her outside. Although the girl was no longer gasping for air, she was still not fully conscious. When she slowly turned blue again, Stella hurriedly helped her and whispered, "I just put my hand in the toilet bowl to save you; you better be okay. Otherwise, my efforts would be in vain."

'Could it be that there are some allergens in here that caused this? Maybe it's the toilet freshener.' Stella quickly opened the bathroom window when she thought of that.

A few minutes later, the girl sounded and looked much better. She gradually returned to her senses, but she still could not speak.

"Do you have your phone with you?" Stella asked. However, the girl shook her head hard. Stella leaned out the window, looked around, turned to the girl, and said, "Wait here. I'll go get some help."

The girl blinked, as she watched Stella taking off her heels and jumping out the window. There was a row of 12-inch-wide platforms around the wall's outer edge that could be walked on. However, it was lik

e walking on thin ice. Stella did not dare look down as her legs would turn into jelly. “Wow Saving someone’s life really isn’t as fun as I thought. An art major like myself has now turned into a sports major,” she teased herself.

Stella stepped on the edge of the extremely narrow platform while she held onto the window sill. She finally reached another window after more than 10 minutes. Fortunately for her, there were people in there. But, unfortunately, it was the men’s restroom. Stella clung to the window like a crazy stalker, which scared a man who was taking a piss and caused him to pee all over himself. The man hurriedly pulled his pants up and ran away in panic. Then, another man went into the restroom.

It was Marshall—the attorney she had just met that morning. Marshall thought he was seeing things when he saw one of his clients hanging outside the window of the men’s restroom. However, Stella did not care about her looks at that moment. She tapped the window, trying to ask him for help.

Marshall was in a daze for a short while, but he quickly came back to his senses and walked over to open the window. Stella felt weak at her legs, and her voice was trembling as she eagerly said, “Hurry up and call someone to open the door to the women’s bathroom. There’s a girl in there who is suffering from asthma.”

Marshall grabbed her wrist and said in a low voice, “I’ll pull you up first.”

“No, go save her I can manage this by myself.” That being said, Stella had no strength left in her legs after standing on the 12-inch-wide platform for more than ten minutes.

She had to take a break, but Marshall did not let go of her “Your safety is also very important. Put your arms around my shoulders and slowly climb up. I’ll support you,” he said softly.

For a moment, Stella was touched by his words. She had not heard such caring words in a long time. Not wanting to delay any longer, she listened to Marshall and grabbed onto him with one hand while she put the other over his shoulders. She tried to climb through the window with Marshall’s help, but her legs were not strong enough. She started slipping before she could take a step.

Suddenly, Marshall let go of his hand, and Stella turned pale with fright. The next second, his hands were around her waist as he pulled her up

Chapter 87

Stella was smart. She took the opportunity and stretched one of her legs through the window and into the men’s restroom while she used Marshall’s shoulders as support. Then, she finally rolled over the window. Her legs were so weak that she al

most

slid down as soon as her feet touched the ground. Fortunately, Marshall caught her in time.

Stella leaned in the other party's arms in a state of embarrassment. Although she wanted to maintain her image, she disregarded the thought after remembering that he had already seen her hanging out on the window of the men's restroom like a horror film. It's fine. I didn't really have an image to begin with anyway."

Suddenly, a man came in, but he turned away and left while apologizing when he saw the two in the restroom. Stella was at a loss for words. It truly was an unexplainable misunderstanding.

Stella and Marshall then went out of the bathroom and dialed 911 while they looked for someone to open the door. The hotel staff efficiently got the girl out of the bathroom in no time.

Perhaps it was because Stella had opened the window to ventilate the bathroom, as the girl's complexion looked much better than it did in the beginning. She could also utter a few simple sentences.

The paramedics arrived at the scene, and after a simple checkup, they said, "Luckily, she was saved in time. Otherwise, things would have turned out a lot worse.

Everyone was relieved, especially the hotel manager, who was about to cry. Those who attended the business event were all from rich backgrounds. The hotel manager could not afford to pay them back if anything happened. Then, they hurriedly arranged a room for the girl to aid in her rescue.

The manager immediately thanked Stella after that. "Thank you for what you did today, Miss. May I know your name?"

Stella was about to wave him off, as she wanted no praise for her efforts. But, Marshall replied for her "This lady right here is Celeste Thompson."

Stella stayed silent. I guess there's no going back on the fake name now, she thought.

"Oh, may I know which room you're in, Ms. Thompson? As a token of our gratitude, we would like to exempt you from all expenses in this hotel, Ms. Thompson."

"That won't be necessary," Stella replied.

"But, I do have a small favor to ask if that's okay," she continued after thinking for a while.

The manager hastened and listened attentively. "Can you let me participate in the charity event tonight?" Stella asked.

The hotel manager was startled. "Are you on the guest list, Miss?"

Stella pursed her lips and replied, "No."

Her husband was on the guest list, but she did not want to call Keegan since her phone was broken. Moreover, even if she told him what Aurora did, he would not believe her

"I'm afraid I can't do that, Ms. Thompson. The charity event requires guests to have an invitation. The purpose is to prevent reporters from getting involved and violating the guests' privacy. I'm not at liberty to let you in without permission. I'm sorry, is there anything else you would like us to help you with?" the manager asked

Stella's eyes looked sad. Suddenly, an invitation letter appeared in front of her in the next second. She was surprised. She looked up and saw Marshall smiling. "Maybe you can try flattening the

allowed to bring a plus one," he said.

"Yes, you can, sir," the manager nodded.

Stella's eyes lit up visibly, but she still asked, "Is this okay?"

Marshall nodded. "But, I have to ask the manager to book us a room."

Stella looked at him in confusion. Then, Marshall smiled and pointed at her outfit in a gentlemanly manner. Stella looked down and saw that there were stains all over her white suit and pants from climbing over the wall and window. People would think that she had just escaped from the wilderness.

Chapter 88

"It does look rather cool, but I'm sure you could freshen up a little for the charity event," Marshall said.

What a gentleman. He takes care of my image and praises me at the same time. He surely knows what the ladies like to hear. If Keegan were the one in front of me right now, he would probably be disgusted and ask if I'm a homeless beggar. He would also likely throw a towel over my head and warn me not to embarrass him. Stella started getting angry after thinking about it. 'How could they be so different?' she thought.

Not long after, the hotel manager opened up a room for them. “You can settle down and clean come back for you later, Marshall said and left. Stella was relieved that he was not there. However, she

1. up. was also worried that he would suddenly come in, and she would not know how to carry the conversation. Luckily for her, Marshall was a true gentleman. He did not even enter the room just to avoid causing any misunderstandings that would harm the woman’s reputation and dignity.

As soon as Marshall got on the elevator, Vermont texted him, [Yo, Marshall. Did you fall into the toilet or something?] Marshall did not reply.

Vermont texted him again and said. [Tim told me that you were in the restroom with some girl. Is that true?]

[How did a pure-hearted person like you turn into such a dog? What did the girl look like? Which family is she from?]

Marshall pursed his lips when he saw the text. [Get your mind out of the gutter. Do you think everyone is as dirty-minded as you?]

[Tsk. Thinking about the love between men and women doesn’t make me dirty-minded. Right, Keegan?] [Anything that comes out of your mouth is dirty.] Keegan replied.

Vermont was speechless after being ganged up on by his friends. [When are you two going to arrive? These old men are currently trying to find me a partner. I’m fucking dying of boredom. Come on, guys. Come over and help me share the burden.]

[Sorry, I’m married.]

Vermont was at a loss for words once more. “How could you say that so proudly when your wife wants to divorce you? he thought.

[I’m bringing someone.] Marshall texted.

‘Just bring whoever you want. Why did you need to state it in the group chat? Vermont thought. Suddenly,

a thought popped up in his mind, and he asked, [Is it a girl?]

[Yeah. I’ve mentioned her before. The one I met in the hospital.]

Vermont's gossip radar turned on instantly. [How did you guys get in touch? I thought you didn't give her your number.]

[Maybe it's fate.] Marshall smiled as he typed it out.

[Shit Marshall is going to have a girlfriend soon. There's no way I can escape the blind dates my dad is going to set up for me now]

Marshall laughed and said, it was just a coincidence.] He thought about how Stella had addressed him earlier (I'm afraid she doesn't even remember my name]

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Vermont became more and more interested in Marshall's little encounter [Whoa. She must have high standards if she doesn't even consider getting together with you. That's okay We'll help you lure her in. Girls are becoming sneakier these days. When you just want an innocent relationship, they flirt around with you, but when you start flirting back, they act all innocent.]

[What I'm saying is that women are unpredictable creatures. Don't be fooled by their beautiful appearance.

Keegan, who did not show up in the group for the conversation, suddenly replied, [And, that is the truth.]

Vermont did not reply after that.

Chapter 89

[She's not what you guys think. She is a straightforward person. She plasters everything on her face. You can literally look right through her.] Marshall texted in the group chat.

Vermont's curiosity grew even more prominent. [What kind of magical powers does this woman hold that made you give her high praises after only meeting a few times? I must have a look at this woman to see if everything you said is true. Could she really be as magnificent as you say she is?]

[Don't scare her.] Marshall replied.

"Tsk," Vermont let out a sneer. [Why are you still so petty? I just want to have a look.]

[Did I ever stop you from looking at anything before?] Marshall asked.

Before Vermont could answer, Keegan interjected the conversation. [Probably you being naked.]

Both Vermont and Marshall were speechless. [Vermont told me that when you guys were kids, everyone would compete in shooting their pee the furthest. Yet, you covered up like a little girl. So... I guess he's been curious all this time.]

Marshall was quiet for a while. [Vermont, do you... like guys?]

[Don't listen to him! I like girls, okay?!] Vermont had no choice but to eat his own words. He then quickly changed the subject. (Aurora dolled up just for you, you know. I'm afraid she'd be furious if she saw you bringing someone else.)

Marshall had a headache whenever anyone mentioned Aurora. [I'm way too old for her. She's like a younger sister to me. Surely, she'll acknowledge this sooner or later when I marry the woman I like.]

"Look who decided to show up!" As soon as Keegan arrived at the charity event, Vermont greeted him with a drink. "My ears will fall off if I hear one more of those speeches."

Keegan grabbed the glass of alcohol that Vermont had handed to him and started to scan around the room. A celebrity sang on stage while the crowd danced around under the dim light. However, Keegan did not see her.

"Who are you looking for?" Vermont asked.

"Stella. Did you see her?" Keegan replied, as he sipped from his glass.

"I didn't even know she was here."

Keegan frowned. "Didn't she come in here with Aurora?"

"No. Aurora was alone when I saw her. I thought you left her at home."

Keegan pursed his lips and put down his wine glass. He grabbed his phone and dialed Stella's number. He called her five times, but she did not pick up. It was as if she had disappeared from the world.

Keegan saw Aurora not far away and started walking toward her. Aurora was surrounded by a group of celebrities. She was enjoying her time, but when she saw Keegan, her face tensed up. She tried her best to act naturally and deny whatever allegations he would throw at her.

"Keegan, there you are. Let me introduce you to my friends." She stepped forward and held Keegan by the arm while the girls around her looked at Keegan with anticipation.

Keegan pushed her hand away and calmly said,
"Come with me for a bit. I have something to ask you

Although Aurora was reluctant to follow him, she still obeyed “What’s up, Keegan? My friends are waiting

for me

Keegan cut to the chase and asked, “Where’s Stella? She came with you, didn’t she? Where is she?”

Chapter 90

Aurora was taken aback. “Didn’t she tell you?” she asked her brother. She then had an idea and said, “She told me she wanted to go to the restroom when we arrived. So, I talked to the security guard at the entrance and came in. I’m not sure where she went.”

Keegan’s face darkened. “You better tell me the truth, Aurora. Where is she?”

Aurora was so terrified by his gaze that she was trembling inside. “I’m telling you the truth. She went to the restroom. You can check the surveillance if you don’t believe me. Why would I lie about this?” she said in a squeaky voice.

“What did I tell you before coming here?” Keegan asked, suppressing his anger.

Aurora was unhappy “I followed your instructions and brought her in here. She’s an adult, for goodness sake. I can’t stop her from running away even if I try. Maybe she was mad that I had stolen her dress and ran away as revenge!”

“Unlike you, she’s not that narrow-minded,” Keegan said furiously. He was clearly distraught.

“Did she brainwash you, Keegan? How could you trust an outsider over your own sister?” Aurora said bitterly, but Keegan just gave her a cold look which terrified her. Just as she was going to explain herself, Keegan left without a word.

She secretly let out a sigh of relief and began to wonder where Stella was. She asked one of her friends to check out the restroom, and the door was open. She should have come out by then. But, Stella was not at the event, nor did she call Keegan to complain about it. Aurora thought that it was strange.

“Hey, besties, guess what I heard?” As soon as Aurora sat down, one of her celebrity friends came over and started to gossip.

“What? Tell us!” The girls replied.

“I heard that the daughter of the Saun family almost died in the restroom.”

Aurora froze.

“Which Saun family are we talking about?” someone asked.

“There aren’t many Saun families in Rivera. I’m talking about the Saun family from the F luteria Group. I’m sure Aurora is familiar with them. My dad told me that their family and the Kane family have good ties.”

In reality, the Saun family and the Kane family were not close. They were once friends, but the contact between the two families lessened after Jaylene’s father had passed away. Later along the road, it was understood that Jaylene was not in good health, and the family traveled abroad to go to doctors all year round. Naturally, they stopped keeping in touch altogether.

Other than the Moore family, the Saun family was one of the families that were comparable to the Kane family of Rivera.

That was why Aurora did not deny being close to the Saun family. She gracefully took a sip of her wine. and said, “Yes, we’re family friends. What did you say about Jaylene?”

“She got an asthma attack in the restroom. She tried to open the door, but something was in the way. She almost died. Fortunately, someone else was in that restroom with her. That person climbed out of the window to find help. The hotel is now in lockdown. One of my distant relatives is in charge of security here, so they told me about it.”

Aurora’s hands trembled. Why was Jaylene in the restroom? I didn’t hear her when I was in there. she

thought to herself

“The person climbed out the window of the twelfth floor? Wow. Thinking about it makes my legs tremble. That woman is so courageous. But, why did she have to climb out the window? I mean, she could have just called someone on her phone.”

“I’m not too sure about the details, but I think she’s also one of the guests here.”

“Jaylene is the treasure of the Saun family. They would probably repay that woman greatly. Ugh. Why didn’t I encounter such a thing?”

“Oh, please. If you were in that situation, you would have run away the first chance you got.”

“Screw you!”

Everyone burst into laughter, but Aurora was feeling restless. She wanted to leave the place in a panic. All I wanted to do was to scare Stella a little. Now that I almost cost someone's life, Keegan would never let me off so easily if he found out about this."

Chapter 91

Things wouldn't have ended up this way if it wasn't for Stella, that jinx."

"I thought of getting to know Ms. Saun. Looks like it has become a moot point since rumor has it that she has been admitted to the hospital," one of the ladies said.

Aurora had a sudden realization and said, "Let's not jump to any conclusion since the Saun family may have intended to close the hotel. She had to survive today by hook or by crook. If Keegan found out about this, she could only hard-headedly deny it.

No one brought up any objections after they heard what she said,

The phone rang right after Felicity finished editing the, not leaving her room to take a breath.

The caller was an unknown number Thinking it was the food delivery, she picked up the call. She immediately stood at attention from the bed after hearing the voice from the other end.

"Where is Stella?"

"Wh-What do you want from me?"

The trauma left within Felicity had yet to subside.

Hearing Keegan's voice, she immediately tensed up.

Keegan repeated, "Where is Stella?"

Felicity, who was loathing yet fearful, whispered, "Didn't she join you for some dinner gathering or something?"

"She is absent and not picking up her phone."

"What does that have to do with me?! She is most likely trying to avoid you!

Knowing Keegan's mean streak, Felicity did not dare to refute and said, "How about I call her for you?"

"I'll have to trouble you for that," said Keegan, finally sounding more reasonable.

Immediately after, Felicity contacted Stella. But, just like Keegan, the phone patched through, but no one picked up the call.

Keegan frowned deeply and hung up without another word.

Right at that moment, Vermont hugged Keegan by the shoulder and whispered, "Marsh all's here. Let's go meet his girlfriend."

Keegan pushed Vermont's hands away and said, "Go by yourself."

Vermont snatched away Keegan's phone and said, "You can't possibly miss Stella, who is still alive and kicking. Let's go tease Marshall, and then I'll help you out."

Without waiting for Keegan's refute and still hugging Keegan's shoulders, Vermont dragged Keegan away

Stella came out from her bath and changed into the dress left by the hotel's staff

A white, off-shoulder, split-thigh prom dress with a fishtailed hem design. It was not overly simplistic yet not too glamorous. A truly elegant yet decent dress.

Marshall was already waiting. He was standing at the walkway just outside of Stella's room when she

came out

Hearing her exit from the room, he lifted his head and looked in her direction.

Even if she was in a crowd, Stella's iconic and well-balanced frame made her stand out. And now, with makeup on, she looked even more gorgeous

Marshall's gaze paused at the sight in front of him.

Stella walked over and whispered, 'Is this dress very expensive?'

Marshall smiled and whispered, "It's from the Hotel Manager To thank you for your act of bravery."

Stella's eyes widened "Did he have to go to such lengths?"

Marshall smiled and said, "Do you have any idea what he would have to bear if you didn't save that person's life? Like our country's great philosopher Frantz Coyne said. It's val

id to accept the reward of brave, good deeds. This dress doesn't cost a lot, so wear it with no womes"

"Did Frantz Coyne really say that about brave, good deeds?"

"Of course!" said Marshall gently, as he unhurriedly reiterated a story about Frantz Coyne's apprentice ransoming a slave, which was where the quote originated from

Stella thought to herself, How knowledgeable. As expected of a lawyer

As Vermont dragged Keegan toward the lobby, they found Marshall arm-in-arm with a beautiful girl chatting jovially as they walked toward the hall

It was hard to discern the lady's face from a distance, with the crowd and dim lighting affecting their field of vision. Yet, anyone could, at a glance, realize her peerless beauty from that tall, hourglass-like figure Vermont squinted,

"I can't believe Marshall is the sery ones I assumed he would be into the innocent type." Elbowing Keegan, Vermont continued, "His taste is a lime like yours."

Keegan glanced at Vermont but did not rebut

Keegan felt a sense of familiarity when he slightly scanned the figure.

"Come on, let's have a closer look."

As soon as he said that, Vermont pulled Keegan's arm, trying to catch up

Stella, who had been helped by Marshall time and time again, gradually lowered her guard around him, She thought to herself, it would be better if I reveal my real identity to Marshall now. It would avoid the awkwardness if someone were to find out about me when he is helping me with the itigation

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Now that she had steeled her resolve, Stella was about to speak up when a hand tapped on Marshall's shoulders. "You're finally here after waiting for you for half a day. Now let's have a look at the beauty you. Why are you here

The moment Stella turned around, Vermont's voce almost

from their socket.

What is going on?

Why did Marshall bring Stella?

ched. His eyes were about to pop out

Vermont, in the next moment, turned his head to look at Keegan, who was standing beside him to find that Keegan's face had already darkened.

Stella stood frozen on the spot. She did not expect that Marshall and

Marshall was the only one still clueless about the situation. Seeing Vermont's reaction, Marshall questioned, "Are you acquainted with Miss Thompson?"

"Thompson. What Thompson?"

Stella, on the other hand, could already feel Keegan's burning gaze without even lifting her head.

"Miss Thompson. Celeste Thompson," Marshall warmly introduced Stella. "Miss Thompson, these two are my buddies. This is Vermont, who is the same age as me, and this is Keegan, the only one married among us three." After a pause, Marshall suddenly asked, "Where's your wife, Keegan?"

Chapter 92

The air was frozen for a few seconds. Even Vermont, who had a silver tongue in resolving awkward social settings, was at a loss for words.

Marshall's new girlfriend is Keegan's wife? Vermont thought. This is too dramatic even for TV shows!

"My wife is." Keegan gave Stella a cold glare, and his eyes were fixated on her hand that was clinging to Marshall's arm. Keegan forced a smile and continued, "Maybe we should ask Ms. Thompson when is she available to play the role of my wife."

Stella quietly let go of Marshall's arm and took a step back to put some distance between them. Marshall gave her a puzzled look.

Before Stella could explain herself, Keegan's arm reached around her waist and forcefully pulled her into his embrace.

His motions were merciless. Harshly stifling her waist, he lowered to the side of her ear and asked through his gritted teeth, "Should I address you as Mrs. Kane or Ms. Thompson?"

Stella was uncertain if it was just a misconception, but she felt like Keegan was being possessive toward her. It was as though he wanted to proclaim his dominance.

“Keegan, what are you talking about?” Marshall furrowed his eyebrows.

Keegan kept his hand on Stella’s waist with sneering eyes. “Stella, introduce your husband to your boyfriend properly.”

“What boyfriend?” Stella pushed Keegan away, as she was not able to withstand the pain he caused on her waist. “What is wrong with you, Keegan Kane?”

“I should be the one asking you that!” Keegan replied with fury in his eyes. “Stella Jewell, for three years, your name was next to mine on our marriage certificate. How come I never knew that your last name was Thompson?”

Stella choked on her reply. This was a tough one to explain.

There is no way for me to confess that I gave Marshall a fake name out of caution. Who would have thought that we would have any further interactions? Marshall is standing right beside me. It would be too hurtful to tell him the truth.”

As Stella was indecisive on how she should word her thoughts, Marshall piped up.

“I think this might be a misunderstanding. Ms. Jewell asked me to handle a dispute on behalf of her friend, whose surname was Thompson. I assumed that they were related and shared the same surname.” Stella was guilt-ridden. She was the one who lied, but her victim was the one patching up the lie for her. Vermont saw his chance to smooth things over and immediately said, “So, it was all a misunderstanding! Come on, let me introduce the two of you. Stella, this is Marshall Moore, mine and Keegan’s childhood friend. He couldn’t make it when you and Keegan got married because he was overseas. So, he sent the painting to your marriage room as a wedding gift.

Water Lilies by Claude Monet, Stella pondered.

I thought the painting was a gift from Vermont, although it seemed out of character for a stingy person like him to give such an expensive painting as a wedding gift. Marshall gifting it makes much more sense.

Marshall, this is Stella, Keegan’s wife, Vermont continued. She is your sister-in-law now.

Marshall kept his gaze on Stella and gulped down his words in silence.

Keegan tugged on Stella’s wrist, pulling her back to his side again.

Stella frowned and struggled to get out of his embrace. "One billion dollars," Keegan threatened nonchalantly.

Stella stopped protesting upon hearing his words.

Keegan boldly kept his arm around Stella's waist. The warmth of his hand seeped through the fabric of her clothes and tingled on her skin like ants. Stella felt uneasy.

She tried to ignore his grip on her as much as she could and shot Marshall an apologetic look. "Mr Moore, thank you for your help today."

Marshall shook his head and replied, "It's no big deal." He hesitantly took two band-aids from his pocket and handed them to Stella.

"I just asked the waiter for these," Marshall said, pointing to Stella's wrist." Remember to treat your wound, or it will get infected."

Stella was astonished.

She hurt her wrist when she was climbing through the window. Since it was just minor bleeding, Stella just rinsed her wound and left it untreated.

The wound had since stopped hurting, but when Keegan heedlessly grabbed her wrist, the wound started to hurt again. That was why Stella struggled to get out of his grip.

"Keegan didn't even notice my wound, Stella thought. I've barely known Marshall for a few days, but he was the one who noticed." Stella's mind was clouded with emotions.

Before she could thank Marshall, Keegan took the band-aids from Marshall. "Don't bother," Keegan stated flatly. "I can take care of her myself."

Once again, the slightly alleviated atmosphere became tense again.

Vermont was frustrated with the unsettling tension between them.

"Marshall!" Aurora's voice broke the tension.

Aurora ran over to Marshall excitedly and held his arm.

"I knew you were lying about having a girlfriend!"

Vermont felt relieved. He never thought he would be so glad to see Aurora. He smiled and quickly replied. "A lone wolf like him? It would be hard for him to get a girlfriend. You should introduce some of your friends to him. Maybe then he could get one."

"Marshall wouldn't be interested in them," Aurora pouted.

As she spoke, Aurora's eyes met Stella's mocking gaze. Aurora's hand trembled, and she looked away sheepishly. "Hi there, Keegan, Stella, and Vermont," Aurora greeted pretentiously.

Stella sneered but remained silent.

I'm not letting her off this easily. But, given the situation we are in, now is not the time to look into our

private matters"

"Marshall, please dance with me! There's a guy that keeps pestering me, and he is so annoying! Can you please ward him off for me?" Aurora said coquettishly

Where is Aurora's usual arrogance? Stella wondered. She acts so differently when she flirts with

Marshall

As Stella was eyeing Aurora, she had a realization. Normally, Aurora wouldn't bother to attend dinner

parties like this. The only reason she came today is probably because Marshall is here."

Aurora likes Marshall, Stella concluded.

This

would explain her behavior! Stella thought to herself. 'No wonder she toned down her aggressiveness toward me. She wasn't worried that I would complain about her to Keegan, she just didn't want Marshall to see her true colors so that Marshall wouldn't dislike her.'

Marshall wanted to refuse Aurora's invitation to dance. However, with Aurora's persistent coaxing on top of Vermont's matchmaking efforts, Marshall was unable to put up any more resistance. In the end, he was unwillingly pulled into the crowd by the two of them.

Once Marshall had left, Stella let out a sigh of relief.

'Keegan is smart, Stella thought. He might not catch on to what Marshall said about the dispute now, but once he does, he will ask me about it for sure.'

I'm not that good at playing mind games like Keegan. There's a chance that he might get the truth out of me, and I would be done for.

If Keegan knew that I wanted to sue Bella's fans, he would kill me before I could make a move."

"Why don't you follow them?"

Keegan's sarcastic voice came from behind her.

Then, Stella snapped back to reality.

Keegan took a glance at the white dress that Stella was wearing, and his expression darkened. "Where have

you been?" He questioned her, and his voice was filled with disgust. "What is this thing you're wearing? Where are your other clothes?"

His tone insinuated that the questions had other meanings, like "Where have you been fooling around?" and "You're wearing this rag?"

Chapter 93

"Why don't you ask that good sister of yours?"

Keegan glanced at her "She said you held a grudge against her for taking your gown. You excused yourself to the bathroom and sneaked away."

Stella let out a scornful laugh. "Why do you ask me when she has already told you about it?"

Keegan pursed his lips and said flatly, "I didn't believe her. I would like to hear your side of the story."

Stella froze for a moment and puckered her lips.

"Would you believe me if I told you Aurora locked me in the restroom?" Stella did not look at Keegan when she said that. She never thought that Keegan would take what she said seriously. She knew very well how defensive Keegan was of his sister. No matter how reckless Aurora was, she would still be the simple-minded little girl in Keegan and his family's eyes. It was impossible to make them believe that their innocent little girl had locked someone in the restroom.

Stella had braced herself for Keegan's backlash, but she only heard a sigh from Keegan. "How did you get out?"

Keegan's response stunned Stella. She felt that Keegan was acting strange today as all his reactions seemed to be out of her expectations. She could not read his thoughts, or maybe she never really knew him.

“I went out the window.” Stella did not mention that she saved someone during her time in the restroom. It was not necessary for her to mention it since she saved a stranger. Besides, the thought of saving someone from the toilet bowl with her bare hands made her feel sick. Once was enough for this kind of experience, there was no need to make a big deal out of it.

“You went out the window?” Stella’s response had startled Keegan. She was on the twelfth floor. Did she think she could climb the walls? Keegan thought.

Stella was not paying attention to Keegan’s expression and nodded. “I got outside and climbed along the wall until I reached the next door. Mr. Moore just so happened to be in the restroom, and he helped me out.”

The blue veins on Keegan’s forehead tensed, and he asked carelessly in a low voice, “What was Marshall doing in the restroom?”

Stella was puzzled by the absurd question.

“What can someone do in the restroom? He was obviously going to the toilet.”

Keegan said in a deep voice, “You saw him in the toilet?”

“Huh?” Stella did not respond in time.

And, Keegan glanced at her. “You saw him!”

Stella came back to her senses and answered with a flushed face. “I didn’t! He just came in when I got to the window. How could you be so dirty-minded!”

Keegan immediately cooled off his anger. He pulled her elbow over to take a closer look at her wound. There were obvious traces of bruises on her right wrist. Blood spots were on her white tender skin, and the abraded skin had prickly curled-up cuticles.

She would dramatically grunt for half a day when she punctured her finger without bleeding when she was peeling an apple at home. Yet, there was not a single cry of pain from her when her wrist was in this

condition

She was covered in wounds the night she was rear-ended on the overpass, but she came home without saying anything. Stella was no longer willing to cry out her pain or show her vulnerable side to him. anymore. Keegan was not pleased with that realization.

It was hard for Keegan to describe how he felt. He hated trouble, whether it was in work or life. It was always the simpler, the better. But, it was not like that for Stella. When they got married, Keegan knew that she was a somewhat troublesome woman.

They lacked a real relationship, but she wanted a classic wedding with all the wedding ceremony processes. After their marriage, she took it upon herself and changed his daily habits. Habits such as drinking milk before bed, putting car freshener in the car, and using his collection of expensive coffee beans to make coffee-flavor cakes.

Stella's presence disrupted his twenty years of habits, and sometimes she annoyed him. She would ask him if her clothing was nice, and if he responded that it was fine, she would claim that he was brushing her off. But, if he said that it was ugly, she would disagree and state that he had poor taste. The answer would always be one of the two, yet she would happily ask him every time.

Keegan once hoped that she would be like the partner he had anticipated. Someone who was smart, knowledgeable, independent, and would not cause too much trouble. However, he felt rather uncomfortable, as if there was a missing piece in his heart once she stopped bothering him.

Keegan pursed his lips and lowered his head to help Stella put on a band-aid. From Stella's point of view, she could perfectly see his jawline. Even though Stella was going to divorce Keegan, she still thought that Keegan was goddamn hot. It was also because of this deceptive face that made her once thought she could live with this for the rest of her life. Once we are really separated, I probably wouldn't hate Keegan with that face of his. Being a face judger is so unprincipled! Stella thought.

Keegan partially closed his eyes and gently pressed the two ends of the band-aid. He faintly asked, "The window was so high up. How did you manage to climb it?"

When he mentioned that, Stella could not help but brag. "Did you forget that I was an art student? I learned to dance for many years. Although I did slack off after getting married, my foundation is still there. A height like that poses no difficulty to me." The matter was over, and she could obviously talk big without thinking twice. Who would have known that her legs had given up from fear?

Keegan looked up at her. "You think you're really smart?"

Stella did not understand his underlying meaning, and she discussed it in a serious manner with him. "I consider this as brave and wise."

Keegan sneered, "I think that you lost your mind! The accessible restroom clearly has an emergency call button. Why didn't you press it? Do you really think you're brave and wise for climbing the window? It's on the twelfth floor! Do you know that you'll be a puddle of mush now if you step on the wrong foot?"

Keegan could ruin Stella's good mood with one sentence His rebuke in her face made her angry and aggrieved She withdrew her hand and glared at him with red eyes "That's right! I am dumb! I have never been to any accessible restroom before How would I know if there was an emergency call button in n I'm sure you wished I stepped on the wrong foot and fell to death. That way, you can save on the property division and have room for you and the other woman to be in each other's pockets

Keegan narrowed his eyes "What nonsense are you talking about?"

Stella gritted her teeth "You know what I'm talking about

"And, what exactly do I know? Keegan pulled back the hand that she had withdrawn to him and put on another band-aid. "You have such a temper for that limited ability If you didn't know about the emergency call button, what about your phone? Can't you make a phone call?"

Stella retorted, "Your sister damaged my brain. Otherwise, why would I be stupid enough to climb the window?"

Keegan's eyebrow relaxed after learning that she did not ignore his phone call on purpose Even the sarcasm in her words did not make him feel angry Looking at her furious look, Keegan unconsciously softened and lowered his voice, "Did I wrong you, though?"

Stella let off a soft huff. "Well, you had the decency to be indiscriminate

Keegan was not an unreasonable person. On the contrary, no matter how protective he was, he would not show pity to anyone if things went too far, even if it was his mother However, these limits were nothing in front of his true love Surprisingly, Keegan was not offended by her retort, and he helplessly said, 'I'll buy you a new phone.

Stella looked at him with an absurd look. Why do I hear a touch of coaxing in these words? Is Keegan coaxing me? My ears work perfectly fine. It must be Keegan that has something wrong with him

Stella coughed and glanced at him, "You can forget it if that's your guilty conscious trying to make up to me. I'm not accepting it."

Keegan paused and pushed her hand off. "Was your brain caught in the window when you climbed it? Stella was speechless. She knew that Keegan was being the weird one just now Look at him. He's still the same old man with a sharp tongue."

"What are you waiting for?" Keegan walked two steps and glared at her coldly when she remained in the same place. "Do I need a carriage to pick you up?"

Stella sucked it up and reluctantly followed. She maintained her distance from him as if she was deliberately acting against him. When he was fast, she walked fast; when he was slow, she slowed down

too.

The single men in the venue naturally noticed that Stella was alone. Stella was ravishing. Even though she did not wear haute couture like the other socialites, she killed it with only a simple dress. Her parents' looks were not attractive, but she won the genetic lottery by being born with all the best features of her ancestor. The eighteen-year-old Stella had a youthful glow and was not even the prettiest in her class. But, by twenty-three, she was a fully bloomed flower. Her features were more defined, and her beauty grew as she aged.

The event was filled with pretty girls, yet Stella's beauty was different compared to other women. If other women walked by, their fancy dress would be the first thing other people noticed. However, with Stella, no matter what she wore, people would always notice her face first. Keegan rarely took her to these kinds

of events. Therefore, many people did not recognize her. They were all wondering which family's daughter she was or if she was a celebrity guest invited by the host to perform.

Many young men came up to flirt with her. Keegan turned back and saw that Stella was talking to a young man with a smile on her face.

Chapter 95

Keegan recognized the man as someone who had just been introduced to him. A twenty-something-year-old who co-founded an up-and-coming internet enterprise with a modest bit of his family's funding. The company seemed to have good momentum too.

Keegan walked toward them with a long face. The young man saw Keegan and greeted him with a smile, "Mr. Kane."

Keegan remained composed, making it hard for people to see through him. He asked calmly, "What were you talking about?"

"Oh, it's nothing." The man laughed. "We were classmates in the past, so we were just catching up."

“Classmates?” Keegan asked while staring at Stella. The man thought that Keegan was referring to him and explained, “This is Ms. Stella Jewell, my high school classmate. We haven’t been in touch for a long time. I didn’t expect to run into her here. Stella, this is Mr. Kane from The Vinci Rivera Group.

Stella was speechless. This classmate of hers was enthusiastic but senseless. The next moment, Keegan smirked, “I can see that you’ve not been in touch for a while.”

The man was startled to see Keegan putting his arm around Stella’s waist. Keegan slowly looked at him. and gently said, “He doesn’t even know you’re married.”

Keegan, that little shit, must have mastered how to lie,’ thought Stella. Stella thought that she was already a good liar, but she willingly admitted defeat to him. Her classmate was taken aback by the sudden information and paused for a moment. “You’re married?”

Stella acted in concert with Keegan by holding his arms, and she smiled. “This is my husband.”

Her classmate’s gaze had a hint of regret, and he uncomfortably said, “You got married so early.” After he spoke, he sensed that what he said was not quite right, so he hurriedly explained, “I mean, I didn’t expect Mr. Kane to be your husband. When I was studying abroad, I heard from some friends that said you got into an accident. It’s good to find someone to take care of you.”

The news of Stella and her mother’s car accident was a big deal at that time, and it even went into the headlines. A private car and a taxi collided, causing two deaths and three injured. The taxi driver and the passenger died on the spot, while the other passenger was heavily injured. Stella’s mother was saved but was in a constant vegetative state; forever asleep. Stella had the lightest injury in the accident. Until this day, her stomach could not help but churn when she thought about the accursed car accident.

Keegan propped her fingers apart and interlocked them with his. Stella looked up at him with a strange look. Keegan did not look back at her and said, “I heard that Mr. Lauren’s parents are in the catering industry.”

The man was delighted that Keegan took the initiative to talk, so he enthusiastically chatted with him. Keegan rarely talked to strangers. The people around him noticed them chatting and slowly gathered around him. It was impossible to talk about business on such occasions. The main focus was to get acquainted with people.

Although the ladies talked about more boring topics; topics such as the opening of a new Japanese restaurant, the

best teatime in the streets, or they would show off their husband's families. Their lives seemed to live within their husband's social circle.

Come to think of it, I'm the same, too, Stella thought. Just as she was starting to imagine things, she heard a female voice ring. "Keegan "

Chapter 96

Stella wiped off the smile on her face and looked toward the sound. Bella wore a blue rhinestone dress and was walking in her direction.

Her appearance was bejeweled, and her makeup was glamorous. Both her expression and posture were composed. As one of the most famous actresses of today, she truly deserved the stature of a celebrity.

Usually, the ladies' would, at most, have mere acquaintances with these young actresses. They would not care too much as it was frequent to see celebrities during these events. But, the way she called Keegan's name was too intimate, so they could not help but probe. The rumors about Keegan and the famous actress Bella were widely spread. However, there was no news about it soon after, so everyone thought that it was just a publicity stunt. Seeing that Bella called Keegan in such an intimate way in front of his wife seemed to make the news to be more than just hype.

The nature of humans was to gossip, and it was the same for all social circles. The crowd was secretly paying attention to Keegan and Stella's reactions. Surprisingly, they reacted coldly. Stella paused a slight moment

when she heard Bella calling Keegan's name. She then proceeded to sip the juice in her hand as if the person who came was insignificant. While Keegan was even more indifferent, he did not pay any attention and only glanced at Bella.

Stella sneered in her heart, 'This shit does know how to pretend.'

Bella felt slightly awkward, but she soon returned to her natural self. "Mr. and Mrs. Kane, what a coincidence."

Stella nodded faintly in response. Due to the crowd present, Keegan casually asked, "Why are you here?"

Stella scorned his action. 'Didn't he hurriedly run away after picking up his 'babe's' phone call? Why should he pretend to be innocent here?'

Bella had a dazzling smile, and her voice was gentle and soft. "I'm the celebrity guest for today's charity performance."

The event did have some celebrities come over for a charity performance, but it was usually a temporary secondment found by the host's company. They were not famous; some were even students who had not graduated

from art school, mainly coming over to light up the scene. That was because the people attending the event were of special status. The host would never take the initiative to invite Bella to perform in the charity performance since celebrities might attract the paparazzi. Therefore, it was unclear how she got in there.

Keegan did not reply to her. He seemed to pay no attention to her as several young men came over to toast with him. Bella flicked a glance at Stella and handed her a cocktail, "Mrs. Kane, try this drink. It's really good."

Stella looked up and rejected. "No thanks, I don't drink."

This was nonsense since Stella loved to drink sweet wine such as cocktails, wine, and cider, even though she could not handle liquor too well. On the contrary, Keegan, who often socialized, did not like to drink much.

"You don't drink?" Bella froze and probed, "Are you pregnant?"

Stella stiffened, and her words hit Stella close to home. The wife was not pregnant, but the

mistress was running amok with her big belly. 'Why do I have to come across this disgusting matter? Is she here on purpose to make me sick?'

Chapter 97

Stella really wanted to splash her drink on Bella's face. To be honest, three years of marriage without kids was nothing special. The fact that Dahlia went all over the place for a doctor to force her into having a boy was revolting. Dahlia made it a widely known piece of news. Apparently, people would not say anything about it. However, they would gossip that she could not have children behind the scenes. This was why even though they were married for many years, people still shoved girls into Keegan.

Everyone began to inquire as soon as Bella raised her head. Evidently, they weren't concerned about Stella's pregnancy. Since everyone knew that she could not get pregnant, all they wanted to know was if there was a joke to laugh about.

Bella wanted to enrage Stella and make her lose her temper out of embarrassment. However, Cordelia was most concerned about the Kane family's reputation. 'Would Cordelia protect Stella if she lost her temper on such an occasion and brought shame to the Kane family? If Cordelia rejected her, how long could Stella stay in the Kane family?' Bella was expecting things to play out this way.

Unexpectedly, Stella was not provoked. She even smiled at the crowd and said, "We will tell it when the time comes. Some things would be jinxed if said in advance."

The crowd was stunned at her seemingly response to the pregnancy. After all, there was indeed a tradition to keep unstable pregnancy a secret during the first three months. Keegan was sipping tea not far away. He could hear what Stella said, but he did not express his opinion about it. This led the crowd to confirm Stella's pregnancy.

The jokes turned into congratulations, and Bella turned green with anger, as Stella became the center of attention. Bella pretended to congratulate Stella with the crowd. "Congratulations to Mrs. Kane. You finally got what you wanted. I really can't tell when you're wearing high heels and makeup."

Bella was close to directly pointing out that Stella was lying. Stella, however, was not an easy target either. She took a glance at Bella and sneered, "As an unmarried woman, you seem to know quite a lot about pregnant women, Ms. Young. I would have thought that you experienced being pregnant before."

Bella was shocked and nervously stared at Keegan. However, Keegan was not even looking at her. Keegan had been setting his attention on Stella even though he was chatting with others. His gaze was dark with waves of emotions. Stella had no time to pay attention to Keegan and found that Bella's reaction was odd. 'Why is she so nervous?'

Just as Stella wanted to probe more about it, a voice interrupted, "Ms. Young was just concerned. Don't you think that that was something very rude to be said, Mrs. Kane?"

Stella was startled and looked over to see Mrs. Chapman speaking. She was the one who won all her money during the Mah-Jongg game at Dahlia's place and ended up defeated when Keegan won all the money back. Mrs. Chapman was good friends with Dahlia. She was smooth and slick in establishing social relations, and she was a senior. The ladies were respectful to her. Mrs. Chapman was a little things to all people. It was surprising that she helped a celebrity and publicly accused the Kane family's eldest daughter-in-law.

Stella knew that Mrs. Chapman was not helping Bella. Others would not be sure, but Stella

knew her hidden intention. Mr. Chapman once knocked up a celebrity before. Mr. Chapman's family had a preference for sons and had been looking forward to one, but Mrs. Chapman gave birth to three daughters. She was worried that the celebrity would threaten her position by giving birth to a son. Hence, she took the initiative to negotiate with the celebrity. In the end, the celebrity agreed to abort the child for ten million.

Mrs. Chapman looked shiny on the outside, but she did not hold the purse strings. She did not have the money. Her own family was rich in assets, but after her parents passed

away, she was left with one property. The rest were all inherited by her two brothers. Besides, she was not on good terms with her siblings because of her husband. Therefore, no one was willing to lend her the money, so she borrowed the money from Dahlia.

The celebrity took the money and sent her the bill for the abortion the next day. Mrs. Chapman was worried, so she asked someone to check the abortion for her. In the end, she found out that the abortion was not only fake but so was the pregnancy.

Chapter 98

When Mrs. Chapman realized that she had been scammed and went to look for the artist, the artist had already left with the money.

Stella heard about the incident from Aurora during a meal one time.

That incident was the reason Mrs. Chapman hated celebrities within the entertainment industry, so she could not possibly side with Bella.

Even though Mrs. Chapman appeared kind, she was actually a petty person.

‘She won so much money during our game of Mah-Jongg but ended up losing it all when Keegan showed up. So, how could she not hold a grudge?’ thought Stella.

Mrs. Chapman did not dare to cross Keegan, but she was not scared of his wife—a nobody. Besides, she was certain that Stella would not dare to offend her publicly.

It was true that Stella did not dare to offend her.

“Mrs. Chapman isn’t like Bella. If I offended Bella, I’d at most get into an argument with Keegan; but if I offend Mrs. Chapman, she’d probably plot my demise again,” Stella thought again.

Stella did not even realize that she subconsciously thought Keegan would not do anything to her, even if it were for Bella.

“You’re right, Mrs. Chapman. It was an inappropriate joke. I’d like to apologize if I offended you, Ms. Young.”

Since Stella immediately apologized, Mrs. Chapman had to force down the sardonic remarks she was about to say.

‘What dog breed is Stella?’ she thought.

Bella was also stunned to see Mrs. Chapman defend her. However, she was satisfied with the way Stella admitted her mistake, so she said in feigned magnanimity, "What are you saying, Mrs. Kane? It's just a joke. I didn't take it to heart."

Bella's answer was somewhat idiotic. It made Mrs. Chapman, who had defended her, sound as if she was being a little meddlesome.

As expected, Mrs. Chapman did not look happy. She took a deep breath and changed her tone." Don't blame me for butting in, Stella. Your mother-in-law and I are like sisters, so you're almost like a daughter to me. My words may sound harsh at times, but it's for your own good. Do you understand?"

Stella answered obediently, "I understand."

Mrs. Chapman felt incredibly disdainful when she saw Stella's timid demeanor. When she saw how Keegan was still not paying attention to them, she lectured Stella in an elder's stance. You're the Kane family's eldest grandson's wife, so everything you say and do will represent the Kane family's image. Think before you speak and act. You mustn't be mannerless like you were in the past."

Stella answered as if she did not understand the cynicism in Mrs. Chapman's words.

"

"You're right, Mrs. Chapman. I really need to learn from you when it comes to speaking and behaving. My mother-in-law said you're gracious, intelligent, ladylike, and virtuous. Not only did you educate your children into outstanding people, but you're also thoughtful and considerate when speaking or handling matters. You and Mr. Chapman are also incredibly in love with each other, and your love is stronger than steel. It's already amazing for a normal person to achieve one of these traits, but you actually managed to achieve all of these. What's your secret?"

When everyone saw how respectful she was to Mrs. Chapman, everyone immediately followed along and said words of flattery.

'Mrs. Chapman and Dahlia have a good relationship. Even Mrs. Kane is treating her like an elder, so wouldn't that mean we'd get closer to the Kane family if we get close to Mrs. Chapman?' they thought.

"Mrs. Chapman, you and Mr. Chapman have been married for nearly 20 years, right? I heard Mr. Chapman ordered a ring for Valentine's Day this year. You two have been together for 20 years, yet he's still so romantic. My husband forgot about our wedding anniversary on the second year of our marriage."

“Not only does Mrs. Chapman have a good relationship with Mr. Chapman, but Mr. Chapman’s mother also speaks highly of Mrs. Chapman. The mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationship they have is really enviable.”

“Mrs. Chapman, share your secret behind having a happy marriage.”

One after another, the crowd buttered up Mrs. Chapman.

Mrs. Chapman cleared her throat and said, “Well, it really isn’t anything special. It’s unavoidable to have some hiccups in life after marriage. Men toil away at work; as women, we should be more considerate and tolerate them. There’s no obstacle that we can’t overcome in life.”

‘That’s servilism. While the division of labor among men and women is different, do women not face hardships just because men do?’ they wondered.

Chapter 99

Everyone showed expressions of agreement regardless of what they thought.

Stella consulted her with an earnest expression. “But, what if the man made a principle-based mistake? For example, he has an affair and gets some woman pregnant, and the woman comes to you and challenges you. How do you think this situation should be handled?”

After Stella spoke, Mrs. Chapman’s expression changed. Meanwhile, Bella also became pale and looked panicked.

Mrs. Chapman pursed her lips and asked with a stiff expression, “Did you experience such a thing, Mrs. Kane?”

Her words were incredibly blunt. Obviously, this was also something the crowd was very curious about.

Stella steadily took a sip of her juice. Finally, she spoke, “It’s a friend of mine. Her husband had an affair, and that woman got pregnant. However, my friend did not want to get divorced, so she went to find that woman and negotiated with her. She wanted the woman to abort the baby and leave her husband. The woman agreed and asked for one million dollars. She said she’ll abort the child once she got the money. However, my friend is a stay-at-home mother and doesn’t have much savings, so she borrowed money from me a few days ago. I’m not sure if I should lend her the money.”

She continued, "Personally, I disagree with her approach. Nevertheless, I don't seem to have a better solution. Since you're knowledgeable and experienced, I'm asking you in my friend's stead. How do you think it should be handled if you were faced with this situation?"

Hearing Stella finish her sentence, Bella breathed a sigh of relief. However, Mrs. Chapman's expression had completely darkened.

"I don't have experience in these things. You've asked the wrong person, Mrs. Kane," she said stiffly.

Stella hurriedly said, "Don't be angry, Mrs. Chapman. I'm not saying that Mr. Chapman did anything. I just thought you've been through this and should have a good way to handle such things."

Mrs. Chapman was so furious that she had turned red. However, she could not act on her anger.

She gritted her teeth and said icily, "I'm not angry. It's just I'm genuinely unable to answer your question. Excuse me, ladies. I need to go to the washroom."

Stella watched as Mrs. Chapman hastily left.

She smiled and loudly said, "Let's play Mah-Jongg when you're free, Mrs. Chapman."

Mrs. Chapman froze momentarily. Then, she quickened her pace and left in her leather flats.

Stella narrowed her eyes, and the corner of her lips unnoticeably twisted upward. While she was gloating, Keegan's voice sounded behind her. "What did you talk about that made you this happy?"

Stella's smile instantly faltered.

"Nothing," she said coolly.

On the other hand, the ladies were incredibly friendly to Keegan. It only took them a few sentences to tell him about the conversation earlier.

Keegan then glanced at Stella.

'I didn't know she has a married friend whose husband had an affair?' he thought.

"You lent that friend money?"

'Lent, my ass! It was a story I made up on the spot!' she thought.

Stella glanced at him and said, "I wanted to, but I didn't have enough."

"I can pay you in advance."

'Is he that kind?' she wondered.

"Under what condition?"

She wanted to know what Keegan was thinking.

Keegan lowered his gaze and said in a husky voice, "Give me a kiss."

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Stella was startled. "What did you say?"

Keegan avoided her gaze and said coolly, "Cordelia's people here. I don't want grandma to hear any stories, so don't read too much into it."

'No wonder,' she thought.

Stella pouted.

'I knew it. He wouldn't say such strange things. He's the one who's a performing art major graduate; he can get into character anytime and anywhere. But, why should I cooperate with him?' she thought.

Just as Stella was about to reject his request, she suddenly saw Bella look longingly in their direction. She looked as if she wanted to pounce over and separate Stella from Keegan.

Suddenly, Stella changed her mind.

She grabbed Keegan's shoulders and murmured, "Keep your word."

Then, she tip-toed and kissed him on the lips.

Keegan's lips were a little damp and tasted like red wine; it was faint and smelled a little good. 'Keegan definitely doesn't know how nervous I feel every time I use every trick in the book to seduce him. No matter how experienced I pretend to be, I've never been an

expert when I'm faced with the person I like. But, things are different for Keegan. He rarely has an expression that isn't indifferent, even while he has the most intimate contact,' she thought.

'Back then, I enjoyed seeing Keegan's calm and poised composure as if I was bewitched. However, I forgot that no man would be unmoved when looking at the woman he likes unless he was completely uninterested in that woman. If Keegan's uninterested in me, he wouldn't spare me a glance even if I stood naked in front of him. Even after he reluctantly sleeps with me, he spends two hours in the bathroom as if I've got germs on me!' she thought again. Suddenly, Stella felt annoyed.

'I'm clearly the one who has been patient with this marriage! Who's Keegan to despise me?' she thought.

Stella stared at the face she was once enamored with and stuck out her tongue without warning.

Keegan tensed up and immediately frowned.

After being cheeky, Stella released her grip.

'Eat my drool, you clean freak!' she thought.

She felt even more satisfied when she saw Bella's stunned and jealous gaze.

"Hey, shouldn't you two be more mindful of your images?"

Vermont popped out of nowhere and placed his hand on Keegan's shoulder.

"At the very least, be considerate of single people like me here."

Stella turned around and realized that not only was Vermont here but also Marshall.

His indifferent gaze met with hers. Then, he nodded lightly and did not speak.

Stella felt guilty and nervous. She felt guilty because she had not told him her real name from the start, and nervous because she was worried that Marshall would expose her. She still did not want Keegan to know that she was "Dusk Galaxy."

'Even if I get exposed, not now,' she thought.

Then, she felt pressure on her waist. Keegan was holding her.

"We're all adults. What haven't you seen before?" he asked coolly.

Stella snapped out of her daze and looked down at his hand on her waist. She held back and did not publicly swat his hand away.

"Where's Aurora?" asked Keegan.

“She went out to answer a call.” Vermont continued teasingly, “I’m guessing it’s your mom. Otherwise, how could she leave behind her Marshall.”

Marshall frowned momentarily but did not respond. He grabbed the wine on the table and looked at Stella. “Want a glass?”