

Read Novel Mr. Kane Got Blacklisted Chapter 931 [Eleven Jewell]

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“I’ll pay you a visit on the set then.”

Stella’s eyelid twitched. “It’s fine. You’re going to affect my work.”

Keegan smiled and said. “Don’t worry. I won’t stand by the bed this time.”

“Just wait for me outside. I’ll tell the director to shoot my scene first.”

Keegan agreed.

Stella got changed and came outside after she was done with her part. Then, she saw a Maserati stopping right in front of Keegan’s Mercedes, and both cars’ windows were rolled down. Trevor had a pair of sunglasses and was resting his elbow on the door when he looked at Keegan with a smirk.” Mr. Kane, don’t you need to work? Why are you coming to the set so often? Are you a guest actor now?”

Keegan glared at him. “Well, I should at least check on the progress of the movie I invested in as the boss, right?”

Trevor frowned. “When did you invest in a movie? I didn’t know at all.”

Keegan said without holding back. “Did you pocket the two hundred million I invested in your company? Did you forget that I own Elegant Media? I’m just here to see what kind of movie you’re producing with my money.”

The edge of Trevor’s mouth twitched. He had totally forgotten about that.

He was about to speak when he saw Stella moving sneakily as if trying to stay out of their sight. Then, he immediately lost interest in talking with Keegan and waved his hand, saying, “Stella, are you done with work today?”

Stella stopped walking. Then, she turned around and forced a laugh. “Mr. Saun, what brought you here?”

Trevor smiled. “A brand is interested in hiring you to shoot an ad. I’m here to take you there to see if we can work something out.”

Stella kept quiet.

He used the same excuse yesterday, the day before yesterday, and the day before yesterday's yesterday.

He would either tell Stella that some brands wanted her to be in their ads, hire her as their ambassador, or read the script for a new show...

He had different excuses every time, but the other party would always miss the appointment for various reasons. What was supposed to be a business meeting would always turn into a meal between just the two of them.

Keegan asked her out a few times, but she could never make it. She figured she could spend more time with him since her work ended early, but she unexpectedly bumped into Trevor. She could not hide from him at all.

"Mr. Saun, why not... another day?"

Trevor paused. "Are you busy today?"

Stella pursed her lips.

Her contract had a no dating clause. She was worried that Trevor would ask her to pay a penalty for breaching the contract if she were to tell him that she was going on a date with Keegan.

So she said calmly. "I need to talk to Mr. Kane about something."

Trevor looked at Keegan before shifting his gaze back to Stella. Then, he said, "What's more to talk about between both of you other than redividing the assets?"

The edge of Keegan's mouth twitched. "What does that have to do with you? You'd better mind your own business!"

Trevor felt a lot better after seeing how provoked Keegan got. "It is my business because she works for me now. So I just have to know every single thing that's happening in her life. Otherwise, who's going to earn money for me if anything bad happens to her?"

Keegan said disdainfully, "Don't you have other ways to earn money? You're already thirty years old. What have you been doing in your life?"

Trevor's face darkened as he responded sarcastically, "Well, at least I'm better than someone who knows how to earn a lot of money yet didn't give his wife a penny after divorcing her."

Keegan was speechless.

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Stella's head hurt when she saw how Keegan and Trevor insulted each other.

For some reason, she felt like Trevor was more bothered about her not getting any money after the divorce than her. She figured that he had crossed his boundary as just her boss.

In fact, she felt like Trevor had been paying extra attention to her ever since she started working for him. He also visited her very often to send her food and clothes in the company's name, so she could not reject them.

However, Stella noticed that even though the other artists he recruited would also receive benefits from the company, the benefits would never be as generous as what she got, let alone having the boss himself doing everything personally.

The way that Trevor treated her exceeded the line of how a boss should treat his employees. Normally, it would mean the boss intended to take advantage of his employee.

However, Trevor never wanted anything from her.

He would always take her to different restaurants to enjoy delicacies and even order everything on the menu just so she could try them all.

Stella gained about five pounds after following him to those restaurants this week alone. Even Stuart had to ask her if she was suffering from edema.

Stella also began to suspect if Trevor wanted to make her fat purposely. In that way, she would be unable to take new jobs, so Trevor could use that as an excuse to make her pay the penalty for breaching the contract.

But she figured the penalty was too insignificant compared to what the Saun family owned, so there was no reason for Trevor to do that.

That was why Stella could not figure out what he was really up to.

Keegan did not want to waste more time with Trevor, so he turned around and said to Stella, "Stella, get in."

Trevor said before Stella could even move, "Stella, you've come such a long way to finally have your own career. You shouldn't risk your career for someone irrelevant. Besides, this job pays very well; six figures. Think about it."

Stella kept quiet.

Keegan's heart dropped after seeing Stella's reaction. Indeed, the look on her face was hesitant. She was a person who could be convinced if there was money involved.

Keegan gritted his teeth.

I've given her so much money when we were married. Why is she still so obsessed with it? Is money really more attractive than me to her?

Keegan cleared his throat, and the sound he made reminded Stella of what was happening. She looked up and saw the resentment in Keegan's eyes. Then, she felt a little guilty.

"Um... We agreed to meet today some time ago."

Keegan's mood became a lot better after how Stella chose him determinedly.

Trevor glared at Keegan and suddenly sighed. "Kaiden and I spent a lot of effort and money to secure this advertisement. All we need is for you to be there and sign the contract tonight. I'm not sure if the client would want to meet us again if you don't show up this time."

Stella kept quiet. She looked at Trevor and looked back at Keegan.

Keegan looked defeated, as if he knew that Stella would ditch him. She thought that he looked kind of funny. 'Is this how much he trusts me?'

She looked up and said, "Trevor, I honestly can't make it tonight. I have a little brother who's going to university soon, and Mr. Kane used to help him with his exams. So his family wants to treat Mr. Kane to a meal, and I have to be there because I'm the reason they knew him."

Keegan paused, and his mood immediately lightened up.

He thought to himself. 'She picked me.'

Trevor pursed his lips. Even though he kept a straight face, he was obviously upset.

Stella sighed.

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To be honest, how well Trevor treated her was kind of scary to her.

Marshall treated her very well too, but he would never reject her when she repaid the favor by giving him gifts or money.

There was a difference between Marshall and Trevor. Marshall was more like a friend at work who would do her a favor without troubling himself, but Trevor was a person who would give her everything for free without wanting anything in return. Stella just could not accept it.

That was when Stella could relate to the saying; free things are often the most expensive.

She was afraid to accept Trevor's kindness because she knew she could never repay it. She bowed at Trevor. "I'm sorry, Mr. Saun."

Trevor was speechless.

'We just got closer, and everything just went back to the start. Why is she calling me Mr. Saun? I don't want to be just Mr. Saun to her!'

Trevor hid how upset he was and put on a smile. 'It's fine. There's nothing to be sorry about. Go on. I'll rearrange the appointment to another day.'

Stella heaved a sigh of relief and went into Keegan's car.

Trevor watched them leave calmly until the Mercedes completely disappeared from his sight. Then, he said frustratedly, 'How could she still be so forgiving after everything he's done?!'

Xavier heard that and said in a low voice, "Why not? Haven't you heard that people always prefer to be with their first partner? To me, Mr. Kane and Miss Jewell look like a good match."

Trevor paused and said scornfully, "When did you go blind? A good match? Is that dumb dog Keegan good enough to be with Stella?"

Xavier kept quiet.

However, he could not stop himself from talking back. “Mr. Saun, I’ve wanted to tell you this for a long time. You have so many other options, but why are you so obsessed with someone else’s ex-wife? How could you insult him just because you were rejected? You used to be a generous man. II

Trevor was speechless.

He smoked with anger inside as he looked at his foolish assistant.

Then, he asked deeply, “Do you know why Aldor can earn more than you even though you have higher qualifications?”

Xavier’s feeling was hurt as Aldor was the benchmark in their field. Even though his income was confidential, they could guess how much he earned from rumors.

Aldor bought a one thousand square feet residence in the most prosperous area of the city after just three years of working for Keegan. No assistant could have done that. Even though he might not pay the full price, the down payment alone was enough to drop one’s jaw.

Xavier responded, “Is it because he’s a better bootlicker than me?”

“Heh.” Trevor chuckled.

Xavier was speechless.

Stella felt more relaxed after they left Hatun.

Aldor swept his gaze across the sweat on Stella’s forehead and gently said while turning the steering wheel, “Madam, are you feeling hot? Do you want me to turn down the temperature?”

Stella shook her head. “It’s fine.”

Aldor noticed that Stella’s knees were exposed after looking at her. Then, he hinted to Keegan, “Mr. Kane, are you feeling cold?”

Keegan understood what he was trying to say and grabbed the blanket at the side before covering Stella’s knees with it. “It’s not good for the cold wind to blow directly at you.”

“Okay,” Stella said as she smiled faintly.

“What time did you come? Did you see Trevor as soon as you arrived?”

“Yeah,” Keegan responded. He did not like hearing Stella say Trevor’s name, and he felt even more annoyed after thinking she once said she had a crush on Trevor. However, he immediately felt better after knowing that Stella just rejected her crush for him.

But he continued venting his jealousy, ‘Don’t you have any feelings for your crush after all the nice things he’s done for you?’

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Stella’s hand that was holding her phone paused as she immediately noticed Keegan’s jealousy.

‘Does this dumb man really think I have a crush on Trevor?’

Stella rolled her eyes and suddenly started acting.

She sighed and said, “I’d be lying if I said I have absolutely no feelings for him. He was once my crush, after all.”

Keegan kept quiet.

Then, he said in a deep voice, “Why did you reject him and come with me then?”

“Because...” Stella drawled before whispering into Keegan’s ear, “Because someone looked so sad and disappointed, as if he would start crying if I didn’t come with him. I couldn’t bear to see that.”

Keegan paused and was delighted. He wrapped his arm around Stella’s waist and held her chin with another. Then, he gritted his teeth and said, “Who’s going to cry?”

Stella chuckled and pinched his ear. “Were you worried that I’d go with him? N

Keegan turned her head and kissed the back of her hand. ‘I’ll understand if you go with him because of work.’ He paused before continuing, “I suddenly realized how you felt when I couldn’t make it to our date because of work after waiting for me last time.”

Stella was a little surprised. “How did you feel?”

Keegan said softly, “From filled with joy to completely empty inside. From feeling excited to feeling disappointed.”

“How poetic of you.” Stella chuckled. “Actually, waiting isn’t scary, but waiting for nothing is.”

Keegan paused and hugged her tighter. “I won’t make you wait anymore.”

Stella said, “Let’s see how well you’ll do. After all, I can still terminate you after your probation period ends.”

Keegan kept quiet.

“What do you feel like eating?”

Keegan asked Stella.

Stella thought for a while. “Why don’t we just stick to the lie? Julian is leaving soon anyway. Let’s buy some gifts and pay him and Ms. Cooke a visit. What do you think?”

Keegan said, “Sure. You’re the boss.”

Stella took her phone and dialed Julian’s number. She told him they would bring some food and have a barbecue tonight. She also asked him to clean the yard and prepare the tools.

Julian replied with an “OK” emoji very soon after that.

Then, Aldor drove them to a nearby mall.

They bought some ingredients at the supermarket, and Aldor carried the bags back to the car. Then, Stella grabbed Keegan’s arms and took him to shop in the mall.

They dressed very casually. Stella was wearing a ten-dollar dress that Felicity bought from an online shop. It was too tight for Felicity, and she could not wear it. She did not return it because the shipping fees were costly, so she gave it to Stella.

Even though it was a cheap dress, its material was surprisingly soft and cooling. Stella wanted to wear it to sleep, but it looked good on her after she put it on, so she kept wearing it out.

Keegan was not wearing anything fancy too. He had a shirt and a pair of long pants on. Stella bought them for him, and they cost around a hundred dollars. His outfit was not considered very expensive because any working person would be able to afford that. However, he made them look like expensive garments because of how good-looking he was.

Stella wanted to buy some gifts for Shelley and those kids in the welfare center, but she could not stop herself from going to the women's section after circling around for a while.

Women just could not get enough clothes, and Stella was no exception.

She walked past a shop and could not take her eyes off the plastic mannequin inside. Keegan was talking to her, but he felt she was not listening. He finally realized why.

"Let's have a look inside, shall we?" Keegan asked.

Stella refused. "It's okay. We're supposed to be buying gifts for the kids."

Keegan said, "But the big kid here hasn't bought new clothes in a long time."

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Stella was very tempted but rejected Keegan's offer anyway. "You bought me plenty of new clothes previously, didn't you? I hardly wore any of them.

I shouldn't be buying any new ones now."

Keegan looked at her. "I was talking about myself."

Stella was speechless.

Keegan smiled and walked into the fashion store after saying that. She gritted her teeth and followed behind him.

'How could he do this during his probation period? I'm going to deduct his marks!'

Stella forgot about deducting Keegan's mark completely as soon as she entered the store.

The latest collection had just arrived, and the store was filled with various clothes designs. Stella liked everything she touched, but she put them back after seeing their price tags.

Keegan rarely went shopping with her because he was always busy. Stella could really take her time in a store.

Stella could make a decision immediately when it came to a huge amount of money but would become very hesitant while dealing with little money.

She would always compare prices while buying her daily clothes and pick the ones with the best value for money. As for Keegan, he would never waste his time deciding on things like this because he could earn a thousand times more than what would cost him.

He could never understand why Stella did that, but he began to get it after some time.

He figured that a couple did not have to always spend a lot of money while being together as they should put their daily necessities first. She would only use those luxury items she bought on special occasions anyway. After all, she needed to present herself well, not to embarrass him. She only dressed nicely because she wanted to make him look good.

And she preferred to be a wise spender in her daily life.

For example, she ordered a flower shelf online that she placed on the second-floor balcony. Then, she found out that the labor fees to assemble them would cost as much as a new one, so she bought the tools and asked Keegan to put them together with her.

Keegan's hands-on skills were great, but he had only dealt with assembling machinery before. That was his first time building a flower shelf. He thought that it was a very time-wasting thing to do, but Stella kept convincing him that it was not.

She said, "Honey, do you remember who Mrs. Valle is? She's a big cat lover, right? So, her husband built a cat mansion for her in their backyard. It looked magnificent." She even showed him the photos as she spoke." Look, this mansion is much more complicated than our flower shelf. Do you have any idea why her husband is so good?

"Also, Mrs. Miller just got pregnant, right? The doctor said that she has calcium deficiency and needs to get a bit of sun. Her husband was worried she would get bored while doing that, so he built her a swing in the yard. It was made from real wood. It looks so good and sturdy! However, her husband isn't as tall and strong as you. How did he manage to put those pieces of wood together? How powerful is he? And Mrs. Miller..."

She gave him a few examples and purposely said their husbands were either very strong or competent.

Men did not like competition, and the last thing they wanted was for their woman to compare them to other men. So, Keegan's competitive spirit was immediately awakened.

He did not just assemble the flower shelf for her but also built her an automatic canopy. He only realized he had fallen into Stella's trap after losing himself in her continuous compliments.

He figured that Stella only wanted to use him by praising him.

He never understood why Stella would want to spend a whole afternoon assembling it to save a few dollars in labor fees. He was even a little mad that she wasted his precious time.

However, he remembered how energetic Stella was when he thought about what happened that time. She would wipe away his sweat, ask him if he was getting tired, and remove the splinter from his finger with tweezers...

Every penny that she saved showed how passionate she was about living.

After assembling the flower shelf, the sense of accomplishment was worth much more than the money she had saved.

Stella would probably be dumbfounded if she ever found out how greatly Keegan thought of her because she liked saving money, i

Felicity was the main reason she subtly developed the habit. She also had more bills to pay after the divorce, so she had no choice but to make every penny count.

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“Which one do you think is nicer?”

Stella had two dresses in different hands and asked Keegan.

Keegan looked over and found out that both dresses had a collar and the same pattern. He could not tell their difference apart other than their color.

Keegan pursed his lips. “The lighter one.”

Stella finally thought Keegan had a sense of fashion as she said, “I think so too, but it costs twice as much as the darker one, yet both of them use the same material.”

“Get the darker one then.”

Stella paused. “Am I not good enough to get the more expensive option?”

Keegan was speechless.

He gazed at his cheeky girlfriend and slowly said, "Actually, you can put a paper bag over your head, and other people will think it costs a million. The value of a piece of garment comes from the person who wears it."

Stella held her laughter and asked, "How much is Aldor charging you to teach you this?"

Keegan answered seriously, "It's included in his bonus."

She threw her bag at Keegan. "Wait for a while. I'll get a sales assistant to find my size."

Stella found the sales assistant and that person was picking her nails. She looked at Stella from head to toe and said, "Are you sure you want to buy it? H

Stella looked at her. "I've got to try it before deciding if I want to buy it, right?"

Then, that person said, "I'm not going all the way to the storeroom just to get you your size if you're not sure of buying it. As you can see, there are plenty of other customers here. I'm very busy."

Stella's eyelid twitched.

'What in the world... It's been some time since I met a snobbish person like this.'

"Where's your manager? I want to see her. I need to know if I can only try this dress on after I've decided to buy it."

The sales assistant brought the manager over very soon after that. The manager immediately started apologizing when she saw Stella. Then, she scolded the sales assistant, "Go and take it if the customer asks. Isn't that what you signed up for?"

The sales assistant curled her lips and unwillingly went to fetch Stella the dress.

After giving Stella the dress, she said, "You'd better not stain it. I doubt you have enough money to pay us back."

Stella gazed at her and chuckled. Then, she pointed at the dresses in the middle of the shop and said, "I want those in my size too. I'm going to try all of them."

The sales assistant frowned. "Are you just doing that to mess with me?"

The manager nudged her with her elbow. "Quit talking. Go and get them!"

The sales assistant scrunched her face and went back to the storeroom reluctantly.

Keegan came back after a phone call and saw Stella changing into different dresses in the dressing room.

She was tall and had a pair of long legs. Also, her bone structure was big enough to hold up every clothes she wore. So, all the dresses she tried on looked very good on her.

Stella looked into the mirror while turning around after trying them on without speaking or commenting.

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The manager asked Stella gently, “Miss, you have fair skin, and this color suits you very well. What do you think?”

Stella nodded and asked, “How much is this?”

“Three thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, and members get to enjoy a five percent discount.”

Stella looked at the tag. “It’s made from polyester fiber. It’s not worth the price at all.”

The sales assistant immediately spoke as if she finally had the chance to mock Stella. ‘Just say it’s too expensive, and you can’t afford it. There’s no need to find excuses for yourself.”

Keegan frowned. He was about to speak, but Stella grabbed his wrist.

They understood each other so well that Keegan immediately knew that Stella did not want him to intervene as soon as she did that.

Keegan swept his gaze across the sales assistant with a long face. Then, he pursed his lips without saying anything.

The manager slightly told the sales assistant off and said to Stella with a smile. “The price is the same across all of our stores. You can check out the collection at the door if this is out of your budget. The dresses there over are more affordable.”

The sales assistant did not hold back as she said, “Take it off if you can’t afford it. I still have another customer to serve. Would you stop wasting my time?”

Keegan looked at her. ‘ Who told you that we can’t afford it? Pack everything up right now.”

The manager was shocked. “D-did you say... everything?”

Stella said, 'Yeah. I'm getting every dress that I tried just now.'

The sales assistant's jaw dropped as the manager said hastily, "Why are you still standing there? Go on and do your job now!"

It took a few moments for the sales assistant to realize what was happening before she hurriedly got the dresses.

Stella stopped her. "Wait a minute."

The manager reacted very quickly. "Do you need me to get you another sales assistant?"

Stella paused and smirked. 'She's fine.'

Then, she took a pair of socks from the display stand at the side and asked, "How much is this?"

The manager answered, "Sixty-nine for two pairs."

The sales assistant scanned the barcodes while Stella bowed her head down to scroll her phone. There were seven dresses, and they cost about seventeen thousand in total. The sales assistant double-checked the items and asked, "PayPal or bank transfer?"

Stella lifted her head. "Do you think seventeen thousand is expensive?"

The sales assistant was shocked. Then, she said softly, "Yes, it is."

"I thought so too, so I don't want them anymore." Stella handed her the two pairs of socks she was holding. "I'll take these instead."

The sales assistant was stunned, and her face twisted.

"Are you messing with me?"

Stella smirked. "You can actually act better than your manager, but you chose the wrong target this time. I don't mind spending a little more on things I like, but I hate it when someone tries to set me up and thinks I'm a fool. Does my boyfriend look like a stupid person to you? What made you think you could fool him into spending so much money on these dresses?"

The sales assistant and the manager were stunned as they did not see that coming.

Stella knocked on the counter. 'Would you pack these up now? If you're not going to do that... can the manager do it instead?'

They paid for the socks before leaving the store, and Keegan still could not process what happened back there.

Stella unboxed the socks. Then, she felt the fabric and said, 'The quality is not bad.' She handed the pair in a bigger size to Keegan. "The couple design you asked for."

Keegan was speechless.

'Couple socks that cost sixty-nine dollars for both. How half-hearted.'

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However, Keegan did not dare to speak his thoughts out loud.

He took the pair of socks over and put them in a bag. Then, he asked curiously, "How did you know that they were acting?"

Stella answered, "I wasn't sure at first. It's a pretty normal thing to encounter a snobbish salesperson like her, but she was just way too arrogant. She didn't even think she did something wrong after her manager came, and she still provoked me in front of her manager by repeatedly saying that I couldn't afford them. That was when I knew something fishy was going on.

The manager was acting rather strangely too. All she did was tell the salesperson off without actually penalizing her. Also, did you notice how they kept looking at your wrist? Your watch is the most valuable thing you put on today. They probably thought that you're a foolish rich man and I'm your pretty sugar baby who happens to be stupid. That was why they tried to provoke and fool us into buying everything."

Then, she proudly said, "They were right about you but not me. How could I let them take advantage of me?"

Not only that Stella did not let that happen, but she also played them. She figured that they should be honest in what they were doing instead of doing something like that.

Keegan rubbed the top of her head. 'You could've just bought the dresses. You don't have anything to prove to them anyway. Did you think about the time you wasted on them?'

"I have plenty of time to waste. I'm free tonight anyway."

Keegan paused. "I don't. I only have so little time to spend with you, yet you wasted twenty minutes on other people. I don't even know when I'm going to see you again after today."

Stella paused and thought that what he said was funny. She grabbed his arm and said in a low voice, "Let's go home earlier tonight and spend more time together then."

Keegan's mood immediately became better.

Julian was accepted by Stag University in Salcator, and he was going to leave on Thursday next week by train.

He wanted to continue studying in Rivera, but Trinity University was the only place with a reputation for the course he wanted to enroll in. He asked for Keegan's opinion and decided to settle for Stag University.

He would be more than a thousand miles away from Shelley after leaving this time, and Shelley already knew she would miss him a lot. So, she crocheted a blanket for him and went everywhere to buy him some daily necessities.

Julian brought them to check out his luggage, about three and a half feet tall and sighed. "Ms. Cooke gave me everything that she probably could. There are so many things. I don't think I can even get on the train with all these."

Stella poked his head. "Be grateful that you have someone who loves you."

"Don't mess my hair up."

So, Stella wrapped her arm around his neck and rubbed his head until his hair turned into a chicken nest.

Julian wanted to fight back, but Keegan grabbed his collar. "You can't treat a woman the same way she treats you."

Julian's eyelid twitched.

Then, he said to himself. 'You were rather quiet when your wife laid her hands on me. You make it too obvious that you're biased.'

Stella went to help Shelly with the barbeque after bullying Julian. Keegan wanted to follow her, but Julian stopped him.

"Keegan, please take care of the welfare center and Stella when I'm not around."

Keegan paused. "What did you call me?"

Julian paused and realized his mistake. "Brother-in-law."

Keegan put on a satisfied look. "We're family. Don't worry about it."

Julian kept quiet. Then, he softly asked, "Have you managed to get Stella back?"

Keegan corrected him. "We just got into a small argument, that's all. It's normal between a wife and a husband, understand?"

Julian kept quiet.

I'm actually shameless by how shameless he could be.'

"Oh, yes. Someone came to make a donation at the welfare center previously. I overheard what he said, and he kept asking Ms. Cooke about Stella and Ms. Spade."

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Keegan paused. "How did he look like?" "He's a short man and about forty to fifty years old. He wore a face mask and a cap. I couldn't see his face. However, his eyes did look wrinkly. He came to donate, yet he just wouldn't stop asking about Stella and Ms. Spade. He looked a little downhearted after finding out that Ms. Spade had passed away. Then, he donated a few thousand dollars and asked Ms. Cooke where Ms. Spade's grave was before leaving. I feel like he knew Ms. Spade, but he denied it when Ms. Cooke asked him that. He just feels strange."

Keegan frowned.

'A short middle-aged man?'

He tried to think of a man like that who could be related to the Spade family, yet he just could not think of one.

"What else did he say?"

Julian thought for a while and said, "That's about it. He went through a few photos of Ms. Spade and Stella. Also, he said that he would visit again at some other time."

Keegan paused and thought of a possibility. 'Could he be... Stella's biological father?'

He heard Stella's voice from afar while still in his thoughts. "You two, get over here now! We need help!"

Keegan recollected himself and patted Julian's arm before saying flatly, "Let's get to work."

Stella was teasing the children of the welfare center while holding the gifts she bought. She told them they could have the gifts if they could put on a good show for her. The children were shy at first, but they began to open themselves up and show Stella what they could do after a while.

Keegan watched her performing clumsily with the kids at the side. He was amused by how unrestrained she was as he subconsciously put on a faint smile.

"Mr. Kane."

He heard Shelley's voice.

Keegan turned around and saw Shelley holding a glass of alcohol as she looked at him benevolently. "Can I have a drink with you?"

Keegan stretched his hands out and softly replied, "You're my elder. I should be the one asking you that question."

Shelley shook her head. "I would never be able to come this far with these kids without you. You deserve this."

Keegan paused and smiled. Even though he had been donating to the welfare center anonymously, Shelley knew exactly who that donator was. All the huge transactions came from a local bank account of Rivera, and he was the only person related to Stella that could afford to do that.

Then, he took the glass of wine without saying anything else. Shelley clinked her glass with his and said, "Please make yourself at home."

She downed her glass of alcohol after saying that.

Keegan did not feel like drinking because he knew his tolerance was not high. He rarely got to be together with Stella, and he did not want to be drunk and miss out on a chance to spend time with her.

However, he figured it would be impolite for him not to drink with Shelley after she finished her drink. So, he chugged it down too.

Shelley poured him another glass. "Here's another one on behalf of Rainee." Keegan paused and suddenly felt guilty as he did not help much at

Rainee's funeral. Even worse, he neglected Stella and left her high and dry.

"I..." Keegan pursed his lips. "I don't deserve it."

Shelley said, "But you took good care of Stella. I hardly saw a smile on her in those two years after what happened to Rainee. Even when she did smile, it could never be as lively as any young person's. Then, she started smiling so much more after getting married to you. I believe Rainee's biggest wish is to see Stella being together with a good partner that she could depend on and not trust the wrong person like she did."

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Keegan did not say anything. Instead, he lifted his glass and chugged it down again.

Shelley poured him another glass after they finished their drinks. "I'm going to tell you a secret about Stella. Can I trust you on this?"

Keegan put on a serious look and said in a deep voice. 'I'm all ears.'

Shelley looked at Stella, who was playing with the children, and said softly, "Stella is not Rainee's biological daughter. She's not an illegitimate child."

Keegan paused, and his expression looked even more serious. "How did you know that?"

Shelley bowed her head down. "I accompanied Rainee to do the paternity test. I promised Rainee that I'd bring this secret to my grave. However, she's not here anymore, and Stella is the only person she'd ever care about.

"There's only so much I can do as a partner that she trusts. I couldn't help her much with her marriage or work. I know there are a lot of rules in a wealthy family like yours, and everybody takes social status very seriously. I'm only telling you this because I don't want you to have a gap with her just because she did not come from a legitimate family. Even if you can't make it to the end for her, I don't wish to see this as why you guys break up because that's just not the truth.'

Keegan could not process what was happening.

'Stella has all the documents to prove that she's the daughter of Rainee. How is this possible?'

Then, he asked in a low voice, 'Who are her biological parents then?'

Shelley shook her head. "I have no idea, as she was mistaken as someone else's daughter in the maternity ward. Rainee's health deteriorated after giving birth to her child, making it almost impossible to be pregnant again. Nevertheless, she did everything she could to raise Stella, so she did not want to give her up even after finding out the truth.

"Even though they were not blood-related, their feelings for each other were genuine. She just couldn't find herself leaving the child that she had raised. Also, she had no clue where her own child was. She couldn't accept that she would be away from Stella and her biological daughter, so she didn't look for her real parents. However, she did try to find her biological daughter, but to no avail."

Keegan massaged his temple as the alcohol started kicking in. He had a lot of questions for Shelley, but he just could not think straight.

Then, Shelley continued, "Don't tell Stella about this. It'll only worsen if she still can't find her after knowing the truth."

For some reason, Keegan reminded himself of how devastated Stella looked during Rainee's funeral, and he felt a stinging sensation in his heart. "Okay," he said after keeping quiet for a while.

Stella only left the children after Shelley left and sat beside Keegan. "What were you talking about with Ms. Cooke?"

Keegan's forehead rested on his palm while propping his elbow on the table. He opened his eyes and looked at Stella when he heard her voice.

Stella had so much fun with the children that her cheeks looked so pinkish, and her eyes sparkled.

Keegan stroked Stella's hair. "Ms. Cooke said you're bad-tempered and told me to accept you for who you are."

Stella paused. "I think she was saying the opposite."

Keegan smiled and rested his chin on her shoulder. "Please accept me for who I am, then."

Stella said, "Am I not accepting enough? I'm always the one who cleans up your mess whenever you get drunk."

Then, she handed him a cup of water. "You know you have low tolerance, yet you always drink so much. Does that mouth of yours only know how to insult other people but not reject them?"

Keegan took the water. Then, he smiled and said in a low voice, "I'm sorry, Mrs. Kane."

Stella gazed at him. "Don't push your luck."

Keegan was exhausted. He took a sip of the water and continued to lay on her shoulder. Then, he suddenly spoke after hearing what Stella said. "The doctor said we should at least do the deed twice weekly. It's been more than a week since we last did it."

Stella kept quiet.