

Spoiled by Mr. Russell Chapter 156-160

Chapter 156

"Let's have a look." Lily felt interested in it. When they stepped inside, they saw several red sandalwood containers. At first sight, there were little differences from the standard. There were many fake sandalwood on the market, but the ones here seemed very good at first glance. However, they were still not very rare. "What's so special about it?" Jenny leaned closer to look at the leaves and sniffed them a few times.

"You are the experts. Why don't you look at it yourself?" Ben, who seemed like a simple and honest guy, said with a smile.

Lily took a closer look and reached out to pluck some leaves. A bit of sap dripped from the broken stem as a unique smell overflowed. She smelled the leaf and touched the branch.

She could see that a part of the branch was clefted. "You guys performed grafting?" "Miss, you have a good eye. You're the first one among those who came to see this sandalwood who noticed this." Ben gave her a thumbs up. "Grafting? What plant did you graft it with?" Jenny also became interested upon hearing this. She pinched some plucked leaves and smelled them carefully.

"I can't tell you," Ben smiled, but it was laced with smugness. This was most likely brought on by a sense of pride from minor achievements. To a gardener, success in cultivating a plant after much hardship was like bringing up an excellent child. It was something to be proud of.

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"It's mint, right?" Lily said.

"How'd you know?!" Ben looked at her in amazement this time. This was the gardener's own attempt, as he was unsure if it would be a success. He had told no one, as this was also a trade secret. However, Lily could quickly determine it after looking a few times. Ben thought that his efforts to keep a secret for so long had turned into a joke.

"I can smell it. There is a unique smell of red sandalwood, but it has a cool feel. It's the particular smell of mint. The blend of these two seems to contradict yet surprisingly unique."

Jenny knelt down to get closer and sniffed the plant deeply when she heard Lily's words. "Yes, that's right. It's mint!"

When Jenny smelled it earlier, she noticed the difference but could not pinpoint it exactly. The main reason was that she had not considered that the plant was grafted, let alone a successful one.

Jenny looked at Lily in surprise and admiration.

“You’re amazing, miss. You could tell the difference just by smelling it. We’ve done several trial and error but only succeeded with the mint so far. What’s your thought of this scent? Do you think it’s good, or do you feel put off with the smell?” Considering the plants were still in the experimental stage, the gardeners did not take them out for display. They were also unsure of the market prospects, so it was not planted in large

quantities.

“These plants are perfect. I want it!” Lily said as she pointed at the red sandalwood.

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“I–I’m afraid I can’t sell it to you. As you know, this is not easy to cultivate. We have spent much time and effort on these. Also, we do not have them in large quantities, so they’re not suitable for purchase.” Ben refused.

“I don’t need a large quantity. I only need half of what you have here. I want the other half, too, but I will leave the rest for now since I will need you to take good care of them. Still, you’re not allowed to sell these to others.”

“I’m terribly sorry, but we can’t do that.” Ben still refused and said in embarrassment.

“Just name your price,” Jenny said. She saw Lily’s persistence and figured out that she must have a use for them. In addition, grafted red sandalwood was indeed rare. It would be helpful if they could obtain all of them. However, the price would likely be on the higher end. “I–It’s not about money. We put much effort into these, but they’re still incomplete. We are still trying to...”

“You can continue your experiment on the remaining half. I won’t interfere. I only want half, and I will pay in full.” “If so, I’ll consult with my colleagues first.” Ben was still hesitant, but the offer was pretty tempting. However, it was not something he could decide by himself. Jenny was also hesitant as Lily’s offer was unprecedented, and they had not discussed the price yet.

These red sandalwoods were not cheap. Moreover, they were a unique variety, making their price challenging to estimate. Lily’s apparent intent to purchase all of them would likely make the other party increase the price by a large margin. Jenny tugged Lily’s sleeve as Ben turned away to call someone. “Lily, do you want to reconsider? Do we need this many plants? We’ve never tried these, and we don’t even have a finished product yet. Even if we make an amazing perfume with these, the raw material cost is too high. What about the perfume prices? Don’t you wonder how many can afford it?”

Jenny’s consideration made sense. After all, a perfumer’s creations, such as essential oils and perfumes, needed to favor the company’s interests.

“There will be people who are willing to pay for this.” Lily was full of confidence.

“Even if only a few know how to appreciate this scent, you forgot about the general public. Our brand is still fresh in the industry, and most won’t consider Rebirth a luxury brand,” Jenny continued.

However, it was not a problem of Rebirth being fresh as there were many known local brands. Still, most only considered worldwide perfume companies as luxury brands. Therefore, Jenny’s concerns were reasonable.

“That’s why we need to make a statement,” Lily said, “If I fail, the company can deduct my salary for purchasing these raw materials.”

“You are being too impulsive, Lily.” Jenny did not expect her to be so persistent. She was shocked and wanted to continue when Ben, who had finished his call, interjected, “Since you’re insistent on having these sandalwoods, we can sell them to you. Still, the price...”

“We can negotiate the price.”

Ren happily laughed when he heard Lily’s sincerity. “Rest assured that I noticed your sincerity. We won’t hike the prices unreasonably, but the cost of cultivating these red sandalwoods is high, so we can’t lower the price too much even if we want to. Instead, we have to slightly raise the price after adding the raw material and labor cost.” Ben took a paper and a pen, wrote the price, and handed it over. “What do you think about this price?” “T–That’s too...” Jenny’s expression changed when she saw the six–digit number.

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“Sure.” Lily made the decision. “Lily, I think we should reconsider this.” As Lily’s superior officer, Jenny believed it was her responsibility to remind her colleague to be careful. However, she could not reject Lily’s decision, seeing as how Lily was confident enough to the point where she was willing to use her own salary for this matter.

“If you feel this decision is not suitable, I could purchase it with my own money under my name.” Although Lily did not have much money with her now, she could borrow a little from a certain someone.

“Okay then.” At this point, Jenny stopped persuading Lily and turned to look at Ben. “You must give us the most authentic and best ones you have. We don’t want any low–quality goods, understand?”

“Don’t worry about it. We can’t do that even if we wanted to because we can’t find low–quality ones to replace them.”. This item was too unique, after all. They would need to breed these plants before using low quality goods to replace the high–quality ones.

“That would be the best.”

The duo left the nursery after signing the contract and paying the deposit.

They saw a car similar to theirs at the entrance, but it was a different color. Lily and Jenny looked at the other car as they got into theirs. Coincidentally, they saw Melanie exiting the car with Frank. She even had her arms wrapped around his.

“Lily, get in the car and close the door. The b*tch is here,” Jenny, already seated in the car, said to Lily, rendering Lily speechless. She did not know Jenny could be humorous too.

Sure enough, Melanie saw them. When she realized that Lily was getting into a Jeep Wrangler Rubicon, all the resentment in her gaze almost transformed into sharp knives to stab Lily. However, the driver took off quickly and left the parking lot, avoiding a confrontation between the two parties. Jenny turned her head back to look at Melanie and found her still staring at their car with great bitterness.

Smiling, she shook her head. “Lily, did she snatch your boyfriend away from you, or was it the other way around? She looks at you like you stole her boyfriend and killed her entire family.”

“I’m not that bored nor that cruel,” Lily said.

“Haha! You’re right. It’s just that the way she looks at you would make people think like that. Why does she hate you so much? She gives you death stares every time she sees you.”

Jenny joked. It was difficult for anyone to know Melanie’s exact feelings. Lily shook her head, not knowing the answer to that as well. To be precise, Lily might never realize Melanie’s hostility toward her if she had not found out about Nathaniel’s affair with Melanie.

Although Lily and Melanie were not close, some thought they were good friends since Lily disliked social interactions and only had Melanie and Nathaniel by her side throughout her university years.

Nathaniel told Lily they needed a talent like Melanie for the company’s development. His justification was that Melanie knew how to manage public relations and conduct research, so she could even accompany him to public events. Lily did not mind all that, and she believed she did not wrong Melanie, so it was unclear where Melanie’s resentment toward her came from

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Melanie only averted her gaze after Lily’s car disappeared into the distance. She turned to hold Frank’s arm as she said, “You promised you would give me what I want.”

“What’s wrong?” Frank said, patting her cheek. “I want to ruin Lily so badly that she would never want to be in the public’s eyes again!” Although Lily’s car was nowhere in sight now, Melanie turned again to stare into the distance with resentment in her gaze. , Frank’s eyes followed her gaze. Smiling, he said, “I heard you two were classmates before. Is that right?” “Yeah, but I hate her more than anyone.” Melanie did not hide her emotions when speaking to Frank.

“Why?”

“Back when we were still in university, all my lecturers loved her, and they would give her all the opportunities. Why? I am talented as well! She would always shine brighter whenever we participated in the same contests. Even when it comes to love, she...” Melanie paused for a moment before continuing, “I will never succeed with her around! She will always steal the limelight from me!”

She added, “You saw it too. Why did we have to meet her here in Middle Valley? She flew here first-class and even had a luxurious car as her ride. Why does everyone treat her so nicely when her name is already tainted? She’s even involved in a lawsuit! This is so unfair!”

Smiling, Frank put his hand on her shoulder, massaging it lightly. “She might be luckier than most, but your luck isn’t that bad either. You met me.” Upon hearing what he said, Melanie felt slightly better and snuggled into his embrace. “You have to help me! You’ll do that, right?”

“I told you that you’ll get what you want as long as I am satisfied with what you give me,” he said profoundly, kissing her hair.

“Yeah.” Melanie nodded obediently.

Frank drove steadily on the roads, but after a while, he still did not see any high-rise buildings belonging to the city. Instead, he was still traveling along the endless paddy fields.

“It’s so far.” Melanie could not help but express herself. She did not remember the journey being this long when they came. While she was talking, the car came to a stop. “What’s wrong? Did the car break down?” she asked in confusion, eyes scanning the surroundings.

With one hand on the steering wheel, Frank turned to look at her as he turned off the engine.

“F—Frank?” Seeing that familiar expression on his face, Melanie suddenly became anxious. She had a bad feeling about this. “Mel,” he called her name and licked his lips. Melanie widened her eyes as she pressed her back against the car door. Trembling, she said, “

Frank, this place is so deserted. I’m a little scared. Can we return to the hotel first? When we’re back, we can...”

Before she could finish her words, Frank had already grabbed her wrist and pulled her closer to him. “It’s so bland just to do it at the hotel. We should try doing it in different places.” Patiently, she said, trying to convince him, “Frank, this place doesn’t look safe. Plus, other people might come over here later. How about we...”

“Isn’t it more exciting this way?” Frank’s eyes were bright, and he cared nothing about Melanie’s concern.

“No, Frank. I’m scared. Let’s go back...”

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Before Melanie could finish her words, Frank loosened his grip on her, letting her go. However, displeasure was written all over his face.

This sight of him made Melanie even more anxious than before. “Sorry, Frank. I...” He turned to look at her. The rim of his glasses reflected spine-chilling light while his gaze was cold. “Mel, I told you that you must satisfy me if you want your dreams to come true. You’re no fun this way, you know that?”

He lit up a cigarette as he spoke. Then he took a puff and exhaled, the smoke circling them, blurring his face from her vision. It made his side profile appear mysterious. The sky was also getting dark, so Melanie couldn’t get out of the car and leave the place alone. Besides, she had made many sacrifices, so how could she stop now? Biting her lip, she considered the situation.

Then, she said softly, “Don’t be mad, Frank. I couldn’t accept it because it was sudden, but I’ve thought about it, and you’re right. We must live and enjoy the present. No matter what you want, I’d be willing to comply if you treat me well!” “That’s right, babe. I’ll only give you the best in the world.” He held her chin and exhaled smoke in her face. The smoke choked her, causing her to cough. She gritted her teeth and told herself this was the price of her dreams. She could do anything for her future!

When they arrived at the hotel, Melanie slumped in the passenger seat. She did not want to move, as her body was sore all over. Even if she told herself that she had to withstand everything Frank did, she did not know how much longer her body could take it.

“Mel, we’re here,” he turned to look at her and said gently.

He would resume his gentleman-like appearance when they were in the public’s eye. However, she now knew that he was a different person in private, and this made her fear him. “Then I’ll head back to the room first,” she said, removing her seatbelt.

Frank smiled and leaned closer to her. “Whose room are you returning to?”

Although Melanie felt repelled by him, she forced a smile on her face and said in a cutesy manner, “Frank, stop messing with me. I’m exhausted, so let me have a good rest first, okay?” “Of course.” He gave her a peck on her cheek before sitting upright in his seat.

Melanie got out of the car and watched as he drove to the parking lot. Once his car was gone, she hobbled into the hotel.

However, she saw someone standing there as soon as she entered the door. The man was staring at her, his gaze dark, and he exuded a gloomy air around him. He had not spoken yet, but she could already feel a thunderstorm coming her way. Melanie's heart skipped a beat as she said, "N-Nate?"