

**Mr. Scott 231**

Chapter 231 Are You Sure?

“Yes, I agree that her fan base is important, but ultimately as an actress her acting abilities and work are what’s most important. Hope can’t stay single forever, and she has never promised that she wouldn’t date or get married.

“She’s only human. If her fans decided to leave just because she’s dating someone, then those aren’t her true fans. Besides, there are other superstars in the industry who are dating as well. So, why worry?”

Buck nodded. “Ms. Maia, there’s still another problem.”

“You’re worried about your family?” Maia asked directly.

Buck was taken aback by her candor before nodding slowly.

“I’m grateful to you for providing me with a job. I love this job and I’ve worked hard to be able to afford a small apartment on my own. However, how could I ask Hope to live in such a small space with me? There’s nothing that I could give her.

“Moreover, my foster parents have never stopped trying to extort money from me. If they find out that my girlfriend is a well-known actress, they will definitely ask for more money. I’d never allow them to tarnish Hope’s reputation in public.”

Buck knew that his foster parents would not hesitate to destroy Hope’s reputation if it meant that they would be able to obtain more money.

Maia only frowned as she listened to Buck.

“I’m not supposed to be involved in your affairs, but if you think that you will only hurt her, I suggest that you stay away from her. However, let me warn you, if you choose to do so, there won’t be any turning back.”

“I’ve thought of confessing my love to her. You know it better than anyone else, as you’ve even encouraged me to go for it. My love for her has never changed, but every night, I couldn’t help but think to myself, would it be worse for Hope if she was with me?”

“After much thought, I’ve finally realized that if she was with me, I would only bring her misfortune. At the end of the day, we’re from two different worlds.”

Buck confessed as his eyes turned red. It was not easy for him to have come to this conclusion.

“The reason why I haven’t told her about this was because I wanted to stay by her side for as long as I could. You’re right, I should leave her if I’ve decided not to confess to her. I would only give her false hope if I stayed. I don’t want to hurt her.”

Buck took a deep breath and said decisively, “Ms. Maia, you don’t have to worry. I won’t be in Hope’s life anymore.”

He would only continue to support her as a fan.

Mala bit her lip and addressed him seriously. “Buck, are you sure about this? There’s no turning back.”

Buck looked at her with his red eyes as he forced a grin and nodded.

“You can have the rest of the day off.”

Maia respected his will and had even given him time to recover and recollect himself.

Buck nodded gratefully and left her office.

Maia could only sigh deeply as she watched him walk away sadly. She was not sure if this was the best solution for them, but it was definitely unfair to Hope.

After a while, a knock came through the door as Maia's secretary walked in and informed her that Nigel had arrived.

Maia nodded and her secretary left the room.

Nigel walked in and asked, "Are you okay?"

"Never better."

"Did he try anything?"

Maia shook her head.

"I tried calling and sending you messages, but it kept telling me that I couldn't reach you. When I saw you posting on Twitter, I could finally heave a sigh of relief."

"That's strange. I was at home the whole time and my phone wasn't turned off either."

Nigel nodded in confusion, "I know, which was why I was confused too."

Maia took out her phone and checked. She noticed that Nigel's contacts were all blocked and blacklisted. She frowned as she immediately knew who the culprit was.

Maia felt embarrassed to let Nigel know that Cedric had blocked him on her phone, so she made up an excuse. "Maybe there's something wrong with my phone. I'll get a new one tomorrow."

Nigel was a clever guy. He knew right away that Cedric was responsible for this, yet he chose not to expose her lie. "Since I'm free tomorrow, why don't I come with you?"

Maia nodded awkwardly, "Sure. I know you're quite good with cell phones. You could even give me some pointers."

"I'd be glad to help."

Maia grinned in return and asked, "Is there something you're here for?"

"I wanted to inform you about the progress of the defamation lawsuit. Moreover, I've also found something interesting."

"What is it?" Maia asked curiously.

Nigel took out an envelope and handed it to Maia. "You should look at this. I investigated the background of those three who tried to spread rumors about you. Seems like they've had some sort of deal with a staff member from HL corporation."

Chapter 232 I Knew Him Well

Maia frowned at what Nigel had told her. She did not expect him to give her such shocking news, and she was too stunned to reach out for the envelope.

Nigel gently placed it next to her and continued, "You should look into it. I'm not trying to put the blame on Cedric, but I've spoken to one of the three artists. He looked really scared when I asked him who was behind this.

"He was afraid that this would endanger his family as well. As you very well know, if Cedric wanted to do something, there was no way that he would fail."

"What was his motive?" Maia asked as she studied the contents inside the envelope Nigel had given her. When she saw a photo of a man, her frown deepened.

“Isn’t this Baz?”

“Maia, you know that Cedric would do something like this because of you. He wants you to take him back. What better way than to act like your white knight, protecting you from being bullied on the internet? He wants you to rely on him, and you did. You don’t hate him as much as you did before, right?”

Nigel continued, “It’s not that I’m trying to interfere, but I’ve seen how he treated you in the past. It’s fine if you don’t reciprocate my feelings. I just want you to be happy! But that can’t happen with him. You’ll only get hurt again.”

Maia just remained silent. There was so much evidence in the envelope, from screenshots of Baz’s messages to witness statements that claimed that Baz had been talking to the artist for a long time.

However, as Maia kept staring at the screenshots, she noticed that something did not add up. Maia chose not to voice her concerns and just said, “I’ll get Buck to look into these.”

“You don’t trust me?”

Maia shook her head. “That’s not it. I just don’t want anyone to be falsely accused. This doesn’t look like Cedric’s doing as he knows very well that if I find out, I’ll only hate him even

more.”

“Cedric Larkin is capable of hiding anything he wants to if he doesn’t want you to find out.”

Maia smiled and waved the envelope in front of somehow you were able to

him “And wat

collect all this proof.”

“That was just coincidental. Even though I’ve managed to collect all this evidence, those three. still refuse to confess.”

Maia placed the envelope on the table and studied Nigel closely. He seemed like a stranger to

way to convince him than to expose his lies.

“Nigel, I’m grateful for all you’ve done for me. Without your help, I wouldn’t have been able to take back my rightful position and succeed my mother’s will.

“However, this doesn’t mean that I would tolerate your lies. As a lawyer, I’m sure you know better than I do what it means to be charged with defamation.”

“Are you taking Cedric’s side in this?”

Maia shook her head. “I’ve never considered taking anyone’s side. It doesn’t matter how much does done for me, I would never go back to him. I’ve been hurt once, I wouldn’t give anyone a chance to hurt me twice.

“Moreover, I thought that only Aiken would be childish enough to do something like this. I expected better from you.” Maia smiled playfully as she teased. She had exposed the fact that she already knew the evidence was bogus.

Nigel knew Maia long enough to know what she meant. “It’s that bad, huh?”

Maia shook her head, “Whoever you got to falsify the evidence was actually pretty good. It’s just that I’ve known Baz for long enough to know that he is left-handed. The guy in this photo came out from the café with a cigarette on his right.”

Nigel smiled and shook his head. “I must have been out of my mind to succumb to such foolish methods. This is embarrassing. You’re such a meticulous person.”

“Nigel, I know Cedric well. He would never do something like this. It’s not his way of handling things.” She knew him better than anyone as she had once loved him dearly.

“I’m sorry, Maia.”

“Nigel, why are you apologizing? I’ve already forgotten about what just happened.” Maia. smiled at him, saving him from further embarrassment.

“Right. I must’ve forgotten what had happened too as I don’t remember why I am. apologizing. However, there’s one thing I’m sure about.”

“What is it?” Maia asked.

“That is if I want to pursue my love, I shouldn’t be using such underhanded methods. This would only disappoint the person I love.”

“That’s right. You should always keep that in mind.”

Nigel nodded sincerely and they went back to discussing the upcoming defamation lawsuit.

Little did they know that at that moment, there was a man throwing a huge tantrum in HL

Tower.

“He’s still in her room?” Cedric asked Baz grumpily.

Baz nodded stiffly.

“How long has he been there? Has it been more than an hour? What does he plan to do, live in the building?”

Baz knew that his boss was slowly reaching his limits. He thought hard and quickly said, “I’m pretty sure that they’re in the midst of discussing work. We already have people watching them. Besides, it’s all in broad daylight, and Ms. Maia is a woman of principle. If she had stayed just friends with Nigel through all these years, I doubt she would change her mind about him so suddenly.”

Chapter 233 Seven Drones

“Really?” Cedric asked as his lips trembled.

Baz nodded convincingly, “Of course. Ms. Maia would never be interested in someone like Nigel!”

“You’re right. She’s not even interested in me.”

Baz was taken aback by his reply as he quickly nodded and added, “That’s why you shouldn’t worry about Nigel!”

When Baz thought he was finally able to breathe a sigh of relief, Cedric said, “Even if she’s not interested in him, she shouldn’t be spending so much time with another man!”

Baz could only lower his head and remain silent. His boss was unreasonable when he was jealous!

After a while, Baz suggested, “Then, why don’t we show up at Starlight Entertainment and confront Nigel?”

“Confront him? Why should I?” Still, as soon as Cedric finished, he stood up and walked

toward the door with his car keys.

“Mr. Cedric, where are we going?” Baz hurried behind him and asked in confusion.



“Starlight Entertainment.”

“I thought he didn’t want to confront Nigel?” Baz could only follow behind Cedric in a rush. He could never seem to keep up with Cedric’s thoughts.

Cedric had decided to personally drive to Maia’s company as he could not bear the thought of her being alone in a room with another man.

When they got to Starlight Entertainment, Cedric threw his keys to Baz and instructed him to park the car.

Baz was still in a daze from Cedric’s erratic driving as Cedric got out of the car without a second thought and walked toward the main lobby.

When Cedric entered the building, he caused a small commotion at the front desk.

“I need you to check the visitors’ list. Hey, are you listening?”

“L—look who’s here!”

“Who?” The receptionist turned toward the entrance as she was surprised to see a good- looking man dressed in a tailored suit walking toward them.

She just gasped like a fish out of water as she tried to formulate words to say.

Cedric walked toward the elevators calmly. The front desk receptionists and security guards were too shocked to move as they did not know whether they should even stop him.

“What should we do?”

“I think he’s here to see the CEO. Mr. Cedric was so eager to prove Ms. Maia’s innocence when the scandal happened.”

“I know that. My question is, should we stop him? According to our company’s policy, we need to check if visitors have an appointment or not.”

“Let’s check. We wouldn’t want to be fired for breaking protocol.”

“Right! Let’s smile and ask him nicely!”

Shortly after, two receptionists approached Cedric and smiled politely, “Good afternoon, Mr.

Cedric. Do you have an appointment?”

“Do I need to make an appointment just to see my wife?” Cedric said, looking at them sternly.

The receptionists took a deep breath and continued, “Sorry, it’s not about that. Our company has a policy that all visitors need to make prior appointments before they are allowed to enter the building. We know that you and Ms. Maia are a couple and we’re also fans of you.

“However, it is our job to make sure that you have an appointment. Please wait here while we call Ms. Maia for confirmation.”

Before they could proceed, the phone at the front desk rang. It was Maia’s secretary.

“Ms. Maia said that she’s in a meeting with someone important. She would not be able to see anyone else, especially those without an appointment.”

The receptionist who was on the other line was momentarily stunned before replying that she had got the message.

After hanging up, she walked briskly toward Cedric and relayed the message from Paige, “Mr. Cedric, Ms. Maia said that she’s in a meeting with an important client. She would not be able to make time for other unscheduled meetings.”

Baz was also at the lobby after parking Cedric’s car. He was surprised to hear what the receptionist had said as he mumbled to himself. ‘Ms. Maia really is fearless to be able to say that to Mr. Cedric,’

He took a glance at Cedric’s unhappy face and immediately took over, “Thank you for your help. Please return to your duties.”

The receptionists were relieved to see Baz, and they smiled and nodded before scrambling

When they left, Baz turned to look at his boss as he waited for his next order. Surprisingly, Cedric just turned around and left the building.

Baz quickly followed behind and asked, “Mr. Cedric, we’re not going to force our way in?” “11 do that, won’t that just make her more angry?” Cedric asked.

“That’s true. The journey to being a good husband is not to anger your wife. Then, are we leaving? Is it okay that you came all the way here without even seeing Ms. Maia? Nigel is still in her office.”

Baz was confused. His boss was not someone who would give up so easily.

“Go to the mall next to the office and get me seven drones.”

“Drones? What for?” Baz could not believe his ears. He was confused at Cedric’s instructions. Why would he need so many drones?

“Do you have a problem with my orders?”

“Not at all! I’ll go get them immediately!” Baz hurried off, feeling relieved that the mall next door was a part of HL corporation’s subsidiary labels.

Chapter 234 Look At Your Dashing Husband!

Moments later, the drones took off and flew toward Mala’s office.

“Why are there seven drones hovering at your window?” Nigel asked in surprise as he saw them outside.

Maia followed Nigel’s gaze as her eyes landed on the drones hovering in a straight line, right outside her windows.

When she looked closer, she saw that each had a banner attached that had ‘Honey, please don’t ignore me!’ written on them.

It was obvious who the message was from. Maia gritted her teeth angrily and hissed his name in annoyance. She had never expected him to take this approach when she declined to see him.

Just then, Cedric’s voice came from the drones, “Honey, your dashing husband will be waiting for you in the lobby!”

Maia could feel her blood boiling. He really was shameless as there was no method he would not use just to get his way!

Nigel was also furious as he offered fiercely, “Maia, do you want me to help you with this? We shouldn’t tolerate his unreasonable behavior!”

“With his capabilities and social standing, he could do whatever he wants.” Maia knew that even if Nigel confronted Cedric about this, he would only end up being hurt. Maia did not want that to happen to Nigel.

“Just ignore him. Where were we? Let’s continue.” Maia decided after some thought as she went back to focus on the documents on her table.

“You’re just going to let him do this? This will only attract unnecessary attention.”

“It’s too late.” Maia took out her phone and pointed to her notifications.

‘Mt. Cedric

Cedric uses drones to attract the attention of his beloved!’

“The media catches on fast, but I’m sure without Cedric’s permission, they wouldn’t dare publish this.’

Nigel was right. This was definitely under Cedric’s orders as publicly professing his love for Maia was his way of intimidating Nigel.

“I’m guessing he probably knows that I’m here. I don’t think either of us had thought that he would do this after you declined to see him in person. Twitter is probably in a frenzy now.”

Maia opened the app on her phone. She was not at all surprised to see that the incident had become the top news of the day.

“Why is Ms. Mala so heartless? How can she reject Mr. Cedric? He is such a heartthrob and every woman’s dream!”

“I’m envious of Ms. Maia again! Just get back together already!”

“Don’t be ridiculous. I don’t think they’ll be able to reconcile. My friend working at Starlight Entertainment told me that Ms. Mala doesn’t want to see Mr. Cedric. That’s why he went and bought those drones!”

“Wow, I feel bad for Mr. Cedric. Ms. Maia, look at how much this man loves you!”

Every comment under the post was supporting Cedric. Maia placed her phone down angrily as she looked outside.

Minutes later, she took up the phone on her desk and called her secretary.

“Paige, get the security team to bring those drones down.” Maia knew that her every move was being watched by Cedric.

“Are you sure, Ms Maia?”

“This behavior can be considered as corporate espionage, no? We’re only trying to maintain our company’s privacy. Don’t worry. I’ll pay for those damaged drones.”

“Got it. I’ll get the team to do it right away.”

Maia hung up and waited patiently. Shortly after, there were a number of people using extended sticks to try to bring the drones down. As she witnessed them being shot down, she felt a strange sensation in her heart.

Maybe it was just her feeling bad for destroying those newly bought drones. Maia’s head was in a mess as she continued to zone out from work.

Maia was finally able to regain her composure after Nigel had tried calling her name a few times.

“Sorry, Nigel. What were you saying?”

“I was surprised that you’d take action right away. It looks like you really don’t want to have anything to do with him. However, this wouldn’t solve anything as he would keep on pestering you. Why don’t you consider taking up my offer?”

Maia knew that he was referring to the offer of marrying him, but she pretended that she could not remember. “Sorry, Nigel. I don’t remember what you offered.”

Nigel studied Maia as she continued to play dumb. He knew that this was her way of making him move on from the subject.

“Nigel, let’s stop wasting time and get back to work.”

He nodded and continued their discussion.

Netizens were surprised at Maia’s action of destroying the drones. They left more comments about how pitiful Cedric was.

“I feel so bad for Mr. Cedric. How could Ms. Mala be so cruel? You have the world’s best ex- husband! He’s every woman’s dream man!”

Chapter235 To Invite Disaster

“Mr. Cedric, we’re rooting for you!”

Netizens continued to post their supportive comments and started numerous discussions about their relationship on Twitter.

Close to the entrance of Starlight Entertainment, Cedric smiled sadly as he glanced at the fallen drones. He continued to wallow in his feelings of regret about how he had treated Maia in the past. No matter how hard he tried, it seemed like she would never accept him again.

Baz just lowered his head and sighed as he witnessed the unpleasant aftermath. He whispered to himself quietly, "Women can be so cruel."

Moments later, Cedric instructed Baz to clean up the mess and walked to his car. If this was her way of making him leave, he would comply.

Maia was standing right next to the window as she noticed his car pulling out and driving off. Maia shifted her gaze away and smiled sadly.

After they were done with work, Nigel suggested, "Why don't I wait for you to get off work and we can go look for a new phone together?"

"Sorry, Nigel. There are some personal matters that I need to attend to."

"What is it? If you don't mind me asking."

"It's about my aunt."

"Right. I heard that she went to Osttahl with you. I haven't seen her since you came back. Maybe I should come with you too."

"No, there's no need for that."

Nigel looked at her with a confused expression as Maia clarified, "Aunt Tess is dead."

Nigel was stunned by her answer as he struggled to speak, "When did this happen? I've never heard you mention this. What happened at Osttahl? I should've known that it was dangerous over there,"

Maia looked at him calmly as she said, "Nigel, let the past stay in the past. Please stop asking questions. I don't want to recall what happened." Maia did not want to elaborate further as it was too complicated.



Nigel nodded, "Fine. If you don't want me to, then I won't. I don't want to hurt you. Do you need any help? I can come with you."

Maia continued to reject his offer as she did not want to be involved with Nigel. She knew that he liked her, but she only saw him as a friend. She could not reciprocate his feelings, so she

"Jordan is already coming with me. We'll go see my mother together too."

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Nigel was hurt by Maia's continued rejections. However, he tried to hide it by reminding her gently that he would always be here when she needed him.

Maia smiled at him in return. "Thank you. I'm also counting on you to win this lawsuit."

"I'm just doing my job, you don't have to thank me." Nigel wished that Maia would stop treating him like an obligation.

"By the way, Lonnie told me that his daughter is coming home soon. He asked me if I had anyone good to introduce to his daughter and I immediately thought of you! His daughter is very beautiful and capable. Why don't you go see her?" Maia suggested earnestly.

Nigel's face fell as he tried to decline her offer. "Are you trying to play matchmaker? You know, right? That I'm—"

Maia interrupted him, "Nigel, you shouldn't be wasting time on me. There are so many better options out there."

"Maia, you shouldn't sell yourself short!"

"I know you mean well, Nigel. However, I wish that you would just give up."

“Maia, I can wait. It doesn’t matter how long it takes. I’ll wait for you,” Nigel said, stubbornly.

“But I don’t want you to wait! I know you would just tell me that you’re doing this willingly but I’m not a heartless person. I know you’re too kind to me and this would only make me feel sorry for you.”

Nigel knew that this was yet another rejection. “If I agree to meet her, would you stop feeling guilty?”

Maia shook her head. “I hope that you can find your own happiness.”

“Fine. I’ll meet with her.”

Maia breathed a sigh of relief as she added, “I’ll give Lonnie a call and get back to you about the time and place.”

“Sure, as long as it’s what you want me to do, I will always make time for it.”

Nigel’s statement made Maia uncomfortable. It was as if he had agreed to do it only because she had asked him to. She knew that he would not be able to give up so easily, but she had hope that he would eventually understand.

She could not love him. No matter how long he was willing to wait, Maia would still not love him. Instead of giving him false hope, she wanted to end this once and for all.

“I look forward to you telling me where to go and when to meet her. Now, I’ll be heading back to my office. Don’t forget to take a break now and then even when you have a lot of work.” Nigel stood up and bid Maia farewell.

Chapter 236 I’ve Already Decided

Maia nodded, “Got it, Nigel, thank you.”

She remained polite to him, always being courteous.

Nigel was disappointed, but his gaze towards Maia never changed. Then, he waved with a S and left Maia's office. He could never have her. Never in the past, not now, and it seemed

impossible in the future.

In the afternoon, Maia went to the Prismara Cemetery with Jordan. Errol had already arrived early and arranged everything.

When Maia got out of the car, Errol immediately walked up, gesturing, "Sis, I've chosen a burial site for Aunt Tess."

"You've chosen already?"

"Yes, it's right below Mom's grave. Consider it... it's like making her repent for a lifetime." Errol's gestures were forceful, expressing the intense resentment in his heart.

Maia had filled Errol in on everything. It made Errol even angrier than Maia, stating that he could never forgive what Tess had done. It was a well-deserved punishment.

Even today, Maia could feel his spontaneous anger.

"Errol, what about Celia's? Is everything arranged for her as well?"

"I've picked a location with a magnificent view for Celia. I think... she'll like it."

Errol's eyes turned slightly red, and the anger from earlier vanished instantly.

Maia consoled Errol, saying, "She loves you so much. Whatever you choose, she will definitely

like."

Errol nodded.

Then, the three of them walked towards the cemetery. Jords

placed the flowers in front of Rosa's tombstone, looking at the smiling photo. Seeing her smile, he smiled too.

"Mrs. Rosa, it seems like it's been a long time since I came here to see you. How have you been all these years? Aiken, was just as you said, still unreliable. Fortunately, he doesn't have any malicious intentions.

"Mrs. Rosa, as a mom, you can rest assured now. Maia is much more capable than you could have imagined. Starlight Entertainment is on the right track, and all the accounts have been audited with no issues. I won't leave this time. I'll stay in Starlight and help Maia with

whatever I can.'

For Jordan, Rosa was not only a lifesaver but also a good friend in their struggles. Now that his friend had left, the sadness for Jordan was still palpable.

Maia looked at the tombstone, her eyes reddening, and she turned away to wipe away the tears in silence. Then, as she looked at Rosa's photo again, a smile appeared on her face.

"Mom, both Errol and I miss you a lot. Fortunately, everything is over now. The villains have been punished, paid the price, and this is the only thing your daughter could do for you. I've read the letter you asked Nigel to pass on to me. I won't let you down." As she lowered her head, tears fell.

When she straightened up, she had regained her composure. She gently patted Errol's shoulder.

"Errol, talk to Mom for a while."

Errol nodded, and then he began to gesture. Meanwhile, Maia searched for Tess's tombstone. Just as Errol had said, it was right below Rosa's grave.

Maia looked at Tess's photo, narrowing her eyes.

"Aunt Tess, this is my first time visiting you, and it'll also be the last. You killed my mother, and you paid the price for it. But I'll never forgive you. The person you killed was the one I loved, and who loved you. You single-handedly ruined everything, including your own life. You can't blame anyone else."

Maia's eyes were slightly red, but her words were fierce. She placed the bouquet in front of Tess's tombstone. When she turned around, the watch that revealed Tess's true nature dropped in front of her grave.

After leaving the cemetery, Maia and Errol rode in Jordan's car back to the city center. On the way, Maia felt that Errol seemed burdened with something..

"Errol?" She looked at Errol, who had been staring out the window, and called out, wrong?"

Errol shook his head. "Sis, I'm fine. I just miss Mom and Celia a lot."

"What's

Even his gestures seemed weak and powerless, sighing heavily with a despondent expression. Maia could understand Errol's feelings. After all, his close aunt killed his mother and his lover.

The sense of loss in his heart was something that couldn't be expressed in mere words. No one could have anticipated that the dramatic scenes from TV dramas would play out in reality.

is overcast

"It will get better." Maia looked out the car window, comforting Errol. "Look, it was yesterday, and today it's sunny. Everything will be okay."

Errol nodded but still couldn't muster any enthusiasm. "Sis, I have a dinner tonight. Will you come with me?"

"What dinner?" Maia asked, puzzled, as she hadn't heard Errol mention it before.

Errol gestured expressionlessly, "It's a meeting between my and Elena's parents. Since Mom and Aunt Tess are gone, you are my only family member..."

Her eyes widened in disbelief. "Elena Welbeck? Isn't she the third daughter of the shipping company? A meeting between both families? Errol, do you realize what you're saying?"

"Sis, I've already decided."

Maice frowned. "I hope every decision you make is carefully considered."

"Sis, Cella is gone, and I have the right to pursue my own happiness."

Errol's gestures were still weak, lacking energy. He couldn't muster any interest. When he mentioned Elena, there was no affectionate light in his eyes.

"Pursue happiness? Do you think your sister would believe what you're saying?"

Errol smiled, but the smile gradually disappeared.

"Sis, whether you believe it or not, I'm determined to marry Elena. Marrying her will be beneficial for the vineyard, and she is also a deaf-mute person. In terms of status, position, or other aspects, we match well.

“After all, who could love a mute person willingly, especially to the extent of learning sign language for them? Only Celia, my Celia, would be that silly.

Talking about Celia, Errol’s eyes reddened. People say real men don’t shed tears easily, but for Celia, he didn’t know how many tears he had shed. When it came to heartbreak, tears flowed more freely.

Maia felt a bit angry. She was angry that Errol made such a decision!

Chapter 237 Childish Adult

“Marrying Elena was initially about the vineyard and her family’s shipping company, which greatly benefits our winery’s overseas sales. But do you truly love her? It seems not. Why jeopardize your lifelong happiness? Errol, what you’re doing is unfair to Elena!”

Errol shook his head, gesturing, “Elena knows I have feelings for Celia, and she doesn’t mind. She believes time will heal everything. We’ve had serious conversations about this. Sister, Celia is no longer with us, and I won’t fall in love with anyone else. My life is destined to be unhappy. In that case, why not choose a wife who benefits the winery? Besides, she doesn’t mind...”

“You...” Maia was speechless, realizing that Errol had made up his mind.

“Sister, after this meal, Elena and I are getting engaged! Sister, you can’t greet her parents with a cold face tonight... Otherwise, my great marriage opportunity will be ruined!” Errol laughed after his gestures.

Maia sighed helplessly, “Your decision is beyond my control.”

Maia also understood Errol’s personality, stubborn! The siblings were quite alike in this aspect!

Errol continued to smile, “Sister, Elena is a good person, a great wife candidate.”

Maia sighed lightly, “Yes, she’s an excellent wife candidate, but not the one in your heart...”

“The person in my heart will never come back.”

After Celia left, Errol turned himself into a commodity beneficial to the winery, a trade.

Marriage became one of his stepping stone.

Seeing this side of Errol, Maia was angry but helpless. Errol had grown up, he was no longer the little brother who used to follow her around. Because he had grown up, Maia also understood that she couldn't interfere with any of his decisions.

“Errol, don't regret this.”

Errol shook his head, decisively gesturing, “Sister, there's nothing to regret. The person who could made me regret is no longer here.”

Because the beloved person was no longer there, life became meaningless.

“Sister.” Errol looked at Maia, who fell into silence, gesturing, “Hold onto your happiness. You must be happy. I don't know what's going on between you and Cedric, but I support every decision you make. I hope you can be happy, whether it's completely cutting ties with Cedric or returning to him. As long as you're happy, it's good.”

Maia nodded, “Okay, I'll try. I will strive for my own happiness.”

Striving for happiness. But, is happiness ever that easy to attain?

In the evening, Maia and Errol, riding in Jordan's car, arrived at the La Rouquette in Prismara. La Rouquette was a Michelin Star awarded fine dining restaurant. It had been a well- established name in Prismara for decades, and it even became a landmark. The meeting

between the two parties was scheduled at this iconic location.



After thanking Jordan, they proceeded together towards the restaurant. In the private dining room upstairs, the elder members of the Welbeck family and Elena were already present.

“Hello, Uncle and Aunt.”

Upon entering, Errol greeted Welbeck’s parents with gestures and salutations. The elderly couple nodded with evident satisfaction.

Maia greeted them politely and followed Errol, saying, “Uncle Welbeck, Aunt Welbeck, sorry, are we late?”

“No, no, you’re early. It’s us who arrived too soon. The main reason is, you know, women are anxious, urging the two of us to get here quickly!” Mrs. Welbeck spoke in a humorous and witty manner, teasing Elena right from the start.

Maia smiled politely and nodded, but inwardly, she couldn’t decide whether to be happy or sad. Her brother regarded her as a commodity in a deal, which should make her sad, yet Welbeck’s parents were so amiable. They seemed to be good prospective in-laws, which

d make her happy.

Shyly, Elena lowered her head, tugging at her mother’s sleeve to signal her to stop.

“Oh my, feeling shy now? How did you urge mommy at home? Have you forgotten?” Mrs. Welbeck continued to tease.

Now, the already shy Elena blushed even more.

“Aunt, please don’t teasing Elena anymore.” Errol politely nodded and smiled, gesturing.

Mrs. Welbeck laughed, “Look at that, now you’re protecting her. Elena, Mom won’t tease your anymore in the future, okay?”

Elena lowered her head, her face filled with a smile that only a young girl in love would show. Maia could tell that Elena genuinely liked Errol. Otherwise, knowing Errol had feelings for Celia, she wouldn't willingly be with him.

"Alright, now that everyone is here, let's start the meal." Unlike Mrs. Welbeck, Mr. Welbeck appeared more serious.

As soon as he finished speaking, the waitstaff immediately began serving the dishes. La

ingredients. Soon, the table was served with luscious dish.

Evidently, Mrs. Welbeck also liked Errol. She repeatedly encouraged him to eat more, "Errol, have a bit more. We don't know what you like, so we ordered the specialties."

"Aunt, this should be my responsibility... Thank you for your trouble." Errol looked apologetic.

Mrs. Welbeck shook her head and said, "Why would you say so? We've learned a bit about your family situation, hence, you only brought your sister here today. In the future, consider us as family."

"Thank you, Aunt and Uncle," Errol expressed his gratitude to Welbeck's elderly couple.

Maia encountered this situation for the first time. It was more challenging than negotiating business deals. She didn't know what to say, so she opted to bow her head and focus on eating.

However, she never expected that Mr. Welbeck would initiate a conversation with her.

"The current Starlight Entertainment seems to have returned to the glamorous era of President Rosa. President Maia has played an indispensable role. However, I didn't expect that a capable person like you, who excels in the business world, would be someone who only knows how to eat at your brother's meeting. Could it be that Starlight Entertainment is managed by a professional manager, and you are nothing but a figurehead?"

Who could have thought that Mr. Welbeck, who had been silent, would say something so harsh? On the side, Mrs. Welbeck had been exchanging glances with Mr. Welbeck, seemingly trying to stop him, but to no avail.

Maia calmly finished chewing her food, then looked up and smiled at Mr. Welbeck.

In a calm and measured tone, she said, “Having a professional manager is indeed a good choice to some extent. However, I am still young, and there are certain things I can handle on my own. After all, Starlight Entertainment is not comparable to Uncle Welbeck’s shipping company. There’s still a lot for me to learn but we are still sailing smoothly. But Uncle Welbeck, since you brought up the topic of a professional manager, are you looking for recommendations?”

Chapter 238 Little Maia, It’s Really You

Maia smiled at Mr. Welbeck. This smile was sweet and gentle, but it gave off a razor-sharp feeling.

Did he see them, siblings without a father and with their mother deceased, as easy targets to bully? Starlight Entertainment might not be at its peak, but it still held a respectable position in the industry. As the president of Starlight Entertainment, she could never let an outsider embarrass her like this. Once word got out, it would damage the company’s reputation.

Maia understood what Mr. Welbeck’s show of authority meant. He was establishing authority for Elena, fearing she might be mistreated after marrying Errol. Hence, he displayed this act at the dinner table, showing his prowess as a father to both Maia and Errol.

However, such behavior was truly unnecessary.

Welbeck looked at Maia and smiled, “Indeed, a friend of mine has an only son, but he’s quite at spendthrift. So, he’s considering hiring a good manager to plan for the future.”

Maia nodded with a smile, “Sure, I’ll have my assistant compile a list for you, and you can pass it on to your friend.”

“How can I trouble you with this?” Mr. Welbeck was polite in his response.

“Mr. Welbeck, firstly, you’re a senior in the business world. Secondly, when Elena marries Errol, we’ll be family. Just based on that, if you’re busy, I will help to the best of my ability,” Maia’s words were tactful and gentle, leaving no room for criticism.

Mr. Welbeck’s expression visibly changed after hearing Maia’s words. He said, “With a sister like Ms. Maia, Elena will undoubtedly be happy.”

Mrs. Welbeck also nodded in agreement, “Yes, everyone says an elder brother is like a father, and an elder sister is like a mother. This is my first time meeting Mrs. Maia...” Pausing, Mrs. Welbeck asked, “Can I call you Maia? It would be more intimate.”

“Of course, Mrs. Welbeck.”

Mrs. Welbeck smiled and continued, “Today is my first time meeting you in person. You are even more beautiful than on TV and in the news, and the key is, you’re competent and sensible. Elena has been spoiled since childhood. If there are any shortcomings, we hope you can bear with her.”

“Elena deserves to be pampered. If Errol bullies her, I’ll be the first to scold my brother.”

Maia knew Errol’s character very well as his sister, he would never mistreat Elena.

“With a sister like Mala, Elena is fortunate!” Mrs. Welbeck complimented warmly and then looked at Elena sitting beside her, “Elena, what are you still doing? Hurry up and call her

Elena was shy but smiled and gestured, “Sister, thank you. But I trust my brother Errol won’t bully me. If he ever bullies me, I’ll let you know, okay?”

Looking at the innocent Elena, Maia couldn't bear to refuse her. Smiling, she nodded, "Sure, remember to tell me right away."

"Okay." Elena nodded happily.

Later, everyone raised their glasses, and there were more obligatory gestures for such occasions. Maia occasionally kept an eye on Errol. His gaze towards Elena was tender, but it always lacked that certain something.

The girl sitting in front of him was very pure and elegant, undoubtedly a good match, but not the one in his heart. Maia understood, but there was nothing she could say or do. It was Errol's decision, and even though she was his sister, she couldn't interfere too much.

Soon, Maia found an excuse to go to the restroom and walked towards the exit of the private room. In her ears, she kept hearing Errol's words from earlier. She quickened her pace, planning to cross the hall and head towards the restroom at the end.

However, as she reached the middle of the hall, a somewhat intoxicated man rushed towards her.

"Hey, it's really Little Maia!"

Maia looked at the man in front of her, drunk and disheveled, and smelled the unpleasant odor of alcohol emanating from him.

"Don't you remember me? Little Maia, when you entered La Rouquette, someone saw you. I thought they were mistaken, but it's really you... Little Maia, don't you remember me? I was the student union president when you were in college," the man said with an air of self-

satisfaction.

Maia barely remembered him now. He was the president of the student union during her college days, a guy who never did anything productive. He would lounge around with his legs crossed, driving a sports car, and chasing after girls.

Maia didn't bother acknowledging him and pretended not to recognize him, attempting to go around him. However, the student union president, Brad, was persistent. Just as Maia tried to avoid him, he stepped forward and blocked her way.

"Get out of the way!" Maia frowned, speaking with a harsh and decisive tone..

"Oh, the former little white flower has now turned into a rose? Hahaha!" After the words fell, Brad burst into laughter, waving to the hall on one side, "Hey, guys, come and see! My college classmate is now the president of Starlight Entertainment. Little Maia still looks as delightful as she did in college!"

Soon, a group of spoiled rich kids approached, chatting and laughing. Maia forcefully pushed away the man in front of her. "Get lost!"

President Brad staggered back several steps, nearly losing his balance. With the support of a few rich kids, he managed to steady himself. After regaining his footing, he shouted in dissatisfaction, "Hey, dare you push me? Do you think having Starlight Entertainment is something to be proud of? Take a look at the industries my family controls. We're in the top ten in Prismara. Your little entertainment company can't even make it to the top hundred!" "Instead of caring about my little company, you might want to pay attention to your own. After all, who knows when you'll bankrupt it."

Maia's beautiful eyes narrowed slightly. She smirked, mocking him.

Brad became immediately displeased. He pointed at her and shouted, "You bitch, what did you just say? I'll tear your mouth apart." He was about to charge at Maia but was restrained by several men beside him.

"Bro, calm down. This woman seems to have some connection with Cedric, if you lay a hand on her, and Cedric finds out..."

Brad laughed, "What can Cedric do? The overlord is far away, and my father is a prominent figure in Prismara. Even if Cedric is damn powerful, he still has to show me some respect. He can't tear his face apart over a woman he's already slept with, right?"

Chapter 239 Headshots

Brad hiccupped, clearly intoxicated.

"Get the hell out of my way! Today, I have to teach this woman a lesson, let her know how capable I am! How dare she look down on me? Stupid bitch!"

He shoved aside the men who were trying to restrain him and charged straight at Maia.

Maia, realizing that she couldn't match the physical strength of a man, understood that she needed to prevail in terms of momentum. Causing a scene was crucial. The restaurant staff would hear it, and so would Errol.

Maia noticed a wine bottle on a nearby table. As Brad rushed toward her, she grabbed the bottle and swung it fiercely at his head!

With a loud "bang," she hit his head. He stood there, dazed, still processing what had just happened.

The men nearby were all stunned. They never expected Maia to be so fierce, raising a wine bottle without any hesitation and smashing it onto Brad's forehead.

"Bro, b-blood..." one of the men stammered.

Now, Brad realized he was bleeding. He wiped his hand across his forehead, finding it sticky with fresh blood.

"You bitch!" Brad roared in anger. "You dare to hit me? You, slut who has been ridden by thousands of men! Today, I'll teach you a lesson!"

After that, Brad shouted at his friends, "What are you still standing there for? Hold this woman down for me! Today, I must strip her naked!"

His friends looked at each other, uncertain about whether to step forward.

"What the hell are you standing there for? Didn't you hear what I said?" Brad cursed again.

After Brad's furious command, the men finally rushed toward Maia. Maia, still holding the wine bottle, swung it fiercely at one of the men.

"I want to see if you guys are capable of that!" Maia repeatedly swung the bottle at the approaching men.

Unable to dodge in time, the spoiled rich kids were hit squarely by Maia's strikes.

Witnessing this scene, Brad angrily shouted, "You useless bunch! Worthless! I've arranged countless girls for all of you in the past, and you can't even handle this one stupid bitch!"

The repeated loud crashes, insults, and cries attracted the attention of the restaurant staff.

Just as Errol was about to rush forward, a group of men in black suits stormed into the hall. In a matter of seconds, they subdued the spoiled rich girls who had been beaten up by Mala.

"What are you doing! Let go! Catch that bitch for me, or I'll demolish this

damn building tomorrow!" Brad pointed at the security guards, his face filled with anger. He shouted loudly, "Do you know who I am?"



“Do you know who I am?” A chilling and terrifying voice echoed.

Footsteps in black leather shoes followed, each step resonating on the wooden floor, enough to make one’s heart tremble.

Upon seeing Cedric, the bodyguards restrained the spoiled rich kids while bowing their heads, all shouting in unison, “Mr. Cedric!”

When Brad saw Cedric, his face turned instantly pale, and he sobered up considerably.

“Ced... Mr. Cedric...”

He thought they were far away from the overlord’s reach, but who could have expected that he would be so close at this moment!

Maia, upon seeing Cedric, continued holding the wine bottle tightly in her hand. She did not intend to let go.

“You are safe now. Why are you still holding it?” He calmly looked at her, his eyes soft, and his voice gentle.

“Am I safe?” Maia smiled, “That’s not necessarily true. Do you also want to experience the feeling of being hit on the head with a wine bottle?”

Cedric looked at Maia’s calm demeanor. Even though he knew she couldn’t beat those men. physically, she hadn’t given up. On the contrary, she had left those men in a sorry state.

His little woman was indeed interesting.

“Where did you learn this move?” he asked.

Maia frowned, a bit puzzled.

He smiled indulgently, "The precision in giving headshots here and there, where did you learn it?"

Upon hearing his question, Maia finally remembered why she was so accurate in slamming people's heads with the bottle.

It was because of him. Because his throwing knives were precise, she had learned it just to get his attention. Little did she expect to use it in such a situation.

"Never learned it," Mala denied, then added, "Just happened to have a bottle in hand. If you like it, I can give you a headshot."

"You like giving headshots?" He chuckled, showing no sign of anger due to her words.

This left the onlookers dumbfounded. The rumors were true, what was circulating online was indeed accurate. The warring couple was a real couple, it was just that they were not married to each other now.

Maia looked at Cedric in front of her, sensing no hint of anger or coldness from him. Then, she signaled to the bodyguards who were restraining Brad.

"Take a look at his head. Not too bad, right?"

Cedric glanced and said, "Not strong enough."

With that, he pulled Maia into his embrace in front of everyone. Then, with his large hand holding the hand that grasped the bottle, he threw it forcefully in Brad's direction!

A loud “bang!” echoed as the bottle shattered. Brad was instantly knocked out! The onlookers. gasped in shock.

But Cedric remained calm, looking at Maia and saying, “That’s a real headshot. Have you learned it?”

Maia remained composed and replied, “Yes. Next time, I’ll use you as my target.”

“As long as it’s you, anytime.” His handsome face revealed an indulgent smile, and the gaze he directed at her was full of affection.

The onlookers were dumbfounded. Not only was she practicing headshots, but they were also laughing so happily? Truly, the one and only warring couple.

Avoiding Cedric’s gaze, Maia walked towards the bruised and swollen men.

“Your bro, Brad is unconscious. Do you want to take him to the hospital?” Maia asked them

calmly.

These playboys were originally a bunch of drinking buddies. Immediately, each of them vigorously shook their heads, their head movements faster than beating a drum.

“Do you want to go to the hospital since you’ve been smashed like this?” Maia chuckled, asking again.

Suddenly, they all nodded frantically.

Maia smiled, her voice sweetly saying, “Rest assured, I’m not a heartless person. Of course, I’ll send all of you to the hospital together. However, with your decent family backgrounds, how can ordinary cars satisfy you? I’ll contact some friends to have a number of convertible cars

Chapter 240 Birds of A Feather

The playboys breathed a sigh of relief. However, the next sentence made their expressions change drastically.

“But the convertible ride isn’t free. You can only experience the charm of a convertible when you’re stripped bare!”

The playboys stood there, each one unable to utter a word in shock. They had thought she genuinely intended to let them off and arrange transportation to the hospital. Little did they know, she planned to strip them bare, using their own methods against them!

“Ms. Maia, the one who just said he’d strip you naked... i—it’s this guy! No, it wasn’t us!” One of the playboys explained tearfully, pleading with Maia, “W—We were only dining with him due to the influence of the Brad family. Ms. Maia, please forgive us, we’re just small fry. If you want justice, deal with this guy!”

“Yes, yes, Ms. Maia, spare us!”

“Ms. Maia, please have mercy, we won’t dare to do it again!”

The others also began begging for mercy. Maia looked at them pleading, contrasting their current state with their earlier arrogance. These people, who relied on their social status and a bit of money, had bullied countless others in their daily lives.

They were nothing but a bunch of cowards who feared the strong and bullied the weak!

Maia continued to smile sweetly, her smile so charming. “Birds of a feather, you’re no better than him!”

Then, she deepened the smile at the corner of her lips. Her eyes sparkled with a captivating light, but the delightful smile on her face sent shivers down people’s spines.

The playboys kept shaking their heads, each wanting to explain but rendered speechless. Soon, Cedric signaled Baz with his eyes, and he immediately ordered the bodyguards to take these playboys away.

All according to Maia's words, they were stripped naked and thrown onto the convertible.

After they left, the person in charge of the La Rouquette immediately approached Maia, bowing apologetically, "We sincerely apologize. As a century-old prestigious establishment, we regret disappointing our guests. To express our apologies, your expenses today are waived. We are truly sorry."

"There's no need to waive the expenses, preventing such incidents from happening again is what matters," Maia replied.

The

person in charge nodded repeatedly, saying, "Yes, yes, you're right. I will inform the

"Blacklist them directly."

Suddenly, Cedric's deep voice resounded, carrying an air of authority that left the person in charge shivering involuntarily. When Cedric spoke, who would dare to utter a dissenting word? "Yes, Mr. Cedric."

After that, Mala didn't utter another word, striding towards the private room. The Welbeck family seemed somewhat stunned. Though they had witnessed many storms in the business world, seeing a woman face off against so many men without fear, wielding a bottle to strike, was an unprecedented scene.

Moreover, the woman wielding the bottle was the illustrious president of Starlight

Entertainment, a girl who appeared beautiful and delicate, yet performed an act that was hard to believe.

Seeing Maia, Errol quickly gestured, "Sis, are you okay? Did you get hurt?"

Maia shook her head, "I'm fine."

Errol then gestured again, asking, "What happened? Weren't you going to the restroom? How did you end up in conflict with them?"

At the time, Errol and the others were all inside the private room, and the soundproofing of La Rouquette was quite effective. If not for the "clang" sounds and the screams from the back, they wouldn't have known what happened.

Subsequently, Mrs. Welbeck spoke up, "Some of them are sons of the ladies I play cards with, pampered sons with good family backgrounds. Their mothers would talk highly about them. Today, they turned out to look like hooligans."

Maia smiled and didn't intend to say much, only stating, "Sorry to let you witness such a scene."

"Well done," Mr. Welbeck said. "I wouldn't have objected if it were Elena in the same position, fighting back against a group of men with wine bottles. It's legitimate self-defense. After all, women are inherently disadvantaged."

"Yes, Dad is right. It's truly shameful for a few big men to bully someone," Elena immediately gestured, then gave Maia a thumbs-up. "Sis, you're amazing! Your headshots are so accurate and precise. Can you teach me next time?"

"Sure, you can practice with Errol." Maia teased, lightening the mood.

Elena quickly shook her head, "No, how can I practice with Errol? It would be bad if the bottle hits him!"

Maia watched Elena's gestures and burst into laughter. Mrs. Welbeck, seeing Elena so anxious,

injured? He's her little brother! Silly girl!"

Mrs. Welbeck looked at Elena affectionately, her eyes full of maternal warmth. Maia was momentarily stunned, looking at Mrs. Welbeck, feeling a twinge of envy towards Elena. If her mother were still here, her mother would surely stand up for her. She would feel her mother's love and care every day.

Suddenly, footsteps approached from behind. Maia felt the imposing aura getting closer to her. She wanted to dodge, but it was too late. A man's hand was placed on her waist.

"It's been a long time, Mr. Cedric," Mr. Welbeck nodded towards Cedric.

Cedric nodded, calmly greeting, " You seem to be in good spirits today."

Mr. Welbeck laughed, "Yes, my daughter has found someone she likes. I just didn't expect to run into Cedric today."

Cedric, in line with the information he received, noticed Errol and Elena.

"Cedric, it's really a coincidence for you to come. You appeared just right when my sister encountered danger. Thank you so much," Errol gestured.

Realizing Cedric couldn't understand, he immediately took out his phone and typed a message to show him.