Mr. Scott 251

Chapter 251

Sally stood aside, giving Melanie space to get to her grandfather.

However, Melanie felt her steps were heavy, as though rocks were tied to her legs. She looked at her grandfather on the hospital bed.

Her grandfather had accompanied her through her childhood, stepping on puddles in the rain and flying kites during sunny days.

He even read her bedtime stories and made her paper planes.

When Albert was young, he was handsome and charming. His outstanding genes could be seen in Dylan and Melanie.

Melanie stood by the bed. Her hands were trembling as she stared at the old man before her. The stroke had distorted half of his face, and even his mouth was slanted in a weird angle.

However, her grandfather still moved his lips as though he had many things to say to Melanie.

Melanie found it difficult to understand what he was talking about with the oxygen mask covering his mouth and his distorted facial features.

Anxious, Albert stared straight into Melanie's eyes with his cloudy eyes. A tear rolled down the wrinkles at the corner of his eyes.

Melanie's eyes were red as she held back her tears, afraid of showing her vulnerable side before Albert.

She could only bear her sorrow and wipe her grandfather's tears with a piece of tissue as she tried to make herself sound calm. "Grandpa, you're already in your 70s. Why are you still crying like a baby?"

Albert lifted his finger but said nothing. All he did was hint Melanie to look at it.

Startled, she soon realized what Albert meant and placed her palm under his finger.

Albert's fingers could only move a little. He wrote each word slowly, but it was still difficult for him. When he finished the whole sentence, his hand fell on the bed, and he closed his eyes tiredly.

Before Melanie left the hospital, she looked for a caretaker for her grandfather.

Albert had written on her hand, asking her to return to the nursing home and open the second drawer in his closet.

Melanie did not know why. Her head felt heavy as she drove back. Yana had returned to LeapCo.

At the nursing home, she opened the drawer her grandfather mentioned and took out a small box. The emotions Melanie suppressed along the way surged through her.

She sat on the ground, leaning against the closet with the box in her arms. She buried her head between her knees and let her tears flow.

The box Albert left for her contained two bank cards with notes stuck on them.

On the notes was Albert's writing. One was labeled as 'Melanie's wedding gift,' and the other was labeled 'Also Melanie's.'

Behind it was a row of new writing. Maybe Albert added this sentence recently. On the note was 'Don't give this to your mother because I've already given her hers'.

Melanie hugged the box as she cried silently in grief.

She rubbed the bank cards and could imagine the scene of her grandfather writing the notes seriously on his study table.

Melanie stayed in her grandfather's room until it was dark before leaving. She knew why Albert wanted her to take the bank cards. He was afraid he wouldn't be able to live until the day he could tell her about it.

He was afraid Melanie would have no one to rely on if he died.

Then, Melanie drove back to the hospital. Albert had already gone to bed, and the caretaker was there to take care of him. Melanie did not disturb them.

She stood at the door for a while before turning around and leaving.

When she was back home, Melanie never expected the management staff to be at her door, waiting for her.

She stopped and asked, "May I know if you're waiting for me?"

The staff saw her and took out a document. "Hello, are you renting your house out? We're here to take down the details."

Melanie was startled. "Rent?"

Chapter 252

1/2

"Hmm? Didn't you contact the office? We're a high—end condominium. For the residents' safety, we have to record all the details of the people entering the residence. We hope you can cooperate with us," said the staff as he handed the list to her.

"These are the rules and regulations."

Melanie was shocked by the sudden news and pushed the staff's hand away. "I'm sorry, but I don't know about this renting matter."

"Aren't you the owner, Miss Heidi Lean?"

Startled, Melanie answered, "I'm not Miss Lean. You must have mistaken me for someone else."

The staff looked at the details in a puzzle. Only then did he notice he had gone to the wrong floor.

He had mistaken the 17th floor for the 11th floor.

After the staff apologized for the misunderstanding, Melanie unlocked her door and entered.

However, something struck Melanie once she got into the house.

The staff's words reminded her of something. Eugene had the right to chase her out of this house.

It made her wonder if Eugene would still let her stay here if she left LeapCo.

Melanie's mood was down the whole day. Now that she was back, tiredness engulfed her last bit of strength. She sat on the sofa as drowsiness struck her.

It was midnight when the cold breeze struck Melanie. Half of her body was numb. She was unable to move when she tried to get up, and she found herself dazing off on the bed.

It took some time for her to relieve the numbness. Only then did she take out her phone and notice Dylan's message. She asked Melanie if she could transfer the money tomorrow as the deadline given by the people in Hearth City was next Monday.

Melanie might have already dozed off when Dylan sent the message. Expressionlessly, she exited the home page and checked her balance. Her salary for the past few years was high, but most was already spent on Peachie's medical fees and her grandfather's nursing home fees. Moreover, Dylan had greedily asked for a lot before this, and Melanie had little left. Albert's medical fees were another burden. Melanie massaged her head, wanting to reduce the pain in her temples. It was already working hours when she arrived at LeapCo the following day. However, when Melanie stepped into the building, many still fixed their gazes on her. She did not care anymore and only wanted to finish her work quickly. It was the same conference room and the same group of people. When Melanie entered, everyone stared at her. "Melanie, you left so urgently yesterday. Did something happen?" Viola asked as if she represented everyone. However, Melanie was not in the mood to argue with her and blurted out, "I have a better suggestion than the two methods provided yesterday."

Just as she spoke, Eugene's cold gaze fell on her.

He wore a dark suit and showed no expression. After staring at Melanie arrogantly, he said indifferently, "Speak."

Melanie's eyelashes fluttered as she looked at the lines on the table. "LeapCo can fire me."

She smiled bitterly deep down after suggesting that. It turned out it was not difficult to say those words herself—even if she had spent her best years in LeapCo or even if she was the victim...

Her words caused an uproar in the conference room. After all, it was different for Melanie to resign and be fired by LeapCo.

If LeapCo fired her, it would be like saying the video was real.

Eugene sneered and knocked on the table casually as he said, "What a great scheme! Are you planning to get compensation from the company?"

Chapter 253

1/2

Melanie froze. "This is the best solution. I've seen the comments on the internet, and I think it's a smart choice for LeapCo to build their image with this opportunity."

She seemed calm, as though she was not talking about herself.

Only Yana looked at her worriedly. She understood why Melanie chose to settle it this way. After all, she had guessed what happened when she was at the hospital yesterday.

"LeapCo doesn't have to use such a meaningless situation to build their reputation." Eugene did not even think twice before rejecting.

Melanie looked at him calmly. She sounded indifferent when she said, "If you're worried I might make false countercharges about the company, we can sign an agreement."

Everyone in the conference room looked at her silently. They had seen companies firing staff to prevent their reputation from taking a dive.

However, this was their first time seeing someone asking the company to fire them.

One of the higher executives asked Melanie, "Melanie, what are you trying to do?"

Melanie looked calm, but her fingers on the table shuddered uncontrollably. Even though she was trying her best to keep herself calm, she could still hear her voice trembling slightly.

"Employees who are fired will have to be compensated, but I think of this as just a cooperation between us. I'm willing to take all the blame. That's all."

Eugene's gaze seemed gloomy and cold. He lifted his finger and tapped on the table as he squinted his eyes. His gaze was fixed on Melanie. "Is this the suggestion you came up with

after consideration?"

Melanie straightened her back. "If you don't want LeapCo's share price to fall, this is the best way to deal with it."

Before she left her house, she looked at the news. The video was still the trending news of the day, and on each video, she was stated as an employee of LeapCo.

She even wondered if the company's competitors were trying to make use of this opportunity.

The drastic fall of LeapCo's share price was apparent.

No one in the conference room spoke. Even the higher executive of the company who had just questioned Melanie said nothing more.

After all, they knew Melanie's work capability was strong, and it would be a loss to the company to fire such an outstanding employee.

"Melanie, I think you should reconsider it." Viola took a pen and looked at Melanie sincerely.

She continued, "LeapCo provides their employees with plenty of benefits, and Mr. Scott will never mistreat any employee who chooses to leave LeapCo. However, Melanie, you're a senior employee.

"If LeapCo fired you, companies in this industry would think LeapCo is heartless."

Viola sounded like she cared about LeapCo. She was even reprimanding Melanie for trying to

ruin LeapCo's reputation.

Melanie knew the meaning behind her words yet was not in the mood to argue. She wanted to settle everything well and look after her grandfather.

The doctor had informed her that her grandfather's blood flow to the brain was insufficient, and his condition was terrible.

Eugene had to make the final decision. He showed no emotion as he sat in his seat. Melanie happened to be opposite him. When their eyes met, Eugene froze. He said, "There are only eight days before you resign."

Melanie said nothing.

Eugene looked at her with disdain, and his mockery was hurtful. "I never knew you could be so great."

Then, he got up and hid his expression as he looked at Melanie from above. "Come to my office."

His response indicated he had agreed to Melanie's suggestion.

Melanie followed Eugene to his office silently. Just as she stepped in, Melanie felt nostalgic.

The interior was still simple and lifeless. Something struck Melanie's mind, making her look at Eugene's table. However, she noticed the spot in her memory was empty. The rabbit she saw before was not there anymore.

"I disagree with your suggestion and would never be so dumb to pay you the compensation." Eugene's cold voice snapped Melanie out of her thoughts.

Chapter 254

Melanie seemed a little absent-minded lately.

Eugene continued, "There are only eight days before you resign. LeapCo can wait.

"Or... is it because you lack money that you even need to sell yourself?" Eugene leaned against the chair as he observed Melanie mockingly. "Why don't you look for Simon? He's a playboy. I'm sure you can sell yourself at a good price to him."

His words slapped her on her face. It hurt, but she could not retort.

Melanie felt she had brought this upon herself, so she could not blame others for it.

She closed her eyes and exhaled. "So, you've already decided?"

Eugene looked at her. "Why? Are you disappointed?"

Just as he spoke, Melanie's phone rang. She answered immediately because she was afraid it was a call from the hospital.

However, Dylan's timid voice sounded. She had always put on this act when she needed something from Melanie.
"Mel, are you free today? If you are, I'll meet you. Is there anything you feel like eating? I can buy it for you.
un
Back then, Melanie would be touched by Dylan's words.
However, all she felt right now was disgust and annoyance.
Dylan was good at putting on an act.
Melanie was also a liar, and she was good at deceiving herself. That was why she could be so dumb and believe Dylan for so long.
Clenching the phone, she said in a cold voice, "I'll give you what you deserve."
Melanie hung up the call after snapping at her.
Eugene looked straight at her as he scoffed. "No wonder you're so desperate to sell yourself."
He did not intend to hide his sarcasm.
When Melanie left the office, her expression was straight, as if she was already used to it.
Viola called her name, but Melanie did not seem to hear her and she left the office right away.

When Viola saw her leaving, she lowered her eyelids to hide her emotions. Then, she changed her tone before lamenting, "Poor Melanie. If I had a mother like hers, I might not have the courage to live."

Julie happened to pass by and heard her mutter. Smiling, she said, "Miss Shaw, didn't you insist on learning in the secretary's office? Why are you back as soon as Melanie is resigning? You're quite sensible, aren't you?"

Viola's face turned pale, yet she braced herself and said, "Julie, what are you talking about? I'm just concerned about Melanie. I think Melanie might be having a difficult time. Otherwise, she wouldn't have suggested that in the meeting."

Julie scoffed. "Even if Melanie is having a difficult time, it has nothing to do with you. Don't worry. She won't borrow money from you even if she has to sell her house."

Julie despised Viola's pretentious remarks and sounded sarcastic when she retorted to Viola.

Lee, who had not joined the conversation, suddenly said, "Melanie can't sell her house. Mr. Scott bought it."

Chapter 255

Not many people in the company knew where Melanie lived.

Lee said, "Melanie's house is in the same high-end residence on the west side of the city as Mr. Scott's."

This was news. After all, everyone knew Prestige Residences, which Eugene lived in, was a famous high—end residence in Jepton. Many people couldn't afford to buy a toilet—sized room in that area, even if they worked all their lives for it.

Lee was the one who registered Melanie's house. He knew Eugene bought it for Melanie, but he was not sure about the rest.

That was why Lee had always been the one who treated Melanie the best. After all, he had never seen Eugene buying a house for a woman other than Melanie.

The sincerity of a man in a relationship depended on how much he was willing to spend on the
Woman.
Viola's expression turned gloomy upon hearing it.
Eugene bought Melanie's house, and it was in Prestige Residences.
What about her?
She and her parents had been living in a 60-square-foot apartment, and Eugene knew that.
Viola's hatred deepened. She bit her lip, and her expression became distorted.
Melanie headed straight to the hospital after leaving the company.
On the way there, she received a call from Xander. From the day she was dragged into this mess, Xander and Stephen had been sending her messages to comfort her.
As Melanie was in a bad mood, she rarely replied to them.
With Albert's health disturbing her, Melanie's mind was in a mess. She did not have the time to bother about anything else.
Her phone kept ringing, and Melanie was driving. She connected the Bluetooth in her car and answered the call.
Xander's deep voice came through the call. "Where are you?"

"In the car." Melanie then added, "I'm heading to the hospital."

Stephen's voice also sounded. "Are you not feeling well?"

He was worried and continued, "Mel, don't worry. Look after yourself. Everything will be fine."

In fact, this matter was not easy to settle. The netizens were driven by a sense of justice now. The more a piece of news was suppressed, the more interested in it they became.

Stephen had asked for help. In the end, those people seemed to have found the fun side of retorting those capitalists and left worse comments.

Melanie grunted in response and said, "I'm visiting my grandfather."

When she arrived at the hospital, the doctor had just left the ward and happened to bump into Melanie. He asked, "Are you the patient's family member? Please follow me to the office. The patient's condition might be worse than we had expected.

"The patient is already old, and surgery would be dangerous. However, the patient is continuing to lose blood when he has already lost a lot. If we don't clean the blood clot, it'll...

"Of course, we respect the patient's and the family member's decision."

The doctor's words lingered in Melanie's ears. When she returned to the ward, the nurse was wiping Albert's face, and he was still sleeping.

Melanie sat by the bed and took the cloth from the nurse. She continued wiping Albert's face. She felt lost as she grabbed Albert's wrinkled hand, wanting to vent her emotions by crying. However, she was afraid she might wake him up.

Melanie wiped Albert's hands after wiping her face. Then, she tucked Albert in with the blanket.

Chapter 256

Albert had always said he was already old and had to leave this world with dignity.
However, Melanie had just realized she could not accept it readily.
She wanted to be selfish for once.
She wanted to keep her grandfather by her side
She was not sure there would be anyone in this world who would love her if her grandfather left her. She would not know if she could face this world alone.
Melanie stood outside the hospital for some time before finally getting a packet of cigarettes from the convenience store. She took out a cigarette and lit it with her trembling hands.
She had never smoked before and had no experience in smoking. She failed to aim the lighter at the cigarette.
She squatted outside the convenience store and stubbornly lit the cigarette. It had finally lit up yet was extinguished by a teardrop.
In the end, it finally lit up again, but only half of the cigarette was left.
The following day, Melanie received a call from Stella. Since Eugene started dating Viola, Stella seldom contacted her.
Melanie answered the call and only heard Stella saying, "I want to meet you.'
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It troubled Melanie. "I'm not in a good condition now. Please say whatever you want to say through the phone."

Stella sneered. "LeapCo has been implicated by you. You should be in a bad condition. Let's be frank. I don't want to meet you, but I must settle the house Eugene bought for you.

"Otherwise, others will think the Scott family is charitable and providing shelter for the homeless."

Stella was still as mean as ever. Melanie felt a headache coming on. She had a sleepless night the day before, and in her dream, her grandfather was being pushed into the operating room while attached to a drip.

She said, "I'll talk to Eugene about the house."

"Talk to him? You? What are you going to say? Since you've already left LeapCo, you have

nothing to do with Eugene anymore.

"Take whatever we have given you before this as the benefit given to you as an employee of LeapCo. What are you now?"

With a sneer, Stella continued, "I heard you wanted compensation? Melanie, you're

shameless, indeed. LeapCo's reputation has been tainted because of you.

"We were kind enough to not ask that you take responsibility for the loss you caused the company. How dare you ask for compensation instead?"

Stella's voice was sharp, and Melanie felt it was deafening. She placed the phone on the coffee table.

Before hanging up the call, Stella warned for the last time, "You'd better move out soon. Otherwise, don't blame me for arranging someone to move your things out."

Melanie didn't know why Stella was so arrogant. It was as if Melanie had once bullied her.

It was soon silent again after Stella hung up the call. Only after calming herself for some time did Melanie head out.

She did not have the time to care about the videos online. Yana would occasionally take screenshots of the LeapCo employees saying nice things about her and send them to her. Her grandfather's medical report was out today, and it was almost the same as what the doctor had warned her. The best solution was to operate his brain and carry out a bypass surgery after cleaning the blood clot. However, the risk of this surgery was high.

"What will happen if we don't carry out the surgery on him?" Melanie asked with a shuddering voice.

"The patient might remain in this condition, and there are many uncertainties."

Melanie's face turned pale. The doctor wanted to comfort her. "Every surgery has its risk, but we'll try to reduce it. Moreover, two days later, the famous neurology specialist will be coming to Jepton.

"If you have any connections, you can get him to do the surgery."

As for what the doctor said after that, Melanie did not remember a single word of it.

She stayed in the hospital until it was dark before heading home. However, just as she reached home, she saw barricade tape on her door.

Melanie's heart skipped a beat. She quickly tried her password, but it indicated she had keyed in the wrong combination of numbers.

Chapter 257

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Chapter 258

Yvonne was right. Xander's charming appearance was indeed one in a thousand.

Xander did not hear what Yvonne had whispered and was calm when he approached them. His gaze fell on Melanie for a while before frowning. "Why have you lost so much weight?"

His question startled Melanie. She had been busy daily and did not have time to notice if she had lost weight.

Xander did not ask much as Yvonne was around.

Only Yvonne's chatters could be heard throughout the dinner. Melanie would respond occasionally as she ate.

After dinner, Yvonne sighed. She glanced at Melanie and Xander as she complained in displeasure, "You guys are lame. If it weren't for me, this meal would be boring and it would've ended quickly."

Xander muttered expressionlessly, "It'll still end with you around."

Yvonne wanted to retort but could not think of what to say. In the end, she looked at Melanie as she patted her on the shoulder and said with a chuckle, "Don't think so much. Everything will be over soon. Call me if you need my help."

That was probably the most serious thing Yvonne had said all night. Melanie looked at her, yet Yvonne had already walked away with a grin.

Only Melanie and Xander were left. Xander asked, "Where are your things?"

"Locked in the house."

Xander lifted his eyebrow as he headed to the parking lot. Melanie followed him from behind.

She felt bad troubling Xander and muttered, "I didn't expect Yvonne to call you. I think spending the night at the hotel is better."
She did not want to trouble Xander.
However, Xander stopped and looked at her. He pondered before saying, "Reny and the others are also around. They're worried about you.
"Why don't you go to my place first? If you don't want to stay there, I'll take you to the hotel."
Since Xander had suggested that, Melanie felt it would be inappropriate if she rejected him again.
Xander was living in the new mansion area in Jepton. Reny and Oliver were still waiting in the living room when they arrived.
When they saw Melanie, Reny stood up and greeted, "Mélanie, you're finally here. We're planning to have supper. What do you want to eat?"
Melanie shook her head. I'm not hungry."
Reny did not force her to eat and took her to the sofa instead.
Melanie looked around and noticed the house was quite empty. Other than some necessary
2/2
furniture, nothing else was in here. Only the walls seemed to have been painted.
In the living room was a bulk of wood. It seemed that the living room was their workshop.

She heard Reny say, "Melanie, Xander was making the frame when he received your call. He abandoned his work immediately to get to you.'
She sounded just like Yvonne when she quipped.
Melanie did not mind. She knew Xander cared about her mostly because of Stephen.
He was a nice man, after all.
Melanie looked less tense as she looked at Xander and nodded. "Thank you."
However, when she looked at the materials at the corner of the room, she recalled her recent troubles and realized it had been a long time since she came in contact with the job here.
Chapter 259
Melanie wanted to talk to Xander about the exhibition planning, yet she heard Reny snicker. She grabbed Melanie's shoulder and said, "Melanie, you're the first woman to talk to Xander like this."
Melanie was puzzled. "Was there anything wrong with what I said?"
"No, it's just that it sounded like you were thanking Xander for being a nice man and rejecting his confession." Reny was still laughing.
Meanie said nothing more. She was not good at responding to jokes like this.
Xander was not a man of many words and naturally would not respond to Reny's quip.
He handed Melanie a glass of water. "I have a few drafts to finish. There are books in the study. If

they're too noisy, you can read there.'

Melanie stood up. "Is there anything I can help with? I remember you said there are many documents to organize."

She took the glass of water and said, "I've been neglecting my job here. I can do anything that needs my assistance."

Reny and Oliver looked at each other with a chuckle. "There's nothing you have to help with. We just need you here to chat with us."

However, just as they spoke, Xander nodded and said, "There are indeed a lot of documents to organize. They're in the study."

Melanie nodded and entered the study.

Reny put on a straight face when she left and glared at Xander in displeasure. "Boss, how could you do this to Melanie? Can't you see she's in a bad mood?"

"We haven't finished the frame. Come over and help." Xander ignored her reprimand and spoke to Oliver instead.

Only Reny was left there, nagging at him.

Melanie found the documents in the study. She had not been working for days, and her body felt sluggish. It took her some time to adapt to the work as she arranged the documents.

A gap was left at the door, and Melanie could hear Reny and the others speaking.

However, it was strange that her tense mind was relaxed in such an environment.

Drowsiness struck her, and the voice outside faded out.

Melanie had a deep and peaceful sleep. When she woke up, it was already midnight, and there were still chattering noises from the living room. Her arm was numb because she had been sleeping on it. Melanie moved, and her brows furrowed. The blanket on her shoulder fell off, startling Melanie. 2/2 She took some time to calm herself before walking out. Reny, Oliver, and Xander were the only ones in the workshop before Melanie dozed off, but there were others with them now. They were the employees Melanie had met back in Prime City. They seemed to be discussing something with low voices as they sat in a circle. Reny was the first person to notice her. "Melanie, you are awake?" Xander sat with his back facing her and turned around upon hearing Reny's words. Melanie was standing behind him, and he had to lift his head. He was still in the same clothes. His collar was loosened, maybe because it was more convenient to work like that. It made him look more carefree than usual. Melanie looked at them and asked, "Are you guys having a meeting?" "Did we disturb your sleep?" Melanie was indeed sleepy because she had not been sleeping well lately, and her body could not take it anymore.

Xander lifted his brow and said, "That's not what I want to see."

There were many new toiletries in the mansion. Melanie washed up before she headed upstairs. The guest room was spacious, and Reny was already asleep. She even prepared an extra blanket for Melanie.

Maybe because drowsiness had taken over her again, Melanie's mind was empty, and she dozed off as soon as she lay on the bed.

She slept soundly and was woken up by the alarm the next day.

Reny was not in the room, and she could see from the gap of the curtain that it was already bright outside.

if you

The phone rang, and Melanie answered it. A middle—aged man's voice sounded from the other end of the call. "Is this Miss Melanie Smith? We're the movers, and we want to ask you still want to keep the furniture."

Melanie's expression turned cold. It was Stella's doing again.

Her grandparents' stuff was still in the house. Melanie feared those things would go missing and brought them back from the nursing home.

She said, "If you move my stuff without my acknowledgment, it's no different from stealing it."

"Miss Smith, please don't make things difficult for us. We're just doing our job. Why don't you come over and take a look? If there's anything you want to keep, we can leave it untouched."

When Melanie headed downstairs, only Xander was there. He was drawing on his tablet.

Melanie approached him and said, "Xander, I have something to deal with and have to go back for a while."
Xander looked at her and nodded before putting down the tablet.
"Where are you going?"
2/2
Melanie said, "Mrs. Scott sent the movers to my place, and I still have some valuable stuff inside."
Xander scoffed. "The Scott family is indeed powerful."
His sarcasm was obvious, yet Melanie said nothing about it.
The Scott family was powerful, which was why Stella was so ruthless.
However
Melanie looked at the ground. Eugene might have already silently agreed to Stella's actions.
After all, Eugene was a man who cared most about privacy. Even Cedric and Stella were rarely allowed to meddle in his affairs.
Not to mention meddling with his assets.
However, Melanie could not understand why he was in such a hurry to kick her out.
When Melanie and Xander arrived, the movers were waiting at the door. They opened the door when they saw Melanie.

"Miss Smith, please check if there's anything you want to take with you. We haven't touched a single thing in the house yet."

The staff looked at the time. "However, we hope you can be quick as we have to finish our job here before two in the afternoon and let the new tenant move in