

Mr. Scott 261

Chapter 261

Melanie froze when she heard the words 'new tenant'. However, she snapped out of her disbelief and packed her things.

Her grandfather's things were placed in a box, and Melanie checked if anything was missing. Only then did she start packing her things.

Eugene gave her this house shortly after she finished her intern period at LeapCo.

Melanie had been staying in the old house in the north part of the city back then. Eugene felt she was wasting too much time getting back and forth from work and home. Hence, he got her a place in Prestige Residences.

Melanie had been living here for six years and had many things. However, looking at them now, she realized only a few belonged to her. She could stuff them in one or two suitcases.

The others belonged to Eugene.

The neckties and shirts he left behind, the medicines she used to prepare for him, the aroma diffuser he liked, the cufflinks he used to wear, the glasses he drank out of, and many others...

She could see Eugene's things everywhere.

After she packed everything and cleaned the house, she noticed even the home decoration style was done according to Eugene's liking.

She had been living under the roof of someone else like a pathetic parasite for years. Now that he had dumped her, she had to scam.

She deserved it.

It was pointless to think so much.

Melanie looked at the ground and prepared to carry her suitcases, but a firm hand grabbed them and stopped her.

Xander said, "I'll help you with these."

He did not care whether Melanie agreed and immediately took the suitcases.

Melanie's suitcases were moderate in size, yet she had packed many books into them, which made them heavy.

Frowning, she asked, "Why don't we carry them down together?"

Xander lifted his eyebrows and asked, "Do I look that weak to you?"

Melanie recalled the time in Prime City when he had carried her with one arm and how easily Xander carried blocks of wood around while working. She stopped making a fuss about it.

However, they heard a thumping sound just as they walked out of the house. It seemed that the movers had started working.

Melanie had never liked the furniture here.

Eugene went for the big sofa because he felt the previous one was too small. The projector was because he said he wanted to watch a movie once, and Melanie bought it.

Everything in the house was decorated according to Eugene's preferences and had nothing to do with her.

Melanie and Xander put her suitcases into the car. Then, Xander asked her, "What are your plans?"

"Can you drive me to the north area of the city?"

Melanie's car was still at the hotel, and she was not planning on driving it over.

He did not ask why and drove as Melanie pointed in the right direction until they reached her old residence.

It was an old residential area, and the road was narrow. Moreover, the environment here was poor. Fortunately, Xander's driving skills were good, and they managed to avoid those bicycles by the roadside. He pulled over in front of Melanie's house.

He looked around with a frown. "Why did you come here?"

Melanie opened the car door and said, "I grew up here."

The old residence had been left empty for years. Even with Albert cleaning it each year, it was still dusty.

Melanie had accompanied Albert here when it was dark and the dust was not obvious. Xander followed behind her and rejected her plan upon seeing this place.

"You might not be able to stay here for now," Xander said after a moment of silence.

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Melanie nodded. "I know. I don't plan to move in immediately."

The wires in the old residence were old, and they posed quite a few safety hazards. She had to get someone to replace them.

Melanie had considered renting a new house but did not want to adapt to a new environment. It was better to stay in her hometown and not worry about being chased out of her home again.

She looked at Xander and said, "I might want to stay for some time before leaving. You can leave first if you're busy."

However, Xander said, "It's okay. I have nothing arranged for today."

Then, he entered the house. "The wires are old and rusty. Where's the electric control panel?" "You know how to repair this?"

"Yes. I've done this before." Melanie noticed Xander was straightforward and always spoke straight to the point.

She took Xander to the electric control panel and let him deal with it. Meanwhile, she went to the nearest convenience store to get some cleaning tools to clean the place.

It was not easy to clean a house that had been left empty for years.

It took Melanie some time to clean just the table.

Fortunately, the water was still working, and she could use it.

When her phone rang, Xander happened to enter the house.

Melanie put down her cleaning tools and wiped her hands before answering the call.

"Mel, where are you?" It was Yvonne, and she sounded joyful.

Melanie froze, but she said frankly, "In the north of the city."

“Why are you there? It’s so far away.” Yvonne seemed displeased. She muttered, “I wanted to ask you to pick me up. I drank some wine and can’t drive home.”

As Yvonne muttered, Melanie could hear chuckles and chatters beside her.

Yvonne was a lovely person, after all. Melanie forced herself not to frown and asked, “Where are you?”

“Butterfly Club.”

Melanie knew Butterfly Club. It was a new bar and was famous online.

However, it was unsafe for Yvonne to drink alone at the bar. She told Xander about it, and his forehead creased.

When Melanie and Xander arrived at Butterfly Club, they saw Yvonne at the bar. There were two

men in front of her.

Yvonne seemed to be talking to them as she chuckled. Her legs, adorned with high heels, swayed as she spoke. She seemed to be trying to stop them from getting too close to her.

2/2

Melanie called out, “Yvonne.”

When Yvonne heard her voice, her smile turned into a genuine one as she said to the two men, “I’m sorry. Please excuse me. My friend is here. Let’s talk some other day if we happen to meet again.”

The men looked at each other and left disappointedly.

Yvonne looked at them, and her smile faded. Then, she complained to Melanie and Xander, " Those guys are disgusting. They're so annoying. If I weren't alone, I wouldn't have had to stall them by talking so much.

Yvonne complained as she got off the tall chair.

She landed lightly as if she was not wearing a pair of high heels.

Melanie was afraid she might fall and tried to help her. However, Yvonne staggered and turned around suddenly, staring at Melanie and Xander for a while before asking, "Be frank with me. Were you guys on a date just now?"

Just as she spoke, a few people walked in.

Simon's playful voice sounded. "Eugene, today is my birthday, and I waited for you to be back to celebrate it. I'll be mad if you refuse to celebrate with me."

"I didn't ask you to wait." Eugene's voice was as indifferent as ever.

"How could you say that? We're best friends, yet you're so cold to me. Why did you go to Hearth City, by the way?"

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Simon's voice faded into the noisy music. No one else could hear his words other than Eugene beside him.

Eugene paused and said, "I had something to deal with."

Simon asked, "Did he call you there again? It's strange that even though your mother isn't close with her side of the family, you are.

“By the way, is your uncle coming to Jepton? I saw him on the news two days ago.”

Someone heard his words and quipped, “Hey, Simon, I didn’t know you like watching the news.”

“Hey! I’m good at everything, okay?”

Simon and those guys quipped. The guy who spoke just now spotted Yvonne. Surprised to see her, he greeted, “Yvonne, are you here to drink? Do you want to join us?”

Those wealthy people in Jepton were divided into a few social circles, and not everyone was close to each other even though they knew each other.

Just as the man greeted Yvonne, Simon and the others looked over and happened to see Melanie and Xander too.

The lights in the bar were flashy and dim. It was not easy to see their expressions.

Melanie held onto Yvonne and said, “We’ll drive you back.”

However, before they could leave, Simon shouted, “It’s a beautiful coincidence that we met. It’s my birthday today. Why don’t you join us, Miss Lowry?”

Yvonne stopped. She liked to have fun, but she was reminded of the last time Melanie met Simon and Eugene at the bar.

She did not answer and looked at Melanie instead.

“Melanie, we’re acquaintances. Aren’t you going to agree to my birthday invitation?” Simon noticed Yvonne’s hesitation and asked Melanie instead.

However, his words sounded sarcastic rather than friendly.

Melanie frowned and said to Yvonne, "You can join them if you want. I'll go back by taxi."

"I'll be alone if you leave." Yvonne was reluctant to let Melanie leave without her.

Simon scoffed and regarded Melanie in disdain. "Melanie, are you avoiding Eugene because of the trouble you brought to LeapCo? I remember you weren't like this and always followed Eugene everywhere as though you couldn't leave his side. Why are you running away now?"

Simon was trying to embarrass Melanie. Only then did Melanie glance at Eugene, who had said nothing.

She could endure her emotions, but she could not allow herself to be bullied as others wished.

Since Eugene had put her into this situation and wanted to have nothing to do with her, she had nothing to care about.

She looked at Simon after retracting her gaze from Eugene. She mocked him, "Simon, each time you speak up for Eugene, you make me wonder if you have a secret crush on him.

"You look resentful, like someone who can't get his love. But I think you're looking for the wrong person. Your love rival now is Viola, not me.

"Oh, remember to interact more with Mrs. Scott so that she'll agree to let you marry Eugene."

Melanie did not pause or hold back. Everyone around Simon snickered.

'Only Simon's face was ashen as he glared at Melanie. "Repeat it if you dare!"

Melanie calmly lifted her chin. She had a strong air about her from being in the business world for so many years, and it was intimidating.

Her voice was cold. "Simon, haven't anyone told you that you're quite annoying?"

She had endured it whenever Simon mocked her before because of Eugene.

However, she noticed her endurance had only brought sorrow and pain to herself.

It did not stop Simon from mocking her as entertainment.

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"Melanie." A deep voice sounded. The light was dim, and Melanie could not see Eugene's expression. She could only look toward his voice.

She heard Eugene's cold voice amidst the noises. "You're bold now."

He showed no emotion when he said that, yet Melanie's grip on Yvonne's arm tightened.

Yvonne felt the pain and gasped. She looked at Melanie, who answered Eugene calmly, "Is that so?"

Eugene said in disdain, "Who gave you the courage to speak like that? The Solomon family, the York family, or your mother?"

Melanie did not expect Eugene to mock her with her mother.

"Melanie," Xander interrupted, speaking as usual as he waved his phone. "Oliver is asking us when we'll be back. He wants to make us supper."

He had interrupted on purpose to end the topic. As expected, Eugene's gaze fell on him instead. Xander calmly looked into Eugene's eyes.

One was cold, while the other was calm.

Xander looked away first and said to Simon, "Happy Birthday."

Then, he asked Melanie, "Let's go back now?"

Melanie did not want to stay there longer. She was not crazy enough to let others continually mock her.

Xander nodded upon seeing her response and left as he held Melanio

back at Simon and the others. "Let's go."

wrist. He did not look

The warm grip startled Melanie, and she pursed her lips as she followed Xander.

She was holding Yvonne with her other hand.

Simon looked at the three of them leaving and was displeased. He cursed Melanie with a

mutter.

His friends had watched enough on the sidelines. They comforted him, "Simon, don't mind. what that woman said. We'll drink with you. Let's have some fun."

Simon was frustrated. "Get lost!"

Eugene was calm, yet his gloomy gaze never left Melanie's and Xander's backs.

Meanwhile, Melanie and the other two walked out of the bar.

Xander let go of her and looked at her wrist. "Sorry."

Melanie shook her head and looked at Yvonne. "Miss Lowry, do you want to go home or go somewhere else?"

Yvonne said, "Aren't you going back to have supper?"

Frowning, she asked Xander, "You won't be so stingy not to share a portion of your supper,

right?"

2/2

Xander glanced at her. "Do whatever you wish."

He went to get his car, and Melanie waited outside the bar with Yvonne.

Melanie was in a bad mood after encountering Simon. She looked at the streetlights in a daze. Yvonne looked carefree as she paced around her. However, it was astonishing that Yvonne could walk steadily even when drunk and with 20cm high heels.

Yvonne was short and needed high heels to make her look tall. She loved wearing them.

She danced by Melanie's side as she whispered, "Mel, tell me the truth. Have you been in that kind of relationship with Eugene?"

Melanie was startled. "What kind of relationship?"

Yvonne winked. "Were you his mistress?"

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Melanie was taken aback. "Mistress?"

Everyone seemed to think Eugene and her had been in such a relationship.

However, it was not often for a wealthy man's mistress to end up like her.

She sneered at herself with her head lowered.

Yvonne realized she had been too straightforward when Melanie did not respond to her question. She started feeling bad. She slapped her forehead and said, "Mel, ignore my question. I blurted it out before even thinking twice. I'm sorry."

Melanie did not respond.

Yvonne silently scrolled through her phone and stopped being curious.

When Xander's car pulled over before them, she put away her phone and opened the door to the back seat to get in.

Melanie's suitcases were in the back seat, and she was surprised to see that. She asked, Xander, are you moving?"

"They're mine." Melanie sat in the front passenger's seat.

Yvonne rubbed her head and said, "Oh, yes. You're moving."

She recalled the night when she met Melanie at the hotel, where Melanie told her she had been chased out of her house.

Yvonne was sober now, and she did not blurt out anything more.

Xander took them back to the mansion. They saw Oliver and the others when they entered. A barbecue grill was placed on the lawn.

It was a small portable grill that seemed to be for camping. However, they were using it for barbecue.

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Reny saw them and waved. "Boss, Melanie, come over quickly. We're almost done barbecuing the meat."

Xander whispered to Melanie, "You can go and take some rest in the room if you're tired."

Melanie did have a busy day.

"I'm fine. I have to try some of Oliver's cooking." Melanie shook her head and headed to the grill.

She had always liked the way Reny and the others got along.

Melanie felt it might be because she did not have many friends.

Reny and Yvonne had already started eating, and they stuffed some meat onto Melanie's plate upon seeing her. "Mel, have some. It's a little spicy."

Melanie seldom ate barbecued meats. She hesitated before she took a bite.

The spicy flavors overwhelmed her palate, and she choked on her saliva, making her cough.

She still had a piece of steak on her fork as she covered her mouth, flustered.

Someone suddenly took away the fork and handed her a tissue.

Melanie did not see who it was and covered her mouth with the tissue. She coughed for some time before finally feeling better. She looked at the person who helped her and said, "Thanks."

Xander had a glass of water in his hand that he handed to Melanie. "Are you feeling better now?"

"Yes."

"You can't eat spicy food?"

The water was warm and eased the spiciness on her tongue. Melanie took a sip before saying hesitantly, "This is a little too spicy."

She seemed to hesitate, and it made Xander laugh. "Oliver's hometown is known for spicy food."

Melanie understood.

The barbecue was just a fun activity during supper. After finishing their meal, they started playing poker cards.

Melanie did not join them and headed to the room to sleep.

Only then did she notice a few missed calls and message notifications on her phone screen.

They were all from Dylan.

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The content was no different. She was asking Melanie when she would give her money again. Melanie deleted those messages emotionlessly and put down the phone to rest.

However, Dylan seemed to have a telepathic sense and called her just then. Melanie exhaled and answered the call.

Dylan's voice immediately came through. "Mel, why haven't you been answering the phone? I was getting anxious!"

Melanie let out a sigh as she replied, "I've already told you I'll give you the money. You don't need to remind me every day."

"Mel, listen to me." Dylan, however, completely ignored her and continued urgently, "Can you give me the money quickly?"

"I know you're trying to provoke me by withholding the money, but I don't care even if you keep blaming me. Peachie is innocent!"

"Those damned people said if I don't give them the money soon, they'll sell Peachie!"

Dylan's tone was desperate, but Melanie found it laughable. Pinching her brows, she said, "Did George tell you that if you don't bring the money back, he'll sell Peachie?"

Dylan's crying abruptly stopped.

Melanie sneered, hung up the phone, and decisively turned it off.

At Butterfly Club, Simon was surrounded by a group of people making a commotion. Inside the private room were five or six young models and internet celebrities. It was a lively atmosphere.

However, Eugene was sitting alone in the corner, emitting an aura that warned strangers to stay away.

Simon drank with enthusiasm. He raised his glass toward Eugene from a distance and said, Eugene, we agreed not to return until we're drunk today. Why are you sitting alone over there?

"Not in the mood," Eugene replied almost blankly.

Simon clicked his tongue. He was about to say something when he heard someone nearby jokingly say, "Eugene probably feels uncomfortable right now. Melanie has moved in with Xander, after all."

The person who said that had also consumed quite a bit of alcohol and had no filter over their words. They continued without reservation, "Isn't it said that men are possessive?"

"Even if they don't want something, they'll still feel annoyed if someone else picks it up. Eugene's probably thinking that now. Melanie used to revolve around him, but suddenly, she's all about Xander."

The person went on to make some additional comments, but no one paid attention.

Someone asked, "How do you know?"

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"Yvonne's circle. They're all playing cards at Xander's house."

"Can you shut up?" Simon slammed his bottle on the table, his temper flaring. "It's my birthday. If anyone mentions that damn woman Melanie again, they should get lost."

It was then the crowd recalled that Melanie had given Simon a piece of her mind earlier. They refrained from talking about the matter again. Feeling upset, Simon grabbed a bottle of alcohol and went to Eugene.

He placed the bottle on the table, poured two glasses without saying a word, and handed one to Eugene. He said, "If you're my friend, drink with me."

Eugene looked up

and glanced at him. He then picked up the glass and downed the drink in one shot. Simon refilled the glass and placed it in front of Eugene.

Just like that, Simon poured and Eugene drank.

It was not until the man had downed three glasses that Simon pushed away the glass. He sat next to Eugene and sighed suddenly, seemingly irritated.

Eugene was still calm, and his tone was indifferent as he said, "If you have something on your mind, say it."

Simon raised his hand, tugged at his own hair, and then casually asked Eugene, "Are you really planning to settle down with Viola?"

Eugene's hand on his knee paused, and his voice revealed no emotions. "Go on."

"Viola is a nice person. She seems like a good woman," Simon said before suddenly turning to look at Eugene.

He continued with slight sarcasm, "Speaking of which, Eugene, do you remember what we accidentally overheard between Melanie and your dad back then?"

Eugene's gaze narrowed, but he did not respond.

Simon sneered and continued, "Eugene, I'm serious. Viola is a decent person. If you two get married, I promise to give you guys a huge gift."

Chapter 267

Melanie slept well, waking up a little after seven the next morning. Reny was still sound asleep, so Melanie got up quietly. She had not gone to the hospital yesterday and needed to go today to avoid worrying her grandfather.

Upon descending the stairs, she found the living room empty. It seemed everyone was still asleep, probably because they stayed up late the night before. When she reached the courtyard, she saw Xander with his back to her, talking on the phone.

Hearing the door open, Xander turned around and saw Melanie. He ended his call before making his way over. "Why are you up so early?"

"I'm planning to go to the hospital to check on my grandfather," Melanie replied.

Xander nodded. "I'm heading to see a client. I'll drop you off on the way."

Melanie was about to decline the offer, but Xander was already walking toward the garage. Xander's villa was large and located in a strategic spot. From the interior alone, one would think it was a new house if not for the people living in it.

Following Xander to the garage, Melanie asked, "Did you buy this villa after returning to Jepton?"

"No, my mom bought it." Xander's tone was casual. "She originally intended it to be my future marital home."

"Your mom thinks far ahead."

Xander responded with a simple hum and did not elaborate. Sensing that he might not want to discuss this topic further, Melanie did not press on.

When they arrived at the hospital, it was exactly eight o'clock, and there were many people at the entrance. Before getting out of the car, Melanie said to Xander, "I'll go to the hotel this afternoon to get my car and then I'll make a trip to the north of the city. I might come back late."

The old house in the northern part of the city was not ready to be inhabited immediately. Xander had told Melanie yesterday to continue staying in the villa, as it was also convenient for her work at the financial exhibition.

"Take care," Xander said, his tone sounding just as usual. However, Melanie suddenly found the exchange somewhat peculiar.

She furrowed her brows subtly, then opened the door and got out of the car.

Her grandfather's condition was still the same as the previous days. He was still lying in bed and was only able to consume liquid food. Melanie had adjusted her emotions over the past two days. Now when she saw her grandfather, her eyes would not easily well up with tears.

She wiped her grandfather's face and massaged his hands and feet.

Her grandfather's gaze remained on her. Melanie held his hand and said gently, "Grandpa, don't worry about me. I've taken care of things online. Focus on getting better, and when you're well, we'll go home together."

Her grandfather's fingers curled slightly. He was seemingly responding to her words.

Nothing significant was brought up with the doctor when he was making his rounds. However, after the rounds were over, the doctor called Melanie over.

"Has the family decided whether the patient will opt for conservative treatment or surgery?"

Melanie closed her eyes briefly, "Has the neurology specialist you mentioned arrived in

Jepton? Can I meet with him?"

"Dr. Hel should be coming to the hospital tomorrow morning. I'll check for you. However, his visit this time is for a seminar," The doctor's words were tactful, but they also subtly reminded Melanie not to get her hopes up too much.

Maintaining her composure, Melanie replied, "Thank you for your help."

After taking care of her grandfather at the hospital and having lunch, Melanie went to the hotel to retrieve her car. However, instead of heading directly to the north of the city, she first went to a nearby bank.

She still had a sum in a fixed-term deposit, but she did not dare to touch it now. She was worried that her grandfather might need more money,

She had a little over 600 thousand dollars that she could access herself.

After spending some time at the bank, Melanie then went to the north of the city. She had already contacted maintenance workers in advance, as the old house needed a lot of repairs. After a whole afternoon of work, only a small part of the house was renovated.

It was already six o'clock when Melanie sent away the workers. Soon after, Yana called.

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Melanie, LeapCo is having a team-building dinner tonight at Jepton Hotel," Yana said.

elanie lowered her gaze. "You guys have a good time. I won't be going."

But Melanie, this is organized by the company, and it seems like the chairman and others will there." Yana's implication was clear. Melanie used to host Cedric Scott every time he came, they hoped she would come as well this time.

However, Melanie responded, "Mr. Scott told me not to go to the company until I've sorted it my family matters. Also, I've already resigned."

With the conversation reaching this point, Yana naturally did not press further and hung up the phone. Just as she hung up, a message popped up on her phone.

Melanie asked me to call you just now. She was beside me.]

elanie did not reply to the message. She just closed the door and left.

She went to Mrs. Zawn's to order a takeaway portion of stew, intending to bring it back for ny and the others. While waiting for the stew, Melanie took out her phone and checked her end circle. She came across a photo posted by her grandfather's attending doctor.

Looking at the picture, she paused for a moment before calling the doctor.

The call was answered promptly.

Melanie's voice was a bit shaky as she asked, "Dr. Wells, is the neurologist in the photo you

mentioned Dr. Hel?"

"Oh, I almost forgot to tell you. Dr. Hel has a tight schedule tomorrow morning and might not be at the hospital for long. But he should be free now. I can ask him for you," Dr. Wells said.

"If he has time, you can go look for him at Jepton Hotel."

The doctor's words left Melanie a bit dazed.

She had met Dr. Hel before at Stella's birthday banquet several years ago. He was Stella's other and Eugene's uncle. She knew vaguely back then that he was a doctor, but she did not expect him to be a renowned neurologist.

Melanie felt a dull ache in her chest. She felt as if her throat had been slashed with a knife, cutting off her breathing.

Trying to eat the packed fish stew, Melanie sat in the car for a while before stepping on the gas. She was supposed to turn left toward the villa but instead, she turned right toward Jepton Hotel.

∴ Wells mentioned that Dr. Hel's time was tight. He only had some free time this afternoon.

Melanie knew she could not delay her grandfather's illness.

After arriving at Jepton Hotel, she went directly to the room number Dr. Wells had given her. After knocking on the door for a long time, however, there was no answer.

Melanie could only call Dr. Wells, and after circling for a few minutes, she found out that Howard Hel was downstairs. He was having dinner with his family.

Who else was his family here apart from the Scotts?

After thanking Dr. Wells, Melanie stepped into the elevator with a blank expression. She pressed the button to go down to the third-floor lobby.

The dinner event had already started. Melanie stood at the entrance for a while, trying to spot Howard's figure.

"Melanie?" An uncertain voice reached her ears. Melanie turned around and saw Viola dressed in a crisp white professional outfit, looking very competent.

Viola blinked at Melanie and smiled. "I thought you wouldn't come. It's a bit of a pity since today is also a celebration for LeapCo."

Melanie glanced at her. "I'm looking for someone.

"Who are you looking for? Someone from the secretary's office?" Viola asked.

"But Melanie, you should actually be the star of the show today. The banquet today is, all, a celebration of the collaboration between LeapCo and Blue Inc," Viola said somewhat regretfully.

Melanie paid no heed to the smug tone in Viola's words and continued searching for Howard. However, with so many people at the gathering, she was unable to locate him even after scanning the room.

Seeing that Melanie was ignoring her, Viola said nothing more and was about to leave when Melanie suddenly asked her, "Where's Eugene?"

The smile on Viola's face faded as she replied, "Melanie, if you have something to discuss with him, I can pass him the message. It's not convenient for him to meet you right now."

Staring at her, Melanie asked, "Has Dr. Hel arrived?"

A look of confusion flashed across Viola's face, but she quickly composed herself. She feigned calmness as she asked Melanie, "Why are you asking about that?"

Melanie did not want to waste more words with Viola. She took out her phone, intending to call Eugene directly to ask if Howard was present. If he was, she had to see him today.

However, as soon as she took out her phone, a displeased voice from behind interrupted, LeapCo's arrangement is quite good. Even the secretaries from the secretary's office are serving as hostesses at the door."

As soon as Viola heard Stella's voice, her expression involuntarily stiffened.

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She knew that Stella did not like her, or rather, Stella did not pay any attention to her at all. She did not want to confront Stella. She quietly stepped back, trying to make herself look docile.

Melanie remained still as she observed the middle-aged man behind Stella. She pursed her lips.

Only Stella and Howard had come over. Cedric and Eugene were not with them.

Melanie clenched her fists and took a step forward. Her voice was calm as she said, “Dr. Hel, I’m Melanie. Dr. Wells asked me to look for you. Can we talk about my grandfather’s condition?”

#1

Howard had a deep and mellow voice, and his expression was serious. He glanced at Melanie and asked, “Are you the family member of the patient Dr. Wells mentioned?”

Melanie nodded. “Dr. Wells said my grandfather’s condition is deteriorating, and he mentioned that you’re a renowned neurologist. He said there’s a high chance for the surgery to succeed if you do it.”

Howard furrowed his brows. “He said that?” He shook his head. “But I regret to inform you that regardless of whoever the doctor is, the risk for your grandfather’s surgery won’t be low.”

Melanie’s face turned pale at the man’s response. She softly said, “But you haven’t even looked into my grandfather’s case yet.”

“Melanie, I find you quite interesting.” Stella’s sarcastic laughter interrupted their conversation before she sneered. “I find it amusing how you manage to find all sorts of reasons to get close to my family.

“So now you suddenly remember that Howard is a doctor and are leveraging your grandfather as an excuse? Will you use this as another opportunity to get close to Eugene in the future?”

mocked Stella.

Listening to Stella’s derision, Melanie said, “Madam Scott, I don’t know where your malicious speculations about me come from, but please respect my grandfather.”

“Respect? You think you have the right to talk about respect with me?” Stella’s face was full of disdain. “You’re someone who made your mother kneel in public. Do you have the right to talk about respect?”

As Stella's words turned more disrespectful, Melanie closed her eyes and then turned to Howard. "Dr. Hel, if you're going to Paramount Hospital tomorrow, I hope you can assess my grandfather's condition before coming to a conclusion. Is that possible?"

Stella's disdainful and disgusted gaze still lingered on her, but Melanie acted oblivious to it.

She could not give up the opportunity to save her grandfather. He had raised her from childhood and was the only family she had left.

Chapter 270

"What are you doing here?" Eugene's deep voice sounded, causing Melanie to pause slightly before raising her eyes toward the voice.

Sure enough, she saw Eugene standing not far away. His gaze fell on Melanie, and his tone was calm as he asked, "Who allowed you to come?"

Melanie's gaze trembled slightly. "I came to look for Dr. Hel."

"This is a LeapCo gathering. Melanie, you've already resigned." Eugene's black eyes were like an unfathomable abyss, revealing no emotions.

"Melanie should be here. Today is the celebration of the company's collaboration with Blue Inc. Melanie worked hard for it," Viola said softly as if trying to speak up for Melanie.

However, before she could maintain the gentle expression on her face, she heard Stella sneer. "That's quite reasonable of you."

Stella's words were laced with sarcasm, and Viola hesitated for a moment before instinctively looking at Melanie. Faced with Stella's ruthless sarcasm, she naturally hoped to see a similar reaction from Melanie.

However, Melanie's expression remained unchanged and calm. "Mr. Scott, the resignation procedures haven't been processed yet, so I'm still an employee of LeapCo."

Eugene scoffed. "Melanie, you stop at nothing to achieve your goals."

"I'm just stating facts."

When Melanie spoke, her posture was upright, but only she knew how much self-contempt she felt when uttering such words. She thought about how she resembled a shameless

scoundrel.

Cedric arrived then. When he saw a group of people gathered at the entrance, he frowned and sternly rebuked, "What are you all doing here?"

"A shameless troublemaker is trying to stick their nose around here again," Stella replied.

After saying this, she picked up her feet and immediately went into the banquet hall with Howard following closely behind.

Cedric's gaze lingered on Melanie for a moment before he turned to Eugene. His tone was neither pleased nor angry. "Handle whatever matters you have quickly."

"Mr. Scott, why not let Melanie in? It won't look good for her to stay outside like this," Viola spoke up again. She dared to since Stella had left.

She looked at Melanie and whispered her suggestion, framing it as if Melanie had come to beg for something. She punctuated that suggestion with a glance at Melanie.

"Melanie, there are a lot of people here today. What you did previously had a significant impact. Mr. Scott is also considering your reputation."

Melanie did not know where Viola was pulling all these words from. She looked at Howard's retreating figure and realized that it would be difficult to discuss her grandfather's situation with him now.

Moreover, she was afraid that she might have made him uncomfortable. After thinking about it, Melanie decided to come to the hotel a bit earlier tomorrow and wait for Howard.

With her decision made, she was about to take her leave. However, just as she took the first step, she heard Eugene's cool and indifferent voice again. "When did you get together with Xander?"

Melanie paused before turning to look at Eugene. "I'm not in the mood to talk about this with you right now."

Due to Howard's situation, she could not help but feel anxious. She also thought Eugene might be trying to humiliate her again, so she responded very directly.

To Eugene, however, her answer was an admission. His eyes narrowed slightly as he scrutinized Melanie for a moment. Then, he sneered coldly and casually asked, "Melanie, what can Xander give you that's making you stick to him? Is it money?"