

Mr. Scott 331

Chapter 331

Melanie stabilized herself. She noticed that Eugene was not looking happy either. Her arm hurt, and she was being accused of something she did not do.

She felt upset about it, but there was a taunting look on her face.

Melanie was about to say something when she heard footsteps behind her. Next, she heard Xander say in a low voice, "What's going on, Melanie?"

She turned back to look at him. "What are you doing here?"

"I came over to take a look because you took too long." Xander looked calm as usual. He glanced subtly at Eugene and Simon, who were not far from him. He frowned. "This place Stephen picked isn't that great. Let's not come here again."

Melanie did not feel the need to say anything more to Eugene and Simon now that Xander was here. She replied quietly, "Come on, let's go."

Xander nodded.

Before she could turn away, Simon said eerily from behind her, "I'll remember this, Melanie Smith."

Melanie stopped in her steps and looked at Simon from the corner of her eye. She said coldly, "Haven't you had a dog before? A disobedient dog deserves to be punished."

"

Simon's face turned frighteningly dark. He stared at Melanie, looking like he wanted to violently drag her over.

Xander noticed the look in Simon's eyes and subtly stood between them to block Simon's view.

He lowered his head to look at Melanie and said calmly, "Come on, we should go."

Xander was not loud, but his voice was not that soft either. Anyone nearby could hear him.

A look flashed in Eugene's dark eyes, and he slowly turned to look at Melanie.

Melanie's head was slightly lowered. The beautiful back of her neck was exposed. She could sense Eugene's gaze, but she ignored him.

She walked away with Xander and saw Stephen. Stephen was astounded to see them looking upset. "What happened?"

"Nothing, I should be going now," Melanie said.

"Aren't you staying with Xander? We can leave together."

Stephen was still not aware that Melanie had moved back to the North district. Melanie had to explain her situation to him.

He looked like he did not approve of it. "The security isn't that great in an old district like that. Also, it's too far. It takes up a lot of travel time for you."

Melanie replied in a small voice, "It's my home, after all. And Grandpa has always wanted to move back there."

Stephen tried to talk her out of it but stopped saying anything more when he saw how

determined Melanie was.

She did not let anyone walk her to the car, and she later drove back to the North district.

Before she left, she confirmed her tasks for the next day with Stephen. They agreed to have a meeting at the villa first before seeing potential partners.

Even though Xander had not been in Jepton for years, he did grow up here. With Yvonne's help, he was able to get a few potential clients.

As long as there was no problem on their side, they had a bigger chance than Dreamcatchers to get the contract.

When Melanie got home, she saw a few workers fixing the lights in the apartment building. They greeted her warmly when they saw her.

There was nothing much for Melanie to do at home. She turned off her phone after she washed up and began flipping through a book on art appraisal on her bed.

She had a good rest that night. The next day, Melanie drove to the villa.

When she arrived, everyone had just gotten out of bed. Melanie placed breakfast on the table.

Reny was the first to come over. "Why are you here so early, Melanie?"

"Aren't we meeting potential partners today?"

Reny rubbed her head and sighed. "I've been working with Lauder for a long time. This is the first time I've ever had to come up with a proposal and do business networking at the same

time.

Melaniz replied, "It's not a bad thing. It opens you to more opportunities

While they were chatting, Xander walked down the stairs. He was dressed rather formally.

He nodded at Melanie as a simple greeting

This last-minute meeting was to discuss detailed points on how they would operate today. Xander wanted the proposal to be completed on schedule but did not want the follow-up on the partnerships to be compromised.

"I'll go with you for the partnership talks," Melanie said "I'm not that great at coming up with the design and conceptual proposals, but when it comes to lepton's companies, I know

most of them."

Xander nodded. "Alright"

While the others continued working on the proposal, Melanie left with Xander.

Xander did not look happy on the way, and she frowned as well after reading the documents he handed to her.

"These companies have never really taken part in any art events or exhibitions. It might be difficult to convince them."

Xander did not disagree. He said, "It's because of this very reason that it'll benefit us if we can convince them to get on board."

Melanie understood this as well. It was easy to talk about it, but getting it done was the difficult

part.

She read the remaining documents quietly and suddenly stopped at a page.

Vanke Group.

“Isn’t Vanke Group Quentin Emerson’s company? They’re already working with Dreamcatchers. Why do you have their information here?”

Xander was driving. When he heard her question, he replied, “Vanke and Dreamcatchers haven’t really confirmed their partnership. Quentin Emerson has only gotten in touch with them, but nothing has been signed.”

Melanie gave this some thought. “Are you planning to get this project taken away from him?”

She was not stupid enough to think that he was planning to work with Quentin Emerson. There were plenty of employees in one company, and he was not the only manager working

there.

There was a glint in Xander’s dark eyes. He drove with one hand on the steering wheel and parked smoothly into an empty lot. His voice was casual and relaxed. “We’re just looking to work together with someone. There’s nothing being taken away from anybody.”

Melanie immediately knew what he meant.

She was even more surprised to see that the person Xander had made an appointment with was another manager working at Vanke. His name was Colin Jennings.

Colin looked about 40. He was not tall but seemed to be friendly.

He greeted Xander and Melanie with a smile. They chatted for a while before getting right into the topic.

“It’s our honor that you’d think of us, Mr. Solomon, but we currently have another manager looking into this. It’ll be a little difficult to move forward with anything when we’ve already come to an agreement with Dreamcatchers.”

Xander’s expression remained calm as this was an answer he had expected. He turned to look at Melanie instead.

She smiled and said softly, “I believe you know why we’re here to see you, Mr. Jennings.”

“Vanke may be a new company, but you have solid and strong backers, which is why you’re developing rapidly. We’ve also heard that Vanke will be promoting a general manager internally.

“You might also be aware that I used to work with LeapCo. I know a thing or two about situations like this.”

Colin immediately understood what Melanie meant.

He asked hesitantly, “Are you planning to get me to go against Mr. Emerson and Dreamcatchers?”

There was a look of determination in Melanie’s pretty eyes. She asked in a low voice, “Aren’t you interested, Mr. Jennings?”

“But...” Colin was still hesitant. Melanie did not say anything more. Instead, she placed the documents detailing the comparison between both companies in front of him. “You can take some time to consider this.”

“Even if I agree to this, it won’t be easy...” Colin shook his head with slight regret.

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Melanie and Xander exchanged glances but said nothing.

Colin looked torn as he held the document Melanie gave him. He frowned deeply before he sighed and said, "Quentin worked at LeapCo before this, and he's quite close to a few middle- management employees there.

"This time, he was the one who negotiated with LeapCo before proceeding to approach Dreamcatchers.

"This had been unfair from the very start."

Melanie did not expect this.

If what Colin said was true and Quentin was really working closely with LeapCo, things would be difficult for them.

LeapCo was the current star of the financial industry. It did not matter if it was Dreamcatchers or Vanke, any smart company would know which company to work with.

However, Colin was not completely opposed to the idea. Melanie knew that he was tempted to give this try.

She did not make this too obvious. She chatted with Colin before leaving with Xander.

"This is going to be difficult to deal with." Melanie tsk-ed. Anything that involved LeapCo made her life complicated.

Xander did not reveal much from the encounter. All he said was, "There's no need to be anxious. Let's talk to the other companies first."

They had to visit more than one company, and Melanie did not say anything after that.

However, she was surprised when Lisa contacted her again.

Since Lisa tried to sound her out the last time, they had not been in contact. Melanie had initially found this to be a pity as Lisa was now working for Quentin.

When Melanie saw the call from Lisa, she raised an eyebrow and went to the side to pick up the call. "Is there anything you need?"

It was slightly noisy where Lisa was, and she sounded calm. "Mr. Emerson would like to see you. Can you make some time?"

"Quentin Emerson? What does he want to see me for?"

Lisa gave a suspicious excuse. "I have no idea. It might be about work."

Why would Quentin Emerson want to see her about work?

Melanie was about to reject her when Lisa continued in a low voice, "He says he has something to show you."

There was a grim look on Melanie's face. She had a bad feeling about this.

Xander saw the frown on her face after Melanie hung up. He asked, "Is something wrong?"

Melanie hesitated but did not tell Xander the truth. "Lisa wants to see me. It could be about work."

She and Xander went to meet several more company representatives. The meetings started well, but the last person was someone who was acquainted with Quentin Emerson.

Anyone associated with him would also be people involved with LeapCo.

This created a headache for Melanie.

There was not much change in Xander's emotions. While on their way back, Melanie said, obvious that Quentin Emerson is using this opportunity to cement his position in Vanke."

She stared at the huge billboard on the building opposite and mumbled, "If the next few companies are also associated with him, things will be difficult for us."

Melanie did not mention that LeapCo had the support of the Scotts.

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"It's

Reny noticed the grim looks on Xander's and Melanie's faces when they returned to the villa. She guessed what might have happened and did not mention anything about it.

Melanie did not stay long at the villa as she had a dinner appointment with Lisa.

She informed Xander about it and left.

They were supposed to meet at a restaurant in the city center. Lisa was already waiting for her when Melanie arrived.

Lisa looked upset. She squeezed Melanie's hand and said, "Don't eat anything later."

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Melanie looked at Lisa from the corner of her eye, but Lisa looked normal as usual. “Mr. Emerson is waiting for you. You can head inside.”

Quentin had always been well-liked while he was working at LeapCo. After he was fired, a few female employees voiced out about being sexually harassed by him, but it did not affect his reputation at all.

All Melanie could comment was that Quentin Emerson knew how to put up a good act.

There was a message notification on her phone, and Melanie looked at it. It was spam.

She deleted it and walked calmly into the private room where Quentin was.

A wolf in sheep’s clothing was the best way to describe Quentin Emerson.

He wore a pair of glasses that made him look like an intellect, and he was watching Melanie with interest. “Looks like you’re still interested in meeting me for a catch-up.”

“There is nothing for us to catch up with.” Melanie looked at Quentin coldly. “You mentioned you had something to show me. What is it?”

Quentin did not reply to her question. There was a flash in his eyes as he asked Melanie, “Are you still looking for a job after leaving LeapCo?”

“How about joining Vanke?” Quentin pushed his glasses up his nose. He was very good at making little movements like that at the right time. “You’ll be given a lucrative offer if you’re willing to join us.”

Melanie did not reply. She frowned slightly before saying, “Do you have the power to make that decision?”

“Mr. Valens from Vanke was the one who asked me to approach you.” Melanie immediately understood the situation the moment Quentin said this.

She was targeting Vanke, and that would also mean that she would be targeted.

Moreover, Melanie held a high post at LeapCo before this. Many other companies had been trying to convince her to join them.

Not long ago when Melanie had put the word out that she would be leaving LeapCo, various people had begun approaching her officially and in private. However, Melanie had to reject every offer given to her due to her contract.

Quentin mistook Melanie's silence for consent, and he slowly reached his hand out to hold

hers.

Despite the order coming from above, Quentin was happy to take the opportunity to solicit

Melanie.

After all, Melanie was still a very beautiful woman even if Eugene Scott was now tired of her.

Quentin found Melanie alluring, especially at the thought of how she had always been a cold and distant person who seemed difficult for him to get his hands on.

She dodged his hand subtly and said coolly, "If this is what you want to talk to me about,

there's nothing for us to discuss"

"How about taking a look at this?" Quentin sounded happy as he pushed a document over to Melanie

Melanie did not take it. She looked at Quentin, who seemed to be confident about this. "Have a look. It's pretty interesting."

The document was thin and contained only two photos

Melanie's face fell when she saw the photos

A man and a woman were hugging in the photos, and they looked particularly intimate

It was dark where they were, and the man's face was blocked. However, one could still tell from the man's figure that he was a middle-aged man

The woman's face could be clearly seen. She was frowning very slightly, and there was a lot of room for imagination due to their positions.

It was Melanie inside the photos.

Melanie felt agitated when she saw the photos. Quentin continued, "I've forgotten when these were taken, but I wonder what people would say if they saw these photos."

She could tell that this was a threat. Melanie began going through her memories to find out when these photos were taken.

It looked like they were taken in LeapCo's office, but it was impossible that she could be so intimate with Quentin while they were working there.

She looked up coldly at Quentin. "It's illegal to photoshop such photos to create ill-intent

rumors."

Quentin loved it when Melanie acted so arrogantly and distant. He tugged at his tie as he stared lustfully at Melanie's body. "You can check for yourself if this has been photoshopped. It won't be my reputation taking a hit."

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Quentin was confident because of this. He was sure that Melanie would never see her reputation falter because she was a proud woman.

He sounded gleeful as he said, "If you feel like investigating this, I have a few more photos with me. You can have them too."

This was a blatant threat. Melanie looked at Quentin's hypocritical face, and she felt disgusted by him.

Her fists were clenched below the table, and she asked while she still had reason in her, "Did you take those photos by angling the camera a certain way?"

Quentin raised an eyebrow and poured a glass of wine for Melanie. "Is that important? No one would care about the truth."

"What do you want?"

Quentin took off his glasses and looked at Melanie happily. He reached out to try and hold Melanie's hand again. He said in a disgusting manner, "Why must you be so stubborn? You know I've always admired you as a competent worker since working at LeapCo.

"Now that Eugene Scott is over you, do you think you'll have an easy time in the industry?"

"He made sure I had nowhere to go, and I heard things ended badly between you.

"Why not be with me? I can bring you into Vanke."

Quentin was about to touch her again, but Melanie immediately pulled away and stood up.

She looked down at Quentin. "You're right. No one would care about the truth."

Quentin looked back at her and praised, “You’re a smart woman.”

However, Melanie said, “But not everyone is stupid.”

She waved her phone and reminded Quentin with disdain. “Your statement is proof enough.”

Quentin realized what just happened, and his carefree smile froze on his face. “You recorded our conversation?”

Melanie looked at her phone and snorted gently. “You’re just as terrible and stupid as before.”

The look on Quentin’s face was dark and sullen. He stared viciously at Melanie as he clenched his teeth. “You bitch. Still playing innocent after being slept with so many times by Mr. Scott?”

He spat out venomous and horrible words while Melanie looked at him like he was garbage.

Her calm and dull character had given others the wrong impression.

Everyone had thought that she was upright and could not lose her pride, which was why they could benefit from her if they played their cards right.

They had probably forgotten that Melanie did not rely on her pride or dignity to achieve her position of chief secretary at LeapCo within two short years.

She had seen everything there was to see—from connections and hypocrisy to underhanded tactics.

Melanie lowered her eyes to look at her phone. She saved the recording and stored it in her cloud before saying, "Quentin Emerson, you were toxic back at LeapCo, and that probably still hasn't changed with you joining Vanke."

"Do you think you're able to do anything you want just because you have a couple of photos?"

"Your stupidity is astounding."

Melanie turned to leave after saying this. However, the moment she touched the door handle, Quentin's pale face suddenly changed into a vicious and ferocious expression.

"Who do you think you are, Melanie Smith? Didn't you get to where you were because you seduced Eugene Scott? You're just a used woman!"

Melanie paused, and she turned back to look at Quentin with a dark look in her eyes. It sent chills down Quentin's spine. He found himself suddenly unable to speak.

However, he recovered very quickly and he lifted his chin to say, "The day will come when you'll come to me begging!"

He knew that Melanie was now working with Xander because of the exhibition.

Melanie did not want to waste any more time. She had seen whatever Quentin wanted to show her.

Even though it disgusted her, she could only take things one at a time.

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To be honest, Melanie was not as calm and collected as she looked to be when she saw those photos.

However, she did not want to reveal this in front of Quentin. He was a ruthless and despicable man. If he caught a whiff of any weakness from her, it would be difficult for Melanie to walk out of there unscathed.

By the time she had gone downstairs, Lisa was gone. Melanie was reminded of Lisa's warning, and she pressed her lips with an upset expression on her face.

"What was going on between you and Eugene yesterday, Simon? I heard you had an

argument." She was about to leave when a few people walked in. A very mad-looking Simon was in the lead.

Simon was in a bad mood, and when he spotted Melanie, the look on his face turned even colder.

He shot daggers with his eyes at Melanie and did not answer the man's question.

Melanie could sense the look he was giving her, but she ignored it and continued heading outside.

Simon still looked angry even after she left.

Someone asked, "Was that Melanie Smith?"

Simon cursed in a low voice and said unhappily, "This is a terrible venue. Let's move somewhere else!"

Before he left, someone called out from behind, "Mr. Quindland!"

Melanie returned directly to the North district without informing anyone that she had met Quentin. She began analyzing the information of the companies that Xander had given her and began making notes on a few companies that looked easier to deal with.

Early the next morning, Melanie met Xander with the information she had put together. They began meeting the people in charge of the new companies that were considered smaller in scale.

Even though these companies were slightly hesitant, their attitudes were much better than Vanke and the other more established companies.

After that, they met a representative from another company with a similar attitude.

Melanie looked at the list at hand. "These remaining companies seem to have made a unanimous decision. It'll be difficult to convince them otherwise. Moreover, Quentin Emerson is determined to make a mark at Vanke. He'll push through this venture on behalf of Vanke.

"That main problem still lies with Vanke," Melanie determined.

She had considered trying to get into the crux of the issue by targeting Quentin's work ethic, but the risk was too high, and they might get implicated.

Xandre's face fell slightly, and he looked tense, even a little stern.

The Jepton exhibition was crucial for them to elevate their reputation within the country. It could also pave a wider path for them in the future.

He looked down. "I'll think of something."

"There is another way." Melanie was silent before continuing in a low voice, "We can

approach LeapCo directly.

"The reason why Quentin Emerson is so arrogant is mostly because he has LeapCo in his hands, and LeapCo belongs to the Scotts.

“If we can cut the ties between LeapCo and Vanke...”

Before Melanie could finish, Xander interrupted her. He stared at Melanie with his dark eyes. Do you mean we should approach LeapCo or Eugene Scott?”

Melanie paused. “I don’t see the difference.”

“It’s a big difference.” A look of exasperation flashed in Xander’s eyes. He seemed to sigh as he said in a low voice, “I’ll figure a way out of this. You don’t need to get involved.” Melanie looked down and answered despondently, “Alright.”

Meanwhile, in the office of LeapCo, there was an unfathomable look in Eugene’s dark eyes. He was looking at a message that was just sent to his phone, and it was difficult to know what he was thinking.

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Lee was in front of his desk when he saw the upset look on Eugene’s face. An alarm rang inside of him. “Is there something wrong with the contract, Mr. Scott?”

He had come into the office to bring Eugene a contact, but Eugene looked angry the moment he received a message.

Lee had no idea what was going through Eugene’s mind, and he hesitated before saying, “We haven’t signed the contract for the exhibition yet. LeapCo can still pull out of it without a problem.”

The contract was sent over by Dreamcatchers. It had gone through the person in charge there before being delivered to Eugene. As long as there were no problems at LeapCo, the contract would be in the bag.

Eugene said nothing. There was a heavy look of contemplation on his face. After a while, he suppressed his anger.

He did not look at the contract Lee had brought over and stood up instead. He asked coldly, “What’s the update on what I asked you to find out?”

“There’s an internal conflict with the higher management in Vanke. Besides Quentin Emerson, there are a few employees there who have worked with LeapCo before. Quentin Emerson has been using LeapCo’s name to get other companies to work with him.”

The look in Eugene’s eyes turned darker. “He made use of LeapCo’s name?”

“Yes.” Lee nodded. “Since leaving LeapCo, he has kept in touch with a few middle

management employees at LeapCo. This time, he approached Sean Yarn from the export department on behalf of Dreamcatchers.”

Even though Lee had no idea why Eugene had suddenly asked him to look into Quentin Emerson, his investigation shocked him..

It was quite astounding that a man who had just left LeapCo could have so many connections with LeapCo’s staff.

Eugene did not betray his emotions as he ordered Lee out of the office coldly.

Before he left, Lee hesitated before saying, “Miss Shaw is still waiting for you outside, Mr. Scott.”

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It was long past working hours, and before Lee went inside Eugene’s office, Viola asked for his help to tell Eugene that she was waiting.

Eugene was unmoved. “Get her to go home. I still have work to do.”

However, Lee had just pulled the door open when he bumped into a pitiful-looking Viola.

He paused but said nothing.

Viola looked at Eugene, who was stoically working. She lowered her eyes and bit her lip. Viola took a few steps forward. "You've been really busy recently, Eugene."

She sounded quite pitiful. Viola could sense that Eugene had been treating her quite coldly. He had been using work as an excuse every time she wanted to see him.

The more she thought about it, the more unhappy she was, but she did not show it. All Viola did was walk closer to him and tug on Eugene's sleeve.

"Just tell me if there's anything I did that upset you, Eugene. Please don't ignore me." Her eyes turned red. "You should be upfront with me even if you want to break up."

Eugene paused. After a while, he said impassively, "It has been pretty busy at the office recently."

Viola hesitated. "Well, you still have to organize a birthday party for me, but it's fine if you don't..."

"The time and date have been decided," Eugene said while taking out a bank card from the drawer. He pushed it to Viola. "Buy anything you want."

Viola wanted to say something when she saw the bank card but decided not to. She watched Eugene lower his head as he went through his documents. She bit her lip and resumed her obedient and docile mannerisms.

She nodded awkwardly and said, "I'll head home first. My mom is waiting for me."

Eugene did not look up. "Get Lee to see you home."

Viola agreed, but when Lee walked her downstairs, she rejected his offer to send her home. She took a taxi and left.

Not long after she got into the taxi, she pressed her lips and made a call. The moment her call was picked up, Viola made sure to adjust her tone as she called out, "Simon."

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Simon was drinking with his buddies when he heard Viola's voice. He raised an eyebrow and looked nonchalant as he asked, "What do you want?"

Viola jumped. She did not know Simon well. She had only talked to him twice in private

because of Eugene.

Somehow, she knew that it was easier to talk to Simon compared to the others.

She asked in a low voice, "Is Eugene busy with something recently?"

Simon could tell she was sounding him out. He snorted and said lazily, "How would I know? I don't work at LeapCo. Maybe you should check with Melanie Smith. She just met with Eugene recently, after all."

Melanie had listed out a few companies that had all resulted in the same outcome. They were not able to give them a concrete answer.

Even though Reny and the others were anxious after finding out the situation, they were not able to come up with a solution.

When Yvonne found out about it, she mentioned that maybe Xander should return to the Solomons.

However, she knew she made the wrong call the moment she said this. She quickly changed the topic.

Melanie was not familiar with what happened between Xander and his family. She tried contacting another potential partner, but their attitude was also quite vague.

Yvonne made a few cups of coffee and passed one to Melanie. She said in a low voice, "Xander is just too stubborn. All he needs to do is go talk to Old Mr. Solomon and everything will be settled.

"Although, it's totally understandable. Just look at what the Solomons did to Aunt Nina. It's only normal that Xander hates them."

Yvonne's words surprised Melanie, and Yvonne realized she had let slip a secret. She tried to cover it up with some nonsense and quickly headed downstairs.

Melanie watched her leave and got lost in thought.

The situation took a worse turn. Oliver returned in the afternoon looking upset.

He had visited the government department again that morning, and he came back bearing bad news.

"The date of the exhibition has been changed again. It'll be at an earlier date."

This meant that their issue with Dreamcatchers would also be brought forward to an earlier date.

The villa fell into a tense atmosphere. Xander had been hiding in the study since that morning. He claimed he was busy improving the proposal.

Melanie was not affected too much emotionally. She looked at the unhappy looks on Reny and the rest. She made a decision.

She grabbed her bag. "I'll be heading out."

It was still working hours at LeapCo, and Melanie brought out a few documents from her bag as she walked into the company, looking like she was there for business.

She had just gotten to the reception area when she was stopped. "Hello, do you have an appointment with us?"

Melanie was about to say something when she heard a crisp voice. "What are you doing here again, Melanie?"

Those words sounded heavy, and Melanie turned back to see Viola.

She was wearing all-white business attire and high heels. There was a standard business smile on her face. "We have a new rule at LeapCo, Melanie. Those who have no business here are not allowed to enter."

Melanie looked at her. "I have some business here."

"It's the company's rule, Melanie. There's no need to give trouble to the receptionists." Viola looked at Melanie and was reminded of what Simon said to her the night before.

She sounded slightly harsh. "You used to work at LeapCo. You know how it is when shady characters take the opportunity to barge into the company and create trouble. Thick-skinned people like them love harassing others and are quite difficult to handle."

Viola did not need to name the person for everyone to know who she was referring to. She was clearly humiliating Melanie.

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There was a manager from another department with Viola whom Melanie had worked with before.

She looked slightly awkward when she heard what Viola said, but did not dare to voice out anything.

After all, everyone was still talking about the relationship between Viola, Melanie, and Eugene.

Viola lifted her chin slightly after saying this and did not hide the glee in her eyes. "Am I right, Melanie?"

Melanie knew she would hear terrible things the moment she came to LeapCo, but her current work was more important. She could not be bothered by anything else.

She looked up at Viola and said calmly, "Is this the way you treat LeapCo's guests, Miss Shaw?"

Viola frowned. Melanie was already looking at the receptionist. "I have an appointment with Miss Saxon from the secretary's office. You can check it."

Hannah Saxon was promoted after Melanie left, and she had always been in the secretary's office. She and Melanie were on good terms.

Yana appeared the moment she said this. She greeted Melanie, "You're here, Melanie. Miss Saxon asked me to bring you inside."

She suddenly noticed Viola with a frozen expression on the side. One side of her lips could not help twitching as she smiled. "Is Miss Shaw here to welcome you inside too, Melanie?"

They were about to get off work, and Melanie did not want to waste any time. She did not even look at Viola as she said nonchalantly, "Let's go."

"Melanie," Viola suddenly called out to her.

She observed Melanie's calm expression closely before saying slowly, "It's my birthday in two days, Melanie. Eugene is organizing a party for me. Why don't you join us?"

She wanted to salvage some dignity in front of Melanie. The more she talked about her upcoming birthday party, the more confident she felt. She could not help getting louder as she mentioned it.

Eugene would be organizing a birthday party for her.

As for Melanie...

What did she have?

She was just someone fired by LeapCo.

When they got into the elevator, Yana complained in a small voice next to Melanie, "I wonder what she's being happy about? She just walks around the company every day claiming to be a secretary. Those who don't know it would think that she's a security guard doing her rounds."

Melanie did not answer. She was really here for business with Hannah, which was why she had made a prior appointment via phone call.

LeapCo was the source of what was happening at Vanke, but Melanie could not communicate

with Eugene. That was why she had to start with Hannah in order to find out what exactly was going on between LeapCo and Vanke.

Everyone knew that the secretary's office was the rear service department that did everything. This was also the reason why they would have the most information.

There was another reason for Melanie being here today,

As she began planning in her head her next step, Melanie walked out of the elevator with Yana, they had just arrived at the secretary's office when she noticed a tall, poised figure standing there.

Eugene Scott.

He was cold and domineering. It was hard to tell his emotions from his tone. “Do you think this is good enough to be passed on to me?”

No one said anything inside the office. Yana said to Melanie in a low voice, “Mr. Scott wanted the data analysis from the Oskon City branch, but the implications were too wide. He’s still not happy with the results even after the secretary’s office had worked overtime for a week.”

Melanie knew Eugene was very strict when it came to work. She said nothing but took a few steps back. She was not planning on going in right now.

For some reason, Eugene seemed to sense something. He looked slightly to the side, and his cold gaze fell onto Melanie.

His lips were pressed tightly, and he stared daggers at her.

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Melanie froze but quickly recovered. First, she avoided Eugene’s gaze and hid to the side. She waited for him to leave after losing his temper.

However, he did not turn away from her. After a while, he said stoically, “Get out of LeapCo if you don’t want to work here.”

Yana was in a panic as she quickly lowered her head to apologize, “I’m sorry, Mr. Scott.”

She strode off after that and quickly went back into the office.

Melanie lowered her eyes. She had made a mistake. Eugene was looking at Yana, not her.

While she was thinking about this, Eugene spoke up again, “When did the secretary’s office allow unauthorized personnel to come and go as they please?”

This time, he was talking about Melanie.

Hannah explained awkwardly, "Melanie made an appointment with us, Mr. Scott. She's here to settle some work at LeapCo."

"Settle some work?" Eugene's voice was cold. His deep, dark eyes looked at Melanie again. "You have a lot of things to settle, don't you?"

Melanie was very calm. "I'm here of my own accord to find a way to work together."

Lee led Melanie to the CEO's office. He was warm as usual. "Wait here a while. Mr. Scott will be right over once he's done with his work."

Melanie looked a little grim. She had just mentioned that she was looking for a way to work together when Eugene instructed Lee to bring her to the office.

Eugene arrived very soon. There was a frosty look on his face. He must have lost his temper downstairs not too long ago.

Melanie stood where she was. This still did not feel real to her. The only thing left for her to do was to take out the documents from her bag and hand them over to Eugene.

"I'm representing Burning Star Studio today. I hope LeapCo can consider us as a potential partner to work with and prioritize us with the latest information you have for the exhibition."

The moment she said this, Eugene flung the documents back to Melanie without looking at them. "Impossible."

Melanie said in a low voice, "Our reputation and capability are as good as Dreamcatchers'."

"So what if they are?" Eugene fiddled with a pen in his hand. She could not tell what was going through his mind while looking into his deep, dark eyes. The only thing that reflected on them was her own blurred figure.

Melanie was taken aback. "If you compare our statistics, you'll see for yourself that Burning Star is the better company to invest in.'

The look on Eugene's face did not change. He was still calm and composed. "It's just an exhibition. It won't bring too much benefit to LeapCo. What's there for us to compare?"

He paused before bursting out with a laugh. He looked at Melanie purposefully. "Have you lost

your sense of judgment after leaving LeapCo?"

Eugene was very clear with his attitude. Melanie knew it would be difficult to get him to agree no matter what she said.

However, this proposal was very important. It was not only important for Xander and the others, but for her as well. Her name was on the proposal, and she wanted only good things to happen to this project.

Melanie had gotten into this industry without a background, and her designing skills were miles away from others. The only way she could help was by contributing what she was best at. That was the only way she could maintain her standing in the company.

Melanie took a deep breath to calm herself down before saying, "What can I do for you to agree to work with Burning Star?"

Eugene did not answer immediately. He stared at Melanie with his cold gaze for quite a while before he lowered his eyes.

"Are you negotiating with me again?"

There was not much change in Eugene's emotions. He picked up the documents he had flung at Melanie and flipped casually through them before throwing them to the side again.

The look in his eyes was unfathomable like an eerily silent lake.