

**Mr. Scott 351**

Chapter 351

“They invited me to Viola’s birthday party.” Yvonne frowned. She was not close with Simon and his gang of friends. She could not understand why he invited her.

Melanie’s forehead puckered. She cared nothing about the others, but Viola was someone she disliked.

Naturally, she would feel annoyed listening to even her name.

Reny said, “You can choose not to go. No one said you must go, right?”

Yvonne put on a sour face and said, “Someone is forcing me to go. My dad! He’s using this as an opportunity to arrange a blind date for me.”

She scoffed and continued, “I heard Eugene even invited people from Oskon City. It’s just Viola’s birthday party.”

If they investigated it, anyone would know about Melanie, Eugene, and Viola’s story.

Yvonne had long thought of herself as Melanie’s friend.

Melanie thought it was just Yvonne being grumpy about it. After all, Viola’s birthday party had nothing to do with her.

However, something she never expected happened.

Albert moved from the ICU to the regular ward that weekend, and Melanie was packing his stuff.

Just as she fed Albert his dinner, Yvonne's call came in.

"Mel, are you on leave today?"

"What's wrong?"

"My car broke down halfway. Can you come over and pick me up?" Yvonne's voice sounded gloomy. "I'm on the highway to Rown City and can't hail a taxi. I called the others, but they're busy."

Melanie looked at the time and saw that it was already seven at night. This time of the day was the peak hour for traffic. Even if Yvonne was already in Rown City, it would not be easy for her to hail a taxi.

Albert had already fallen asleep. Melanie received Yvonne's location and headed over to pick her up.

When she arrived, the traffic police and the insurance company's staff were there. Yvonne felt relieved to see her. "Mel, sorry to trouble you at this hour of the day."

Melanie said, "It's okay. Where are you going? I'll drive you there."

"Litman Manor. They're having the party there tonight."

Melanie froze upon hearing that place. Only then did Yvonne remember Melanie disliked Viola. "You know, it's my dad who's forcing me to go. He said he'll freeze my bank card if I don't go."

Litman Manor was the place where Viola's birthday party was held.

212

However, it was not in the big hall. They were having it in a small private room.

Even if it was a small venue, the price was costly. Litman Manor was a place that only entertained the rich.

Melanie said nothing and stepped on the accelerator, heading toward Litman Manor. Melanie had just pulled over upon arriving when a car stopped behind her.

Melanie wanted to reverse her car, but several other cars arrived and blocked her way. If she reversed her car, she might cause a jam on that road.

Melanie could only sit in the car and wait for the road to clear so that she could reverse.

Yvonne said, "Mel, you'll have to wait quite long here. Why don't you go in with me? We can leave after sitting for a while. After all, I don't want to stay at that party for long either."

Chapter 352

Melanie rejected, "It's alright, I can wait here and leave when the road is clear."

Yvonne wanted to persuade her further, but someone knocked Melanie's window. She lifted her head and looked at the person outside, only to see Stephen smiling at them. "You ladies came too?"

Stephen and Yvonne knew each other. "Why are you here?"

"I just arrived." Stephen looked at Melanie. "I saw your car and thought I was mistaken."

Melanie looked at Yvonne. "I drove her here."

"When I came just now, there were many cars outside. You might not be able to leave now." Stephen pondered before continuing, "You can sit in a corner and rest while waiting. You don't have to greet them."

Melanie wanted to reject, but she saw Viola dressed elegantly as she followed behind Eugene.

Eugene wore a suit, and it was an expensive black suit. It made his perfect figure stand out.

Under the neon lights, his elegance and charm seemed to make him glow. He looked like a noble prince.

He seemed to have noticed Melanie and the others.

Subconsciously, Melanie froze, feeling as if Eugene was looking straight at her.

Viola, who had been talking to Eugene, noticed his gaze and looked over. She saw Melanie. Melanie looked away. Yvonne clicked her tongue and exclaimed, "Why are you looking away? You did nothing wrong. Don't be such a coward! Make them feel sorry for what they've done to you!"

Stephen smiled gently as he looked at Melanie meaningfully. "Mel, you can be my date today." With both their words, coupled with Eugene's and Viola's gazes, Melanie was convinced and stopped rejecting.

Melanie held Stephen's arm and walked over. She noticed a glimpse of displeasure in Viola's

eyes.

However, putting on an act was what Viola did best. She looked at Melanie in a puzzle and said, "Melanie, I'm happy to have you at my party, but I thought your partner would be Mr. Solomon. I didn't expect you to come with Mr. York."

She smiled brightly and said, "It seems I misunderstood."

Melanie was holding Stephen's arm. She knew what Viola meant by that. Calmly, she said, "Please don't misunderstand. I just happened to pass by."

Viola's smile froze. She lifted her head and looked at Eugene. Parting her lips, she wanted to say something. However, Yvonne was faster than her. "Miss Shaw, right? Happy birthday. Mel is here because she happened to drive me here. I hope you don't mind."

"Of course, I wouldn't." Viola swallowed the words she was about to say and felt awkward.

"Since you happened to pass by, why aren't you leaving yet?" Eugene had an indifferent look as he said those cold words,

He gazed at Melanie, acting all cold and domineering. He mocked her, "Well, you're quite capable of getting someone to bring you into this party.

"Is it because you know Xander can't give you what you want that you've changed your target?"

He was being sarcastic. Melanie was annoyed, but she could not do anything about it.

Viola stood up for her, pretending to be nice. She looked at Eugene as she said, "Eugene, don't say such things. Melanie isn't married, and it doesn't matter who she dates."

She had a smug look on her face as she continued, "Moreover, Melanie is so beautiful. I'm sure many men would woo her. I heard Mr. Emerson say he has a crush on Melanie too.

"Melanie, why don't I introduce you to my senior someday? He's the boss of a company. He's wealthy and young. It just so happens that he recently divorced his wife."

Chapter 353

Stephen frowned, wanting to say something but ultimately failing. Yvonne did not care.

She casually handed the gift she brought and said with a smile, "I didn't expect you to care about others so much. But it's best if you speak less today."

Yvonne lowered her voice mysteriously and continued, "I heard busybodies often get into trouble. You're celebrating your birthday today. Don't make things difficult for yourself."

Viola's eyes widened in disbelief, but Yvonne had already pulled Melanie's hand. "Let's go, Mel. Miss Shaw knew you'd be here, and she even welcomes you. You should accept her kindness and join the party."

Her words were straightforward, and she said that on purpose. Melanie did not put on any expression. "Alright. We'll stay—even though this party seems quite boring."

Eugene stood beside Viola with a cold expression, not showing much of an expression. He took a glance at Melanie.

"Eugene, long time no see." Stephen's gentle voice sounded. Eugene froze and looked at him.

Stephen smiled, but there was also a helpless look on his face. "She worked in LeapCo for many years. You don't have to treat her like this. Why don't you let the relationship end peacefully?"

Eugene glanced at Stephen in displeasure. "Are you standing up for her again?"

He then scoffed. "One after another. How interesting."

Stephen knew Eugene was being sarcastic again, and his smile faded.

He had no intention of attending the party either; he was forced to come.

Anything to do with socializing was not just about emotions anymore. Moreover, if they belonged to the same social circle, they would have to face each other on many formal occasions.

Moreover, Viola was not the protagonist of the event today...

When they entered the venue, Yvonne took Melanie to the corner of the room to sit on the sofa there. She had promised to leave after showing her face.

Stephen left alone, saying he wanted to look for someone.

The sofa happened to face the door, and Melanie could see the people walking in. Melanie knew most of them. They were all the children of wealthy businessmen.

Viola's birthday party was a grand affair.

When Eugene and Viola walked in, a young man followed them in. He had a carefree smile, and his hair was dyed blue.

Melanie glanced at him only for a second before looking away.

"That man is Bernard Qaisa from the Qaisa family of Oskon City. My dad said LeapCo's future in Oskon City depends on whether they can get the Qaisa family's help," said Yvonne.

Her father had also told her it would be best if she could get Bernard's favor and marry him, but Yvonne did not tell Melanie this.

Yvonne's father was the governor of Jepton Bank, so many came to socialize with her.

They were not sincere, and each had their motives.

Yvonne brushed off some of them and excused herself to go to the toilet.

Viola came over with a glass of wine right after Yvonne left.

She put on a smile. "Melanie, where's Yvonne? She was here just now."

“She went to the toilet.”

“Oh.” Viola did not intend to leave. “Eugene said I’m the birthday girl and should attend to my guests well.”

She lifted the glass of wine and said, “Melanie, although I’m surprised to see you here, I’m happy to have you at my party. Let’s have a drink.”

Viola was good at phrasing her words. In reality, her relationship with Melanie was not as good as it seemed.

Those around them who did not know about their situation looked over, waiting for Melanie’s

response.

Chapter 354

Melanie did not take the glass of wine handed over to her. She said, “Happy birthday, but we don’t need to drink. I can’t drink.”

Viola did not put down the glass of wine. She knew everyone was looking. If she could not make Melanie drink, it would be embarrassing, and she might even become a laughingstock.

“Melanie, this is my token of appreciation because you’ve helped me greatly. I should have a drink with you.”

She clenched her teeth and added, “Without you, I wouldn’t have gotten what I have now.”

Only the two of them could hear her last sentence as she had lowered her voice.

It was a provocation.

Viola held the glass of wine, and she invited Melanie politely.

Melanie pondered as she looked at Viola. She knew she could not avoid drinking.

Moreover, more attention was on them now, and Melanie wanted to end this quickly.

Coldly, she lifted her hand to take the wine glass Viola was holding.

However, right as her fingers touched the glass, Viola’s hand shuddered before she let go.



The glass of wine spilled. Moreover, Viola had withdrawn her hand quickly, causing the glass to slant toward Melanie. The contents were spilled on her.

Summer clothes were usually thin, and Melanie was just wearing a shirt. The red wine dyed her shirt, making her look pathetic.

Viola panicked and said, "Melanie, are you alright? I let go because you were already holding the wine glass."

The shirt drenched in wine felt sticky on Melanie. With a cold expression, Melanie looked at Viola. "You did this on purpose, didn't you?"

Viola was startled but still explained pretentiously, "You've misunderstood. I didn't do this on purpose. I thought you had already taken the glass."

The people around them started gossiping. Yvonne happened to be back and saw Melanie's shirt. With a frown, she asked, "How did this happen?"

Viola lowered her head and said in grief, "I'm sorry, Melanie. I didn't do it on purpose. Please don't be mad."

Yvonne lifted her eyebrow as she knew what was going on. Sneering, she took Melanie to the lounge to clean the stain.

Melanie's shirt was drenched when they walked past the hall, and her undergarments were visible. Yvonne said, "I walked through here just now, and the lounge was empty.

"Wait for me in the lounge and I'll get you some clean clothes to change into."

Melanie could only agree.

She pushed open the lounge door casually and noticed it was spacious.

It was quiet inside. Melanie checked around to ensure it was empty before taking out a wet tissue to wipe her shirt.

However, the wine had spilled on her shirt, so it was still uncomfortable even after she wiped it

Yvonne had left for about ten minutes and had yet to return. Melanie felt uncomfortable due to how sticky the shirt was.

Melanie unbuttoned the top of her shirt and pulled the collar down her shoulder to get some air.

She was in the living room area and had her back facing the door. Moreover, there was a large divider. Melanie did not notice someone was inside.

With her shirt unbuttoned and her collar pulled down, one could see her beautiful neck and the curve of her shoulders.

The sight was mesmerizingly beautiful.

Eugene had just ended a call with Cedric and was walking out of the divider gloomily.

However, the first thing he saw when he came out was her.

The woman was tall and fit. She was sitting with her side profile facing him, so he could see her features and the sexy curves of her body.

He was taken aback.

Chapter 355

Eugene had always known Melanie had a good figure, and he would not deny having been interested in her body for some time.

She was slender yet curvy.

Her physique was just like an art carving.

Melanie heard the footsteps and thought it was Yvonne. With a frown, she turned around. Hand me the clothes..."

However, she couldn't finish her sentence.

((

Melanie looked toward the source of the footsteps and saw Eugene standing beside the divider.

He was staring at her body without even hiding his gaze.

Melanie's brows furrowed, and she quickly pulled her shirt up to cover her body. However, she did not have the time to button her shirt. She gripped the clothes with her hand as she stared at Eugene warily. "When did you enter this room?"

Eugene looked away and said, "I should be asking you this."

Only then did Melanie realize that Eugene had walked out from inside.

Eugene looked at her. His gaze was as cold as ever as he scoffed. "Melanie, you sure know how to entertain yourself. Why did I never notice how bold you were before?"

The lounge's dim lights were turned on, and the curtains were drawn. It was quiet in here as the noise outside was blocked.

Melanie's hand shuddered as she closed her eyes. "You're overthinking it."

Trying to remain calm, she added, "Viola spilled a glass of wine on my shirt, and I came to change."

Eugene lifted his brow and asked, "Where's the new set of clothes?"

"It's not here yet."

Eugene lifted his chin as he took off his coat. The obsidian cuffs on his coat made it look more elegant.

His voice was deep when he said, "What a rubbish excuse."

Melanie said nothing. She did not want to waste time arguing with him.

All she hoped now was for Yvonne to come quickly.

Frowning, she looked at Eugene. "Can you go out now?"

However, a burst of laughter came from outside the door, and they could hear a faint voice saying, "Is he really in there?"

The footsteps stopped outside, and someone turned the knob on the door. Melanie froze. She was not properly dressed.

The next moment, she heard a chuckle and the man's casual voice saying, "You're worried

Melanie clenched her teeth. She wanted to say something, but that man pulled her.

Pigeon expressionlessly, "Stand behind me."

Melanie did not have much time to react and simply stood behind Eugene. At the same time, the lounge door was opened

Simon was the first to enter, and he sounded displeased. "Bernard is outside. What are you doing here?"

"I called you, but the call didn't go through..." Simon's words stopped abruptly, and he stared at the woman behind Eugene, "Who's that woman behind you?"

Even though Melanie was thin, she could not be entirely blocked by Eugene's body. At most, others would not be able to recognize her from this angle.

Moreover, Melanie did not want to be seen in such a state with Eugene alone in a room. She could only grab Eugene's shirt and stand closer to his back with her forehead leaning against

Eugene lifted his eyebrow slightly and looked at Simon calmly. "It seems like you're getting along well with Bernard.

"Hahaha. Eugene, Bernard said he's just like Simon."

## Chapter 356

Eugene commentest, "That's a pretty good description."

Simon clicked his tongue impatiently. "Aren't you guys tired of this yet?"

He turned to Eugene after saying that, "The Qaisa family is interested in partnering with a company based in Jepton. That's the message I've been asked to pass on."

After a brief pause, he looked at Eugene before saying pointedly, "You should go talk to him now if you have the time to do so."

Eugene said quietly, "Got it."

Simon did not stay long after saying that. However, as he approached the door, he paused and gave Eugene another long, hard look as he said, "Don't go overboard."

Melanie's heart began racing when she heard what Simon said. She could not help but wonder if he had already seen her.

"Still haven't gotten tired of holding me?" Upon hearing the man's slightly hoarse voice, Melanie took two hesitant steps backward.

She asked Eugene, "Did Simon see anything?"

"What do you think he saw?" Eugene asked calmly, a cool expression on his face as he lowered his gaze to look at Melanie.

There was a heady smell of red wine coming from Melanie's clothing, and the fragrant smell soon permeated Eugene's nostrils as well.

He stared at Melanie even more intently, and his gaze made her feel somewhat uncomfortable. She was just about to say something when she saw his Adam's apple bob up and down.

He asked somewhat flatly, "Do you think you're that wonderful to look at?"

A slight commotion could be heard at the door when he finished his sentence. Yvonne had returned with a change of clothes.

She was obviously stunned when she saw Eugene in the room.

However, Eugene did not spare her a glance as he left.

Melanie took the clothes and changed into them. As she walked back out, she heard Yvonne "I bumped into Viola on my way here. She had an ugly look on her face, and she nearly walked right into me."

say,

A thought occurred to Melanie as she paused in her tracks. However, she did not share the details of what had happened just now with Yvonne. She merely left the room with her once she finished putting her clothes away.

Their time here was nearly up, and they were leaving the venue early to meet Stephen.

However, another man stopped Melanie before they managed to meet up with Stephen.

Bernard frowned. There was an odd look on his face as he looked at her and asked, "Who are you?"

Melanie raised her eyes. "Can I help you?"

"You look like someone I know," Bernard said, his eyebrows knitting themselves even more closely together. "Do you have family in Oskon City?"

Melanie answered, "Sorry, but I don't know anyone from Oskon City."

Bernard was about to say something else when he saw Eugene approaching with some other people.

He gave up trying to ask Melanie more questions and glanced at Eugene lazily as he said, "Thank you for all the hospitality tonight, Mr. Scott."

Eugene merely glanced at Melanie before he walked off to discuss business with Bernard.

Yvonne was prepared to leave after speaking to Stephen briefly. However, before she left, she was stopped by Viola, who seemed to have appeared out of nowhere.

"We're getting the barbecue grill ready, Melanie. Why don't you join us? That way, I can apologize for what happened just now as well."

"I accidentally spilled the wine on you because I wasn't paying attention. Please, could you not be angry at me?"

Yvonne was amazed by Viola's acting skills and whispered to Melanie, "I've never seen a woman as thick-skinned as she is. Doesn't she feel embarrassed at all?"

Melanie looked at Viola. "There's no need for this."

"But I—" Viola had an innocent-looking face that softened the hearts of anyone looking at her.

She reached out to grab Melanie's hand, but Melanie managed to evade her grasp. "I'm a germaphobe. I don't like being touched."

A slightly hurt look appeared on Viola's face, and tears brimmed in her eyes as she said to Melanie, "I wanted to drop by and speak to you just now, but I thought I heard a man's voice coming from the lounge, Melanie."

## Chapter 357

Viola asked probingly, "Were my ears playing tricks on me, Melanie?"

Melanie turned to look at Viola, an impatient look on her face as she said, "You don't have to concern yourself with my matters."

"I was just worried you were in trouble. After all, I hope that everyone can enjoy themselves at my birthday party."

"Ms. Shaw," Yvonne called out with a smile on her face. "You don't have to keep reminding us it's your birthday today. We're more than capable of remembering that since you're the main character for the day. We get it already."

Viola had been acting like she owned the place, even emphasizing to Melanie multiple times she was in charge. To Yvonne, it seemed she was trying to shift the attention to something else so that she could cover her tracks.

Viola froze, but Melanie suddenly realized that Viola was trying to subtly find out if the man with her had been Eugene.

The light in her eyes dimmed slightly, and she was just about to begin speaking when she felt someone approaching her from the back.

Immediately, tears appeared in Viola's eyes as she glanced over Melanie's head. She asked in a soft and sweet voice, "What are you doing here, Eugene? Didn't you say you had something else to take care of?"

Melanie pursed her lips tightly as Eugene's deep voice rang out above her. "Everything's been taken care of."



She did not know if her senses were playing tricks on her or if it was a result of their intimacy in the room just now, but Melanie could feel her nostrils filling with the faint scent of cedar. That was Eugene's signature scent.

It was a cool, gloomy scent that wrapped its arms around her.

Though she could not see him, she could still feel an inexplicable constricting feeling falling

over her.

Melanie did not turn back. She grabbed Yvonne's hand so that they could leave. However, Viola got in their way.

Melanie had no choice but to say quietly, "Excuse me."

Her voice had always been of a lower timbre, and she sounded even more stern now because she had purposely lowered it even more.

Viola's heart skipped a beat when she met her stern gaze. She instinctively stepped aside.

She only jerked out of her reverie after Melanie grabbed Yvonne's hand and walked away. When she turned to look at Eugene, she realized he had lowered his gaze. He had a thoughtful expression on his face.

"What are you thinking about, Eugene?" Viola asked hesitantly.

Eugene looked up and said flatly, "Nothing much."

It had not been a pleasant birthday party. Yvonne began complaining to Melanie about Viola's actions the minute they got into the car.

Melanie listened, and as they left the brightly lit venue, she could feel herself calming down again. She asked Yvonne, “Should I take

“Should I take you home?”

“Yes. I’ll have to go home and provide a run-down on the evening’s events.”

Yvonne’s home was about a half-hour ride away. Melanie received an unexpected phone call while they were about halfway there.

It was an employee from Litman Manor. “Is this Ms. Melanie Smith’s number? You left purse at the manor. May I know when you’d like to come pick it up?”

Melanie was stunned. “My purse?”

your

“We found it on a couch in the lounge. The ID inside shows that this purse belongs to you. Melanie had been to Litman Manor several times, and LeapCo had also once hosted a forum there. All they needed to do to get in touch with Melanie was to cross-check their records. Melanie ran through the evening’s events in her mind. She must have dropped her purse while getting changed just now and had not realized it because Eugene had dropped by all of a sudden.

She promised she would return to pick it up. Yvonne asked, “Is something wrong?”

“I left my purse at Litman Manor. I’ll go pick it up later.”

Melanie had taken the time into consideration too. There was a high chance she would end up bumping into Eugene and the others if she returned now, which was why she decided to go ahead and drop Yvonne off at home first.

The purse was left in the reception area. Melanie went ahead to verify her ID with the

receptionist and left after ensuring nothing was missing from her purse.

It was already 11 o'clock, and she had not bumped into anybody on her way here.

Chapter 358

However, as she picked up her purse and got ready to leave, her eyes met another pair that was staring at her dazedly

Bernard was sitting on a chaise lounge in the manor's lobby. He had one hand propped against his temple, and his bluish-grey hair was slightly mussed. His long legs stretched out before

A surprised look flitted through Melanie's eyes when she met his gaze.

She was still hesitating on her next move when she heard Bernard say in a slightly hoarse voice, "Hello, I'm Bernard Ogisa. Can we get to know each other?"

Melanie's eyes widened as she asked guardedly, "Do you know me?"

"No," Bernard answered as he spun his phone in his hand. "You just look like a scoundrel."

Melanie answered flatly, "What an honor."

Bernard chuckled, but his smile did not reach his eyes. As he stroked his chin, he clicked his tongue and asked, "Do you also work at LeapCo?"

Footsteps rang out from behind the corner when he finished asking his question.

Simon, Eugene, and two other young men rounded the corner together.

Simon was the first to stop in his tracks. A teasing look appeared in his eyes as he gazed at Melanie.

An odd look appeared on Melanie's face when she saw them. She immediately turned around to walk away.

Bernard called out to her and tapped his phone nonchalantly. "Want to exchange numbers?"

His nonchalant attitude made Melanie feel uncomfortable. She knitted her eyebrows together, a frosty expression appearing on her face.

Before she could say anything, she heard Simon saying, "You move fast, Melanie. Bernard's only just arrived at Jepton, and you're already making your way toward him.

"No wonder you were here today."

He began teasing Bernard as well, "Looks like you're not particularly picky either, Bernard."

Bernard answered lazily, "Why should I be picky? We're all just having fun, aren't we?"

That answer practically confirmed what he and Melanie had been doing. Simon scoffed as he turned to Eugene and asked pointedly, "Satisfied?"

The look on Eugene's face did not change, but a glint had appeared in his deep-set eyes.

Moments later, he turned to Simon and asked in a deep voice, "Didn't you say you wanted to 20 to GT?"

Simon nodded indifferently and turned to Bernard, "Come on, let's go. My treat since we're in' Jepton now. Go wild."

Bernard headed off with him, his demeanor equally Indifferent. Melanie and Bugene were the only two people left in the lobby.

Melanie did not look at him, and she began walking away.

However, she had only taken one step forward when she heard Eugene ask, "Can't you get it together, Melanie Smith?"

Melanie paused. "I returned to pick something up. That's all."

Eugene scoffed and strode over to stand beside Melanie, where he used a hand to pinch the back of her neck. His voice was so deep that it was difficult to discern his emotions as he asked, "What a coincidence. You just happened to leave something behind?"

"Melanie," he called out before pausing momentarily, "Did you really think I'd believe that?" "You can decide if you want to believe me or not," Melanie said as she swerved and avoided Eugene's hand.

However, she could smell the alcohol on him when she moved.

Eugene did not enjoy drinking. There were times in the past when he had no choice but to partake in drinking as well, but he rarely had alcohol after that.

Previously, his drinking had resulted in him developing stomach issues, and Melanie had watched over him during his recovery to make sure he quit drinking. He had also cut down on his drinking after that.

The heat of the man's skin traveled to her neck, causing Melanie to once again duck away from discomfort. She turned to Eugene and said flatly, "You should be the one getting it together now, Eugene Scott."

Chapter 359

The two were standing very close to each other, and the faint smell of wine from Eugene's clothes kept making its way into Melanie's nose.

It smelt like the wine Viola had spilled onto her clothes just now.

Melanie turned her head the other way, a slight frown on her face.

That knowledge made her feel inexplicably annoyed.

Eugene's hand was still placed against her neck, and Melanie decided he was not in the right frame of mind because he had been drinking.

She gritted her teeth and reached out to swat his hand away from her. A cold look appeared in her eyes as she took several steps backward. She said, "Please watch yourself, Mr. Scott."

The look in Eugene's eyes darkened, and it became difficult to discern what emotion he was experiencing. He merely continued staring at Melanie, and his eyes looked like a whirlpool that could actually suck her in.

Moments later, he asked hoarsely, "Are you fine with anyone as long as it's a man?"

He had been drinking and was breathing more heavily than usual. His eyes were also slightly bloodshot because of that.

"Myself, Stephen, Xander, Bernard... Who's the next guy going to be? Simon, or the Emerson fellow?"

Disgust was practically flowing from Eugene's eyes. "Should I describe you as being overly patient or overly willing to go out on a limb?"

Melanie did not want to waste her time arguing with a drunk. Besides, everything coming out of Eugene's mouth was all nonsense. He would not believe her despite the countless times she had tried to explain herself, least now when he was drunk.

Melanie shut her eyes and forced herself to rein in her emotions before she opened them again. She stared at Eugene as she said, "So, why do you keep appearing before me when you know the sort of person I am?"

For example, he had pulled her behind him that afternoon.

Why did he do that?

Anger flared within Melanie as she raised her head slightly to meet Eugene's eyes. "You know, what you're doing makes you seem even cheaper than I am, Eugene. It's making me think you're trying to establish your presence in my mind because you can't get over me."

A dark look appeared in Eugene's eyes. A frosty expression settled across his face as he narrowed his eyes and asked, "Do you think you're worthy of that?"

A mocking grin appeared on Melanie's face, and she paused momentarily before she answered, "No, I'm not."

The manor was brightly lit, but it seemed dimmer in the parking lot because of how many trees there were.

Melanie accidentally stubbed her toe against a rock when she located her car. A throbbing pain immediately shot up her leg.

She spent some time just sitting in her car and recovering from the pain before driving off,

It was late when Melanie got home, and she immediately fell asleep after washing up. However, the foot that had come into contact with the rock still hurt slightly.

The next morning, Melanie was awoken by the sound of her phone ringing

It was another call from Hearth City, Melanie merely glanced at her screen before rejecting the call and blocking the number.

She went through the motions with ease. Over 20 numbers from Hearth City had made their way into her blocklist.

Her grandfather had been transferred into a general ward, and she had longer visitation hours now. Melanie accompanied him to his check-ups before she went to meet Xander and the others.

On her way there, she received a call from Stephen. “Mel, didn’t you leave the party early last night? Why did you go back?”

“I left my purse behind, so I went to get it.”

Sensing Stephen’s hesitation, Melanie frowned and asked, “What’s the matter?”

“It’s nothing. It’s just that some people in the group chat are spreading rumors around. I decided to ask you because I was worried, but I’m not worried anymore since you’re alright.”

Stephen did not elaborate, but Melanie immediately guessed what was going on.

It was definitely Simon’s doing. After seeing her and Bernard together last night, he was spreading rumors that she had purposely returned to the venue to seduce Bernard.

An odd look appeared on Melanie’s face. People like him had nothing better to do with their time and spent their days causing trouble for others.

However, the fact that Stephen had called her...

Melanie bit her lip as she gave a self-deprecating laugh. It was only reasonable that he suspected her when a chatterbox like Simon existed, coupled with her terrible reputation.

However, what she was not expecting was she would be greeted with even more headache-inducing news after she went to meet Xander.



LeapCo would also be part of the exhibition Blue Inc and Burning Star Studio were collaborating on.

Chapter 360

Melanie had done a lot of research on LeapCo and Blue Inc's collaboration. She immediately came to terms with that fact after a moment's shock.

Xander told her, "Communications with LeapCo can be handled by Reny or Oliver. You don't have to be involved."

Melanie answered, "Didn't we agree previously that I'd be in charge of speaking to these companies?"

She sounded calm. "Besides, it's just a couple of contracts that need signing. It's not like they'll be involved in the design process."

LeapCo was one of the event's sponsors.

Melanie had prepped herself mentally, but she had not been expecting to receive a phone call from LeapCo's person in charge. They invited her over to discuss the contract details.

It was a work-related matter, so Melanie had no choice but to go.

However, she ended up bumping into Eugene and Bernard.

As Melanie waited for the elevator to arrive on the first floor, she looked at her phone and read the messages that had come in.

When the doors opened, she looked up and saw Eugene standing there with a frosty expression on his face. Meanwhile, Bernard was standing next to him, looking listless.

Bernard raised his eyebrows and whistled.

Melanie glanced at him and said flatly, "This is the first floor."

Instead of answering, Bernard asked in reply, "Do you really work at LeapCo?"

"No."

"No."

Two voices rang out simultaneously, and Eugene strode out from the elevator as he said calmly, "She's been fired from LeapCo."

Bernard inquired, "Why?"

Melanie had already entered the elevator and thus did not hear Eugene's answer.

The employees she spoke to this time were Yana and Lee. Hence, everything went smoothly.

However, before she left, Yana tugged on her arm and asked conspiratorily, "Melanie, did you attend Viola's birthday party yesterday?"

"You have no idea how ugly the look on her face was when she walked into work today.

"She kept telling everyone in the office since half a month ago that Mr. Scott was throwing her a birthday party, but she looked like she's been forcing herself to smile all day today."

Melanie recalled how Viola had looked last night. She had not seemed the slightest bit upset, She shook her head and did not say anything.

Eranter 968

Yana did not mind and brought up something else. "I've got more gossip. I heard that Viola invited Mr. Scott's parents to her birthday party yesterday, but neither of them wanted to come."

Viola was not welcome among the secretaries, and the secretary department was like an intelligence agency with access to all sorts of gossip.

Melanie's life resumed its normalcy after a couple of days.

Then, she received a call from an unknown number.

After checking the IP and seeing that the call was coming from Jepton, she answered.

However, George's terrifying voice rang out after a momentary pause. "Jepton City Hospital, right? You forced me to do this, Melanie Smith!"

It was already ten at night, and George hung up the phone after finishing his last sentence.

Melanie froze momentarily before she sprang to her feet from the couch!

George was in Jepton right now?

Was he at the hospital?

Grandpa...

Grandpa!

Melanie sped all the way to the hospital and was greeted by the sight of several men standing before the door leading to her grandfather's ward. The man who looked the fiercest of the bunch was none other than George Chapman!

