

**Mr. Scott 431**

Chapter 431

“This was given to us earlier by Blue Inc. There are a few terms in there that don’t seem right, but I can’t put my finger on it. It feels like the words have been twisted.”

Oliver took out his phone to show Melanie the pictures he took of the contract, “I marked them down.”

Melanie was silent for a moment. “You can just show me the contract directly.”

Oliver smacked himself on the head. “Why didn’t I think of that? I was thinking of emailing this to you because you weren’t coming back.”

He headed upstairs to get the contract after that.

Xander said in a soft voice, “You should have breakfast first. Milk or coffee?”

Oliver soon came downstairs with the contract. Before he could show it to Melanie, Xander stopped him. “Let’s finish breakfast first.”

Melanie’s phone rang right after they had breakfast.

It was Lee.

Melanie felt her heart skip a beat when she saw the name on her phone.

She looked down for a while before picking up the call. Lee was quite polite. “It’s me, Melanie.”

“What do you want?” She sounded a little brusque because she was unhappy about what happened yesterday,

Lee was taken aback. "We need you to come over to LeapCo for a meeting later. We need an update on the progress and to resolve some issues with the materials and location."

LeapCo was the main investor in this joint venture, and they had the right to evaluate the project.

Melanie agreed coldly and hung up immediately.

She was reminded of Eugene at the mention of LeapCo,

It always upset her at the thought of him.

Xander asked, "Was that call from LeapCo?"

The annoyed look on Melanie's face softened slightly. "They want to have a meeting to talk about the materials."

"These corporations are annoying. They know nothing about the project and love having meetings all the time to give useless suggestions," Oliver said unhappily.

Melanie was silent. She was going through a lot of emotions. After a while, she said grimly, "I'll attend the meeting. You should continue with your work. I'll deal with LeapCo."

Even though she did not want to go to LeapCo again and was reluctant to have anything to do with Eugene, this was still her job.

She should do what was required of her, and there was no reason to push it.

Melanie could not give up her job because of this.

It was not worth it.

Xander was about to say something when Oliver spoke up, "That's just as well. We need to work on coordinating the route and the lighting issue."

Melanie nodded. She took the document over from Oliver and kept it. "I'll take a look at it when I'm back."

Xander was frowning, and he looked at Melanie with his deep eyes. His long eyelashes were lowered, and a vague shadow of it was on his face.

Something seemed to be on his mind.

Melanie rushed to LeapCo and headed into the meeting room immediately.

She pushed open the door, only to see Eugene sitting in the main seat with his eyes lowered.

Melanie had returned to Hearth City the night before. She had no idea that Eugene and the

others were back as well.

She pressed her lips. It would be a lie if she said she felt nothing. She had just had it out with Eugene yesterday. When she saw him again, her emotions began flowing out once more.

Melanie did not have enough time to work on holding back those strong emotions. She was about to take her seat when Eugene looked up at her.

There was a frosty look in his dark eyes as his judging and intimidating gaze fell on Melanie. He spoke stoically, "You're a minute late. You don't need to be here if you're late again next time."

Chapter 432

Melanie looked stoic as well. She placed the documents she brought on the table. “These are receipts from our purchase of the materials. They include the quality certification. If you’re worried about them, do feel free to examine them any time.”

She was business-like, and her tone was cold. Lee could not help looking away.

He had always remembered Melanie as someone who obeyed Eugene’s every word. She was

considerate and detailed with what she did.

very

Lee had never seen her acting like a stranger in front of Eugene.

Eugene continued to have a cold look on his face, and there did not seem to be any changes with him. Raising an eyebrow, he even looked a little arrogant.

“You’re pretty obstinate.” He continued in a low and grim tone, “I had no idea that a little studio can act so arrogantly. Do you think LeapCo can be easily cheated out of our money? We won’t pour in any investments without asking the proper questions.”

His tone was nonchalant, but every word he said was clearly heard.

Melanie’s heart sank. She looked up at him and said coldly, “Every receipt for the materials is with me. Is there anything else you’d like to ask, Mr. Scott?”

She was like a porcupine who had her defenses up. She was looking at Eugene guardedly and with caution.

Eugene’s eyes narrowed. He lowered his eyes to look at the receipts on the table and said, “What can some papers prove to us?”

Melanie held back her temper. "How would you like to do this?"

The atmosphere in the meeting room was tense. Lee sighed gently and quietly reminded her, "You seem to have forgotten that Mr. Scott places a lot of emphasis on any project that requires construction work."

A look flashed in Melanie's eyes. It was true that Eugene had always been strict about this.

That was because Eugene had once invested in a project with a partner who did not pay attention to the construction site. Workers were hurt as a result, and it became a huge issue.

Since that incident, Eugene would always check any project that required construction work personally.

Melanie paused for a moment before she heard herself say, "If you're still worried about this, Mr. Scott, you're most welcome to inspect the location."

There was a sharp look in Eugene's eyes as he glanced at Melanie. No one could tell what was going on in those dark eyes of his.

When she walked out of the meeting room, Melanie called Xander to tell him about this.

Xander did not object to it. "If he wants to visit the site, go ahead. Terence and the others are there."

"Alright," Melanie replied. Xander continued, "You should go back to the villa to rest now that

Chapter 433

you're done with LeapCo. You didn't look too well this morning."

Melanie hardly slept the night before, and she was having a slight headache.

She was about to leave after she was done talking to Xander.

Melanie was not required to go with Eugene to the site.

However, she had thought wrong.

Lee came out of the meeting room earlier than Eugene. "Melanie, you need to head to Burning Star with Mr. Scott later. We don't have enough people in the secretary's office, and I need to make a trip to Mr. Clay's office."

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He instructed her with work quite naturally, which made Melanie frown. "My part of the job is done, and there are people present at the site. I'm not required to go with him."

Lee glanced at her when she rejected him.

He had no choice because he could not just push his work away. It had been really busy at the office recently, and everyone in the secretary's office had more work than they could handle.

Viola was also currently on leave, so he had come to Melanie out of habit.

He was about to say something when he heard footsteps behind him.

Eugene's stoic voice spoke up, and it sounded especially grim in the empty corridor.

"Is this how Burning Star works? You're actually letting your partner visit the site on their own?"

He tsk-ed softly. "If that's how you do work, what do you need your partners for?"

Melanie's chest heaved. There was no way for her to push this now that Eugene had used Burning Star to point this out.

Melanie was prepared to head to the site. When she got downstairs, she said calmly, "I won't be sharing a car with you, Mr. Scott. After all, it would be inappropriate to do so. You know the address to the location. We'll meet there."

She left before Eugene could even reply.

Melanie did this without hesitation, and Eugene's expression turned even darker as he stood where he was.

Lee had just contacted the driver. He was shocked to see Eugene in such a dark mood.

Melanie was on the way to the site when she received a call from Stephen. He sounded grim. "Mel, George Chapman and Dylan Lancaster are about to have their trial soon. It's best that you be prepared for it."

There was a lot of evidence stacked against them, especially for George. They had even found evidence of his crimes from a few years ago, and it had all been submitted to court.

Melanie did not feel much about this. George should have expected this when he did all those things.

As for Dylan, not reporting the crime when she knew what happened was equivalent to being an accomplice.

Both of them deserved it.

She watched the view speedily pass by outside and said without emotion, "I'll submit more evidence later to sue George Chapman for murder."

Melanie remembered what Peachie had told her.

George had beaten up her grandfather, which led to his respirator falling off.

However...

A look flashed in Melanie's eyes. She said in a low voice, "I'd still like to see Dylan. I have something to ask her."

Something came up on Stephen's side, and he did not say much about this.

Melanie had just arrived on site when Eugene's Maybach arrived.

She went over to him with a stoic expression.

Terence and another young man were measuring the site with a few workers when Melanie appeared with Eugene. He stopped his work and said, "Xander just called to tell me that Mr. Scott is here for an inspection."

He said cheerfully, "We're almost done over here. All we need to do is to perfect the route and we can start putting everything together."

Eugene swept a glance around, and he noticed some drywall piled up in the corner.

He asked coldly, "Why is there drywall over there?"

Terence followed his gaze.

Their plans included a huge amount of drywall and plaster strips to form the foundation of the decorations. They had just finished inspecting them after the drywall and plaster strips arrived a few days prior.



“Oh, we were trying to resolve the issue with the route and needed to do some measuring, so we placed them over there for now.” Terence did not seem to mind it too much.

He thought Eugene did not understand the situation, so he explained in detail, “Those will be used for the decorations...”

Eugene interrupted him before he could finish. “They’re stacked too high, and it’s messy.”

Terence was taken aback before saying, “We put them there out of convenience.” “People would pass by at any time. They’re too simply placed,” Eugene said in a grim voice. “I don’t want any safety issues to happen at the construction site.”

Terence felt a little unhappy with this, and his smile faltered slightly.

He said, “Mr. Scott, you might not understand our expertise in the craft. We’re quite casual when it comes to this industry. If we follow the rules too rigidly, we’ll lose our inspiration.” Terence looked at Melanie after that. “Xander says that you should go get more rest, Melanie. You should take a seat over there.”

Melanie nodded and went to rest. Eugene was not happy with the site, and she was not able to help out because she was not a professional when it came to this. She could only leave Terence to talk to Eugene about this.

She initially did not feel tired, but the moment she sat down, Melanie suddenly felt fatigued.

She was tired and aching all over.

Her phone rang, and Melanie took it out to see that it was a group message from Yvonne.

She lowered her head to look at her phone. She did not notice that a worker was getting increasingly close to her while measuring the site.

Eugene was almost done inspecting the area. He asked, "When do you estimate for this to be completed?"

Chapter 434

Terence replied, "It depends on the route. The fastest would be a month, but if it gets delayed, it'll be difficult to tell."

Melanie put her phone away and looked up. "Are you done, Mr. Scott?"

Eugene looked down at her. The look in his eyes was frosty.

Melanie stood up, and her sudden movement made her dizzy. She stumbled a step back before managing to stabilize herself.

She was about to leave when she heard some rustling sounds at the side. Next, she heard the worker doing the measurements say, "Please give way!"

He had accidentally knocked into the drywall at the side while he was measuring.

Before Melanie could react, someone pulled her away by the arm and she knocked into the person before being dragged forward.

The messy drywall behind her fell to the floor, and a huge cloud of dust emerged from the crash.

It happened so fast that it took a while for Melanie to realize what had just transpired.

There was a whiff of a cold and distant scent. She immediately realized who she had knocked into.

She looked up to see Eugene frowning with a dark look in his eyes.

Eugene was still grabbing onto her arm. He was the one who had pulled her away.

After a while, everyone working on the site found out what had just happened. Terence

anxiously stepped over the fallen drywall to get to them. "Are you alright?"

Before Melanie could say anything, Eugene's cold voice spoke up, "This is the result of placing something around casually."

Terence turned pale. "It's the first time something like this has happened."

"You shouldn't always depend on luck for things like this."

Eugene's voice was grim, and in addition to his intimidating mannerisms, Terence was unable to say anything in reply.

The worker who had knocked into the drywall looked worried as well.

Melanie's arm was hurting not because she had been hit by the drywall but because Eugene was gripping too hard on her.

His hand was still on her.

She wanted to get Eugene to let go, but when Melanie looked down, she saw that his other hand was bleeding.

When he pulled Melanie away earlier, he blocked the falling drywall and was cut by the sharp edges.

There was a sharp look in Melanie's eyes. "We're going to the hospital."

Eugene had just stopped frowning when he heard this. He turned away from Terence to look at

Melanie.

Melanie took a deep breath and pointed to the back of his hand. "You're an important man, Mr. Scott. If anything happens to you, I won't be able to compensate even if I sell myself."

Eugene raised his bleeding hand and said sarcastically, "You've never disappointed me with your surprises, Melanie,"

He turned to leave after that.

Melanie bit her lip and followed behind.

Before she left, she reminded Terence, "Inform Xander of what happened here. I'll take Eugene Scott to the hospital."

Terence felt guilty. "I didn't do this on purpose, Melanie. We used to do it like this too, but nothing ever happened."

Melanie nodded and said nothing.

It was better that Xander handled this.

The most important thing to do right now was to take care of Eugene.

Fortunately, there was a hospital nearby.

There were quite a few wounds on Eugene's hand, and two of them were particularly deep. They needed to be sewed.

Melanie looked grim as she stared at the bleeding wounds.

Chapter 435

Eugene had gotten hurt at the construction site, and if he pursued this, Burning Star would have to take responsibility.

The look in Mélanie's eyes dimmed as she asked the doctor, "How is his wound? Did he hurt his bones?"

"His bones are fine. It's just that his wounds are a little deep, and they need to be sewed five or six times."

Melanie pressed her lips together. She was thinking quickly about how to minimize the potential loss in this.

When Eugene rolled up his sleeve, a few cuts could be seen all the way down his arm. It was frightening to see the bloodied wounds.

The nurse was carefully taking care of his wounds. Eugene's expression was cold, and his dark eyes made him look even more intimidating.

The nurse was an intern, and her hands trembled from fright. The cotton bud poked right into his wound.

Eugene grunted from the pain, and Melanie snapped out of her thoughts as she turned to look at him.

She did not want to admit it, but it was a fact that Eugene had saved her.

Melanie made a decision as she said carefully, "Burning Star will take responsibility for this. We'll pay for your medical fees."

Eugene looked up at her with his dark eyes. "Do you think I don't have the money to pay for this?"

Melanie's tone did not change. "This was an accident. I apologize to you on behalf of Burning Star."

Eugene snorted, looking at Melanie like she was a joke. There was a frosty look in his eyes, and his tone was chilling to the bone. "If this was an accident, what about the next time? This time, it was me. Who would it be next?"

It was tense in the emergency room. Melanie was silent for quite a while before saying, "There won't be a next time."

Eugene did not say anything. The look in his eyes was still grim, and the pain coming from his hand frustrated him.

Melanie had to leave the room when they sewed up the wound. She sat on the chair outside and stared at the people walking to and fro. She had mixed feelings about this.

She did not expect Eugene to protect her from the drywall and get so seriously hurt.

If it were before, Melanie would have felt guilty enough to run around Eugene and be a slave for him.

However, all she felt now was mental exhaustion.

It was a dark feeling that she could not get rid of or escape from. It made it difficult for her to breathe.

She even wished that she was the one who had gotten hurt.

At least she would not owe Eugene anything.

Her glum emotions were interrupted by the phone ringing. It was Xander.

He asked in a low voice, "How is Eugene Scott?"

Melanie looked at the shut emergency door. "He has a few deep wounds that are being sewed up right now."

Xander was silent. Even he felt that this was going to be difficult to handle.

Eugene was the owner of LeapCo, after all. No one knew what would happen if he got hurt at Burning Star.

Melanie said, "He's being treated inside. I told him that Burning Star will pay for his medical fees."

She paused before continuing, "I'll apologize to him as well."

Xander was silent a while before saying, "Don't overthink this. I'm with Terence now. I'll go over to the hospital in a while. We'll talk then."

"Alright."

"Are you hurt?" Xander asked grimly.

Melanie replied, "I'm fine."

"Good."

After she was done talking to Xander, the emergency room door opened, and Eugene came out with bandages around his arm.

There was not much of an expression on his face. He was looking down, looking a little annoyed.

Chapter 436

The nurse from before appeared with a piece of paper in her hand. "Pay this bill and get a tetanus shot later."

She said this to Melanie and passed the bill to her too.

The nurse must have been frightened by Eugene just now.

Melanie took the bill from her and said to Eugene in a low voice, "Wait for me here. I'll make payment."

Eugene stared at Melanie with his dark and cold eyes but said nothing,

She took the bill to pay for the medicine and later returned to take Eugene for the tetanus shot. However, Eugene suddenly said coldly when they were there, "I'm allergic to the shot."

The doctor administering the shot said, "We can do a protein shot."

Melanie had to make another payment.

After they were done with the shot, they stayed at the hospital to be observed for half an hour. Melanie looked at Eugene's bandaged arm and said in a warm but small voice, "Let me know if you have any requests.

"I just spoke to Xander. As long as the request is manageable, we can do our best to accommodate you."

She was being very apologetic about this.

Melanie had just finished saying this to Eugene when a figure came running down the corridor.



The person was anxiously running right toward them.

Viola had just returned to Jepton from Hearth City with Eugene. They had traveled through the night, and she was too tired to go to work, which was why she applied for leave.

She did not mind it as there was nothing much to do in the company,

Lee suddenly called her to inform her that Eugene was hurt and in the hospital. Lee was stuck in the East district and could not make it there in time. That was why Viola had rushed here

from her house.

Viola saw Melanie standing next to Eugene from a distance and was reminded of what Lee had told her. Eugene had gotten hurt while inspecting the construction site of Burning Star. That was when Viola's face fell.

Melanie was waiting for Eugene's reply when she heard a slightly shrill voice ask, "Are you alright, Eugene?"

Viola was breathless from running, and she immediately pushed Melanie away from Eugene, She bit her lip, and her eyes were red when she looked at him.

"Why did you go to the construction site? Have you any idea how frightened I was when Lee called me? A small studio like that isn't reliable at all. Why would you go to inspect their site?"

She kept going on and on, her loud sobbing attracting many people's attention in the hospital

corridor.

Eugene remained stoic. "Did Lee get you to come?"

“He’s stuck in the North district and can’t make it. Why didn’t you tell me you were hurt, Eugene?” Viola asked him.

Eugene closed his eyes and said calmly, “It’s nothing serious.”

“How is this not serious?” Viola got increasingly upset. “If this isn’t serious, what is? You’re hurt, but another woman is by your side instead of me. Isn’t this serious enough?”

She turned to look at Melanie, and there was resentment in her tone. “Can’t you stop

appearing in front of Eugene now that you’ve left LeapCo, Melanie? Why do you keep using the excuse of work to see him? I know very well what you’re planning,

“It’s not appropriate for Eugene to say much to you, but could you have some sense and distance yourself from him?”

Melanie looked at her with a sarcastic look in her eye. “Do you really think I want to be here?”

Her cold eyes glanced at Eugene as she said brusquely, “About the medical fees, I’ll have to trouble Mr. Scott to bring the receipt to Burning Star. If I continue staying here, I’ll really be the one with no sense.”

She turned to leave after that. Viola watched her walk away with clenched fists. She looked pitifully at Eugene again.

“Why were you with her, Eugene? Did she come looking for you and follow you to inspect the site?”

Viola stared at him wide-eyed. She wanted to hear an answer from him.

However...

Eugene's dark eyes swept a glance at her, and he said flatly, "If you're so unhappy about this, why did you take leave today?"

Viola was taken aback.

Chapter 437

"Eugene... Viola looked at Eugene and said softly, "I wanted to go to the office in the

morning, but I felt a little feverish, so I took a pill and slept until now. I only woke up when Lee called me."

Eugene remained stoic and nodded without saying anything more.

Viola stood at his side. She lowered her eyes while biting her lip.

She could tell from Eugene's tone that he was feeling impatient.

It made Viola even more upset because Eugene had given her that tone because of Melanie.

Melanie bumped into Xander and Terence when she walked out of the hospital.

Terence did not look well, and his head was drooping. Xander must have given him a lecture. When Xander saw Melanie walk out, he asked, "Did something happen?"

"Viola is here. She wants me to keep my distance from Eugene," Melanie said stoically.

Xander looked at her and raised a concerned eyebrow at her. "Are you sure you didn't get hurt? Maybe you should have a check-up."

“I’m really fine.” Melanie shook her head and said grimly, “But Eugene’s wounds are pretty serious. If they decide to pursue this, it won’t be easy to resolve it.”

“This is my fault, Xander and Melanie. I’m so sorry.” Terence looked bitter. He was not in the same situation as Oliver and the rest as he was not Xander’s friend. He was hired through a normal process.

Terence was not from a well-to-do family, and he had been feeling anxious ever since Eugene got hurt

He looked in the direction of the emergency room. “I’ll go and apologize to Mr. Scott. This is my fault, and it has nothing to do with the studio.

“Mr. Scott had warned me that it was dangerous to leave the drywall that way, but I refused to listen to him.”

Melanie nodded. She did not want to see Eugene and Viola again.

She returned to the North district directly.

Xander did not tell her about the outcome of his discussion with Eugene. The next day, Melanie received a call from Stephen to see Dylan.

Melanie had wanted to see Dylan since she was at Hearth City. By the time she went over, Stephen was already waiting at the gates.

He was wearing a white shirt as usual, but Melanie was sharp-eyed enough to notice a black string on his wrist.

It was a cheap string that was not worth much.

Melanie could not help asking, “When did you develop a liking for such an accessory?”

For once, Stephen looked a little embarrassed. “The kids gave it to me.”

Melanie raised an eyebrow but did not say anything about it. At the thought of meeting Dylan, she lost interest in chit–chatting with Stephen.

Dylan looked much older than she was.

Her skin was tanned but also yellow, and there was more gray hair on her head. Her eyes were sunken, and she looked like a skeleton.

When she saw Melanie, her dim, murky eyes lit up. “Are you here to see me, Mel?”

Melanie looked at her stoically. “I have something to ask you,

“Did Viola Shaw contact you to tell you how to get money from me? Was she the one who told you that George Chapman would take Grandpa away and extort money from me?”

Her voice was cold and direct, startling Dylan,

After a while, she nodded but shook her head the next moment.

“What do you mean?”

A sharp look appeared in Melanie’s eyes. “What do

“She did approach me, but she didn’t tell me to ask for money from you”

Chapter 438

Melanie smirked. “She probably told you that LeapCo would compensate me with a huge sum of money if I resigned, which was why you went there to make a huge fuss.

“She probably also said that I care for Grandpa a lot. As long as you had him under your grasp, you didn’t need to worry about me not giving you any money.”

Melanie said this slowly, and the expression on Dylan’s face gradually turned blank at each word.

In the end, she said hoarsely, “Mel, Viola just feels that life hasn’t been easy for me. She kept telling me that there wouldn’t be any grudges between mother and daughter, which was why she convinced me to look for you. She thought that it’d help improve our relationship.

“I was the one who let you down. I’ve been thinking a lot for the past few days, and I’ve really learned my lesson. I was the one at fault before. I was the one who caused you and Peachie so much harm. I deserve to die.”

There was misery and despair on her aging face. Her dry hands were still in handcuffs.

George had committed plenty of crimes before, and there were a few things he did that were quite terrible. Dylan knew all about them but said nothing, which was why she was viewed as trying to cover his crimes up.

She wanted to hold Melanie’s hand. “I regret it now, Mel, but Peachie is innocent. I’m a guilty person who deserves to be punished, and I accept the fact that I might be sentenced to death. But I’m worried about Peachie.

“Can you take care of her on account of me? I’m begging you...”

Dylan’s pitiful voice continued reverberating in her ears after Melanie left the police station.

She tsk–ed because she had no idea how to describe Dylan.

Dylan was stupid to a point.

Yet, she thought she was being smart.

She had been used by others but continued to defend the person who made use of her.

Melanie had painstakingly analyzed Dylan's words, and they proved that Viola was very

careful with what she did. She had even maintained her warm and kind persona when speaking to Dylan.

Moreover, the brainless Dylan defended her.

That was smart of Viola.

However...

Melanie smiled self-deprecatingly. Dylan was worried for Peachie and even had a few nice things to say about Viola.

The only person she did not mention was Melanie.

It was fine. Melanie did not harbor any hope for her, anyway.

Stephen did not go inside with Melanie. When he saw her walk out looking normal, he frowned and asked, "How did it go?"

Melanie said, "How about coming with me to another place?"

Besides asking Dylan those questions, she also asked about where Dylan had met up with Viola.

Dylan was not a very smart person and told Melanie everything.

Along the way, Stephen suddenly received a call. He glanced at Melanie before clearing his throat to pick up the call. "Nicole?"

Melanie looked at Stephen with a raised eyebrow.

Nicole?

That was a woman's name.

Stephen's expression darkened when he heard what was being said on the other line. He parked the car by the side of the road despite Melanie being there. After that, he said grimly, Listen to me, Nicole. Don't do anything stupid. Don't hurt yourself over someone who isn't worth it."

After that, his tone changed, and he sounded like he was cajoling someone. "Listen to me, your parents will feel even worse if they find out what you did."

It was five minutes after Stephen was done with the call. He looked upset.

Melanie looked at him. "Nicole?"

Stephen paused before shaking his head and smiling bitterly. "It's just a silly kid."

Chapter 439

Stephen looked like he did not want to say anything more, and Melanie did not ask any further.

They went to the motel that Dylan had stayed at. When the receptionist heard that they were here to get the surveillance footage, he asked them to leave. "Surveillance footage? What footage? We don't have anything like that here!"



This place claimed to be a motel, but it was just a residential building next to the hospital that was converted into a motel. It did not have the best facilities.

Melanie noticed that this place did not have an operating license.

Stephen shook his head. "There's nothing we can do here. Let's check out the other locations."

Melanie agreed. Despite feeling disappointed, she did not express it.

However, she did not want to give up just like that. Dylan had told her quite a few spots.

The fact that Dylan kept defending Viola was going to be something quite difficult to handle.

Melanie looked frustrated, and her pretty eyes dimmed.

Stephen understood what she was going through and consoled her softly, "Don't be anxious. You still have me."

Melanie went home to rest for the night. She went to the villa the next day.

She still had no idea how to handle the issue of Eugene getting injured.

Melanie did not expect to bump into Carla on her way there.

She did not have a deep impression of Carla. All she remembered was that Eugene had brought her to attend Carla's husband's birthday party a few years ago. After that, they did not really see each other.

It was also because Melanie had bumped into her with Stella that made her remember Carla.

Carla was dressed in branded haute couture and had exquisite makeup on her face. She smiled and nodded when she saw Melanie.

Melanie nodded in return.

“You’re Melanie Smith, aren’t you?” Carla suddenly called out to her when they brushed by each other.

Melanie paused. “Mrs. Goldman,”

Carla said, “Please don’t take Stella’s words seriously from our last meeting. That’s just the way she is.”

Melanie did not expect Carla to say this to her. She frowned before replying, “Anyone who knows Madam Scott is well aware of what her personality is like. I won’t hold it against her. Besides, even if I wanted to, I probably don’t have the ability to do so.”

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There was a look of surprise in Carla’s eyes. Melanie had subtly suggested that Stella had a lousy temper.

“I’ll be leaving if there’s nothing else,” Melanie said nonchalantly.

She did not know Carla well. Moreover, she was someone associated with Stella and the Scotts, There was nothing much for them to chat about.

Carla watched her leave and frowned slightly.

She had not believed it when Stella mentioned that Eugene was no longer with this lady.

It looked like Stella was telling the truth.

Melanie did not think much about bumping into Carla,

The villa was very quiet when she arrived. Reny and Oliver were sitting on the sofa silently.

Melanie knew that it must be about what happened yesterday. She looked around and did not see Xander. Lowering her eyes, she asked, "Where's Xander?"

Reny looked up. "He's on a call inside the study."

"Why are you all looking so out of sorts? Is it because of what happened yesterday?" Melanie asked.

Reny shook her head. "Nope. LeapCo hasn't gotten back to us on how to handle that. All they said was to wait for their answer. Xander is working on something else."

"What is it?"

Reny suddenly stopped explaining, "You should ask him yourself later. I don't really understand it yet."

Chapter 440

Reny's words made Melanie suddenly feel anxious. When Xander finally walked out of the study, she could not help asking, "How did it go with you and Eugene yesterday? What were his thoughts?"

Xander paused. His dark circles were pretty serious, and it looked like he had not been resting well. "It's hard to say. He rejected all forms of compensation I offered."

Melanie looked down. She knew what Eugene was like. Compensation meant nothing to him.

She thought about this and said, “Reny said you need help with something else?”

Xander nodded. He got Melanie to sit down. There was fatigue in his usually lively eyes.

His voice was slightly low. “I was about to go and see you if you weren’t coming today. I have something to discuss with you.”

Melanie looked at him.

“Burning Star is planning to focus its development in Jepton next. Besides LeapCo, Blue Inc, and other government contracts, we’ve been receiving requests from other businesses.”

Xander was very serious when working, and he looked at Melanie with his dark eyes. “We need a business department to help us handle such situations. I wonder if you’re interested in taking up the role.”

“That’s right, Melanie. You should handle this,” Oliver said after Xander was done. He looked troubled. “Every craft has its expert, and I’m not talented when it comes to this at all. Contracts are such a word-twisting affair.”

Xander added, “It’s fine if you aren’t willing to take the job.”

“I want the job,” Melanie agreed without hesitation.

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She knew that Xander was giving her an opportunity, and there was no reason for her not to

agree.

After all, Xander was the one who helped her when she first came to Burning Star. She would not have been able to join such a studio when she was a rookie who knew nothing about the industry.

Melanie understood this, and she quickly let him know her decisions. "I did pretty well before with the business side of things."

Xander raised his eyebrow slightly. "Very confident. Not bad."

Melanie agreed to Xander's offer, and she picked up the work quickly.

The only issue she faced was LeapCo's uncertain attitude. It was causing Terence to be distracted, and he would constantly come to Melanie to ask about the situation.

Melanie was worried about this too. They were at fault in this situation. If Eugene wanted to pursue this matter, there was nothing they could do about it.

She decided to head down to LeapCo to find out their ultimate decision if they did not give her a reply by Friday. Everyone was worried about this, and it affected their work progress.

However, Xander informed her later in the day that she had to attend a banquet on Friday night.

"Blue Ine's anniversary celebration?" Melanie paused. She immediately clicked on the message Cameron had sent her. He had also invited her, but she had been too busy to read it.

"It's Blue Ine's 50th anniversary, and many people will be attending it. Burning Star is currently working with them, which means that we'll have to attend it too." Zander paused after saying this. After that, he added nonchalantly, "LeapCo will be sending someone to attend it too,"

Before he finished, Melanie already knew that Eugene was probably the one attending the banquet because LeapCo and Blue Ine were now working together. He had to show his sincerity in their partnership by showing up at the banquet,

Melanie's expression remained stoic. "I've received the invitation too. I'll attend the banquet. Besides, you've said it yourself that many people will be attending this. I could use the opportunity to get some business there."

She settled into her new role as a business manager very quickly.

Melanie went with Xander to attend the event on Friday evening.

Oliver and Reny were also attending it with them.

Blue Inc had poured in a lot of money for this event, and they were holding it at Litman Manor. Melanie had chosen an off-shoulder purple mermaid dress because of her arm. Her long hair was tied up behind her head, and her long, slender neck was exposed.

When they got out of the car, there was a slight breeze, and Melanie frowned slightly.

Litman Manor was at the foot of the hill, and the breeze was slightly cold.

The next second, a warm coat was placed over her shoulders.

Xander looked normal as usual, but the look in his eyes was soft and gentle. He lowered his eyes to look at Melanie. He uttered slowly, "Don't catch a cold."

Melanie looked down to avoid his gaze, and her lips were pressed together slightly.