

**Mr. Scott 51**

Chapter 51

Melanie did not take the bottle of water. She said, "I'll drive you home first."

"It's okay. Drive to your place, and I'll

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omeone to drive me home," said Stephen after a

"You don't have to go through all that trouble." Melanie rejected his suggestion after thinking

about it.

Stephen was rarely so stubborn. "It's already so late. It's unsafe for a woman to drive alone.

After Melanie drove back to her place, Stephen called someone to drive him home. He handed the clay figurine she left in the car to her. "Throw a coin on it whenever you're unhappy."

Melanie did not understand what he meant.

He explained, "My grandfather taught me this. It works. It's just like a wish fountain."

Melanie took the figurine and headed upstairs. She placed the two figurines on her study table. She pondered for a while before throwing a coin onto them.

It was Wednesday morning, Melanie applied for a day off from work as her grandfather had to go for a check-up that day.

When she went to pick up her grandfather from the nursing home, the dean happened to be there. Beating about the bush, he reminded Melanie to pay for the next term.

The nursing home was pretty good in all aspects, and the fees were costly. Recalling her schedule, Melanie decided to pay the fees on Friday.

Her grandfather looked at her and shook his head. "I told you not to put me in such an expensive nursing home, yet you refused to listen. Look at how much you've spent all these years."

Melanie helped him get into the car. "It's nothing. LeapCo pays me well."

Her grandfather hesitated for a while before asking, "Has your mom asked you for money recently?"

After Melanie's parents divorced, her mother married another man. However, her grandfather did not agree to it, so her mother cut off ties with her grandfather.

Two years ago, her mother appeared out of nowhere and said that her younger daughter was ill, so she needed a huge amount of money.

Melanie remained silent for a while before replying to her grandfather, "Don't worry. I know what to do."

Melanie's mother was, after all, his daughter. It was inappropriate for him to say anything. He tried to probe into the matter by negotiating, with Melanie, "Why don't I change to a different nursing home or stay at home?"

Melanie disagreed. Her grandfather was not in good health, and he was alone. She was busy with work and had little time to look after him.

She comforted her grandfather, saying, "You don't have to worry so much. All you have to do

is keep yourself healthy."

Only when Melanie arrived at the hospital did she find out that Viola's father would be discharged today.

Viola's father seemed to have recuperated well and could walk with crutches.

Melanie bumped into Viola and her father walking out of the elevator when she was walking into the hospital with her grandfather. She did not see Eugene.

When Viola called her, Melanie was about to enter the elevator with her grandfather. She turned around.

Viola plastered a smile on her face and looked at Melanie as she took a deep breath. "Eugene is in the car park, putting the things in the trunk."

She wanted to show that she did not come alone and Eugene had accompanied her.

Melanie calmly nodded. "Mhm."

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Viola's smile almost faded as she watched Melanie enter the elevator.

She knew she looked like a fool saying that. However, it gave her a sense of crisis whenever she saw Melanie being so calm.

After ensuring her grandfather's medical reports were fine, Melanie returned to work. Yana excitedly shared something with her. "The photos from the team-building event are out. Do you want to take a look, Melanie?"

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Melanie glanced at the photos. There was nothing worthy of mention. They were all ordinary group photos.

However, Yana had a pair of sharp eyes. She found a photo from the stack and asked with some hesitation, “Melanie, isn’t this you and Mr. Scott?”

Chapter 52

Melanie looked at the photo.

In the photo was a woman and a man standing outside the hotel lobby. Eugene was holding her waist, and she was looking at him.

Although the photo was taken from afar, their expressions could not be seen. Their posture was intimate and ambiguous.

Facing the curious Yana, Melanie said, “I almost fell, and he grabbed me.”

Yana was one of the many people who had seen this photo. Many others in the company had seen it too. Viola’s expression had been gloomy the whole day because of this.

Eugene did not react differently, and neither had he seen the photo.

Viola felt better upon seeing this.

That afternoon, someone from the finance department came looking for Melanie with a salary slip for her to sign.

Melanie had caused them to lose their cooperation with Frank. According to LeapCo’s rules, she had to pay a penalty that was equivalent to three months of her salary.

Her monthly salary was relatively high, so three months of her salary was a big number.

Yana just so happened to see the numbers and was shocked. “Melanie, the amount that was deducted is enough to pay for the deposit of a house in my hometown.”

Melanie looked at the numbers and did not sign the salary slip. Frowning, she pursed her lips.

Only after the finance employee urged her did she sign it.

Yana knew what had happened and felt it was unfair to Melanie. “It’s not your fault that we lost this project. Why are you the only one who has to pay the price? It’s unfair.”

Melanie said nothing. Her phone happened to ring, and a cute and weak voice came from the other end of the call. “Sis, when are you visiting me again?”

Peachie was her half-sister. She was only eight years old and was suffering from leukemia. She needed a high amount of medical fees every month.

The last time Melanie saw her was when her mother brought Peachie to her. Her mother had wept and begged Melanie back then.

However, other than when she required Melanie to transfer her money, Dylan seldom called

her.

Dylan Lancaster was Melanie’s mother.

Yana needed to send a document upstairs after they returned to the office. Melanie pondered and said, “I’ll send it.”

Viola bit her lip when she saw that Melanie was upstairs. “Melanie, why are you here?”

“I have a document to hand to Mr. Scott.” Melanie showed Viola the document.

Viola wanted to get up. “I’ll hand it to him.”

“I need his remark.” Melanie sounded indifferent.

Viola froze before sitting back down in her seat.

Melanie pushed open the office door and saw the busy Eugene.

Eugene lifted his head upon hearing the sound. Melanie handed the document to Eugene and said, “Please sign this document and leave a remark.”

“Put it on the table. I’ll look through it later.” Eugene nodded.

Then, he continued with his job. However, Melanie stood there, not intending to leave.

Eugene stopped doing his work and asked her, “Is there anything else you want to say?”

“About the penalty of my three months salary...” Melanie looked at Eugene’s table as she . spoke.

Eugene froze before he placed his arms on the table, clenching his fingers into a fist. His voice was deep. “It’s the company’s rules.”

“I said I can make up for it.”

“Did you manage to make up for it?” Eugene scoffed as he looked at Melanie meaningfully.” Melanie, you’re not an exception.”

Chapter 53

He spoke as he flipped through the document Melanie brought. Then, he threw it at a corner of the table. "So, you don't deserve to be treated differently."

Melanie had been eating in the company's canteen with Yana and would go for the cheapest set meal. LeapCo had a proper canteen, and the welfare of their employees was reasonably good.

Yana was curious. "Melanie, why have you been eating at the canteen recently?"

Before Melanie could answer her, Yana responded to her own question, "Oh, I understand. Is it because of the penalty issue?"

Melanie grunted in response to her question.

Not only did Yana feel that it was unjust for Melanie, but even others working in the same department felt the same way.

However, they dared not ask Melanie and only talked about it behind her back.

Melanie happened to hear the gossip about her when she was about to walk out of the toilet cubicle. Stunned, she stopped in her action of opening the door.

"If I were Melanie, I'd be so angry. She has to get three months of salary deducted when it's not her fault at all. If I were her, I would've resigned. Melanie is capable and can get a job anywhere easily."

"She can't resign. Melanie seems to have signed a labor contract with LeapCo," said another

woman.

Only when the voices faded did Melanie walk out.

She had indeed signed a labor contract with LeapCo, and Cedric was the one who made her sign it.

On Friday, Melanie went to the nursing home, paid the fee for the next term, and transferred Peachie's medical expenses for the month to Dylan.

When she left the nursing home, her grandfather stuffed a bank card into her palm.

Melanie's forehead creased. "Why are you giving me this?"

"I can't let you bear all of Peachie's medical expenses. I'm her grandfather, after all." The old man sighed. "There isn't much money in it. Maybe it'll only be enough for a few months' worth of medical fees."

When Melanie returned home, she saw Eugene, who seemed to be going out.

He froze when he saw Melanie. "Did you take the afternoon off?"

"Yes. I had something to deal with."

Eugene looked at her before parting his lips and saying, "Tomorrow night at Jepton Hotel."

Stella's birthday was tomorrow, and Melanie thought he would go with Viola.

He had already walked away when she was about to ask Eugene if they had to leave together.

The next day, Melanie waited for Eugene at home until 5:30 pm, but she did not see him. Thus, she drove to Jepton Hotel herself.

She only realized Eugene had already arrived when she was at the venue.



Beside him was Viola who was dressed gorgeously. She was welcoming the guests with Stella and Eugene.

Stella looked at Melanie with a sneer. Melanie handed her the gift she brought. "Happy birthday, Mrs. Scott."

She knew Stella despised her and the gift she brought.

Although Cedric looked down on Melanie's status, he did not care to make things difficult for a woman. He just said sternly, "Go in since you're already here."

Many of Eugene's friends attended Stella's birthday party.

When Melanie entered the hall, she saw Simon and the others.

Viola led Melanie to Simon's table and said, "Simon, Melanie is here. Eugene is busy, so please help us take good care of Melanie."

It was the first time Melanie was a guest at a banquet of the Scott family. She lowered her eyelids, hiding her surging emotions.

Just as she sat, Eugene approached her and knocked on the table in front of Melanie as he looked at her. He said indifferently, "Come over and help."

Chapter 54

It was Viola's first time attending such an event. She might not know how things worked.

Melanie had guessed that something like this would happen. It was just that she did not know what Eugene wanted her to help with.

She lifted her head and said calmly, "It isn't appropriate for me to do so."

Eugene looked at her without showing any expression. He said, "Go and teach her."

Melanie naturally knew who he meant. Pursing her lips, she said nothing.

The last time she taught Viola, it ended up making her lose her job as the president's secretary.

She wanted to reject it, but Eugene said, "Take it as a job before she's ready to take over the wheel. I'll pay you a salary."

He had said it casually, yet Simon whistled and quipped with interest, "Eugene, you sure are generous."

Then, he looked at Melanie. "This is a good opportunity. Why aren't you grabbing it, Melanie?"

Melanie wasn't sure if it was an opportunity or a trap. She looked outside and saw Viola standing there nervously. Others would think she was a waitress if they did not know her identity.

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This was Viola's first time attending the Scott family's banquet. She knew nothing much about wealthy family's banquets or probably could not even recognize the guests. She could only stand beside Stella and smile like a doll.

Stella was annoyed to see her being so foolish. Viola felt aggrieved, yet she dared not show it on her face and could only stand there with a stiff smile.

When Eugene returned, she looked at him and subconsciously wanted to hide behind him.

Before she could move, she saw Melanie behind Eugene. Her smile froze, and she asked Eugene in a whisper, "Eugene, Melanie is our guest. Why did you bring her here?"

Before Eugene could explain, Melanie stood behind Stella. She politely and naturally took the gifts the guests brought and greeted the guests.

The difference was noticeable. Viola pouted her lips and tugged Eugene's sleeve. She was about to shed tears. "Eugene, did you bring Melanie over because you think I'm too stupid to handle this?"

Eugene wiped her tears and comforted her, saying, "She's used to doing this."

Melanie was not far from them and heard every word Eugene said.

Her hand that was receiving the gift froze for a second before she pretended nothing had happened. She put the gift aside.

Although Stella disliked Melanie, she felt things were easier with Melanie around. She left Melanie to attend to the guests and went inside to take a break.

After Stella and Cedric left, Viola was less tense. She held Eugene's hand and sniffled as she asked him, "Did I embarrass you today?"

"No." Eugene tucked Viola's hair behind her ear. "You're not a waitress. I don't need you to do all this to make me more presentable."

Only then did Viola feel better. Meanwhile, Melanie said nothing.

Viola was not a waitress and did not need to do all this.

Melanie was offended.

Stephen was a little late. He came with his parents and was startled to see Melanie welcoming the guests.

His parents were highly educated and polite.

Melanie understood where Stephen got his gentlemanly side from when she saw them.

After Stephen and his family took their seats, Melanie looked at the guest list. Only a few more guests had not arrived.

Eugene and Viola had long taken their seats. The banquet began right after Melanie welcomed the last guest.

Before she could take a break, her phone beeped. Eugene had sent her a message through WhatsApp, asking her to go to him.

Melanie had experienced this countless times. She previously had to attend to the guests with Eugene.

When she approached him, Stella and Cedric were already waiting there. Beside them was Viola.

Stella was not in a good mood. She glanced at Melanie and said, "It's embarrassing enough to bring one, yet he brought two."

Chapter 55

Eugene said, "Viola is allergic to alcohol and can't drink."

"Why did you bring her here, then?"

Melanie had the same thought in mind. Since Viola couldn't drink, why did Eugene bring her?

Soon, she understood why.

Melanie had been by Eugene's side for years, and many thought she was dating Eugene.

Hence, some would tease them when she toasted the guests.

Thus, Eugene's girlfriend, Viola, had to stand beside him and smile to clear the misunderstanding.

When they were at Simon's table, Stella greeted them and walked away after exchanging pleasantries.

Viola was less stressed without Stella around and chatted with the rest.

Melanie was ignored. She did not want much to do with Viola and the others, so she looked for a quiet corner to rest.

Stephen followed her and said gently, "Mel, come over and meet someone."

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Many people in Jepton attended Stella's birthday banquet, which was held by the Scott family. Stephen took her to meet a few bosses in charge of an art exhibition.

Melanie had learned a lot about art to get Stella to like her before this. She knew a lot about it and could join the conversation.

Moreover, she was sensitive and immediately won the favor of the bosses. They even made a proposition to her. "Miss Smith, you can work with us if you're interested. We happen to be working on an exhibition lately."

After leaving the table, Stephen observed her and said, "Mel, I think you should give it a try."

Melanie asked, "Give what a try? Planning the art exhibition?"

"I think your ideas are great," said Stephen. He happened to see Eugene walking over and added after a pause, "I don't think it's a good choice for you to continue working in LeapCo."

Melanie and Eugene's matter was not a secret anymore. Eugene had previously taken Melanie everywhere, so everyone assumed they were a couple.

However, Eugene had Viola now, and Melanie's presence was unnecessary.

Stephen said, "Mel, it's not wrong to keep an extra choice for yourself."

Those words shattered Melanie's thoughts.

She understood where he was coming from, but it was not as easy as it seemed.

Melanie was pondering when Eugene approached. He glanced at Stephen and Melanie before saying, "Mr. Zeller of Hendric Corporation is over there. Why are you hiding here?"

He was saying this to Melanie. Melanie looked at Mr. Zeller. He was a difficult man to deal with and had a strange temper. He would never care about anyone's flattery.

212

She was about to walk to Mr. Zeller when Stephen grabbed her wrist and said calmly, "Mel, think about it."

Eugene's expression turned cold upon seeing Stephen holding Melanie's wrist.

After greeting Mr. Zeller, Melanie was already tipsy, and her head felt heavy.

She excused herself after telling Stephen where she was going and headed to the room upstairs to rest.

When she walked out of the elevator, she heard a voice. "Eugene."

She froze as she looked over and saw Viola leaning against Eugene's chest softly as though her entire body was made of jelly.

Eugene held her arm with one hand as if afraid she might fall.

"Eugene, sleep with me, please?" Viola seemed to be drunk.

However, Eugene had just said Viola was allergic to alcohol.

Melanie understood that was just an excuse not to let Viola drink.

Just as she was absent-minded, she accidentally tripped but managed to balance herself by holding onto the wall.

Chapter 56

Eugene immediately noticed her.

Expressionless, he saw Melanie looking at them with her face flushed red.

She was alone and looked more lonely and vulnerable than before.

Eugene's expression changed slightly as he watched Melanie walk into the suite next to him.

When she walked past him, she paused, and Eugene could smell the alcohol on her.

Melanie felt herself going into a deep slumber. In the middle of the night, she felt thirsty and got up to drink some water.

However, she could not sleep again after getting up. Her phone happened to beep, and she saw a bank alert notification when she took her phone.

Eugene had transferred her 10,000 dollars.

It was probably her salary that night.

The news of Viola attending Stella's birthday banquet spread in the company, and there was new gossip going around.

Yana asked Melanie secretly if it was true, and Melanie nodded.

This proved Eugene was serious about dating Viola.

Viola was an intern, and it would take her three months to get promoted.

Eugene was supposed to issue her the internship letter, but she was in the secretary department before this and forgot to change her department. Thus, she had to look for Melanie.

Viola graduated from Jepton University, a university with standards. Thus, it was strict about proof of internship.

When Melanie received her application, she still had a few other documents to deal with and other internship letters to issue.

After thinking about it, she said, "Come and get it tomorrow. I still have a few other tasks to deal with."



Viola agreed and left.

Melanie then got herself busy. When she remembered about this matter the next day, Viola still had not come to look for her.

She thought Viola had asked someone else to issue it for her, so she did not ask about it. All she did was give out the other internship letters.

Little did she think that Yana would come to her again with gossip to share. “Viola is crying again. Even Mr. Scott can’t coax her.”

Just as she finished her words, the phone in the office rang. Melanie was asked to go up to the president’s office.

Melanie lifted her eyebrow. She saw Viola crying with her face down on the desk when she went upstairs.

Viola was startled when she approached. Melanie stopped before her and asked, “Did I offend you somehow?”

The weeping Viola stopped her sobs and lifted her head. “Melanie, why didn’t you just tell me if you didn’t want to issue my internship letter?”

Melanie paused and looked at Viola as she said, “Viola, I told you to come to my office the next day, but you didn’t come.”

“I sent you an email and even messaged you.” Viola sobbed as she spoke. Her eyes, shimmering with tears, looked aggrieved.

“My university received the other interns’ internship letters yesterday, but they didn’t receive mine. Melanie, you could’ve just told me if you couldn’t issue it. I could’ve looked for someone else.”

Melanie did not remember having Viola's number. She went through her phone and found Viola's messages in her work account.

Viola had only sent her two messages.

[Melanie, can you please sign my internship letter?]

[I've sent you an email.]

Just then, the door to Eugene's office opened, and he knocked on the door frame. His voice was cold as he ordered, "Melanie, come in."

Then, he looked at Viola. "You too."

It seemed that Eugene had asked for Melanie's presence because of Viola's internship letter. He asked Melanie, "Why didn't you issue Viola's internship letter?"

Melanie pursed her lips and spoke only after a few seconds, "I told her to look for me. I was busy."

Chapter 57

"But you issued the internship letters for the other interns," said Eugene. He looked indifferent as he continued, "Are you sure you weren't treating Viola differently?"

Melanie wanted to retort, but she said something else instead, "I treated Viola differently?"

"Isn't that so?" Eugene took a document on the table and threw it before Melanie. "Everyone else's name is on the outstanding list of interns except for Viola's."

Melanie looked at the list. "I didn't create this list."

“The secretarial department submitted this. Haven’t you looked through it?” Eugene’s attitude was obvious. He was speaking up for Viola as if Melanie had done something bad to Viola.

Melanie flipped through the list and explained patiently, “The names of the interns were listed according to their results.”

Melanie looked at Viola. “Do you know what I mean?”

Viola’s face turned pale. She knew exactly what Melanie meant.

The interns of the secretarial department would follow the managers to meet the clients. Only she stayed by Eugene’s side. She did not know anything and could not follow up on the cooperation with the big clients. Moreover, Eugene did not have to meet those small clients.

Thus, she did not have any achievements.

However...

Viola bit her lip as she looked at Melanie.

She would not believe that Melanie did not do this on purpose.

It was just adding her name to the list. If Melanie wanted, she could do it.

Melanie happened to turn around, and her eyes met Viola’s. After a pause, she said, “If you want to be on this list, I can add your name to it.”

She sounded calm and did not seem like she cared. It made Viola look immature.

Shaking her head, Viola said vulnerably, “Melanie, you don’t need to do that. I know I haven’t made any achievements.”

“Alright then,” said Melanie.

Unexpectedly...

“Melanie, know your limits!” Eugene seemed displeased. Frowning, he opened the folder, took a random pen, and wrote Viola’s name on the list.

He was determined to add Viola’s name to the list, Melanie looked at Eugene and took the document.

Before the door closed, she heard Viola asking Eugene in a muffled voice, “Eugene, I don’t think this seems appropriate.”

“What’s wrong about it?” Eugene threw the pen aside.

Before Melanie got off work, she received a call from Stephen, saying he was having dinner with the bosses of the art exhibition. He wanted to ask her if she was interested in joining them.

Melanie knew Stephen was trying to help her, so she agreed to go.

LeapCo might not be a good choice for her.

Melanie thought about it and calculated the money she had. It was barely enough for her to use for some time.

Moreover, if she left LeapCo, she could get some compensation.

All she needed to do was not work in this industry anymore.

Melanie sat by her desk and was in a daze.

Yana knocked on her desk. "Melanie, Mr. Scott wants you to attend a dinner meeting with our client."

Melanie snapped out of her thoughts. Eugene had not taken her out to meet clients for quite some time.

She looked at the information in the folder Yana handed her and froze.

Her face turned pale.

Chapter 58

Her limbs turned cold upon seeing the client's name on the contract.

It was Frank, the president of Sundale.

Melanie was almost molested by Frank the last time. The scene was even recorded.

Yana told Melanie that Viola had wanted to follow Eugene, but he rejected her.

Melanie muttered expressionlessly, "Of course, he wouldn't let her go."

Frank was a scumbag. Almost everyone in Jepton knew this.

Eugene cared about Viola so much. Of course, he wouldn't let her have any contact with a man like Frank.

Melanie tried to ignore the gossip among her colleagues. Her phone that she had placed aside beeped. She looked at it and saw Dylan had sent her a photo of Peachie who was hooked on an IV drip.

After a while, Melanie texted her back.

[Is Peachie alright?]

Dylan replied quickly, saying Peachie's illness might have worsened, and she might need more money for that month.

Melanie looked at the message silently and transferred the 10,000 dollars Eugene gave her to Dylan.

Eugene walked toward Melanie. "Follow me.

Recalling Frank's perverted gaze, Melanie frowned subconsciously. Eugene noticed she was not getting up and asked in a gloomy tone, "Are you reluctant to go?"

Standing up, Melanie said expressionlessly, "No."

When they arrived, Frank was not there yet. Melanie took her handbag and said to Eugene, "I'm going to the restroom for a while."

Eugene asked, "Are you nervous?"

He was talking about the photo of Frank and her. Melanie looked at him as her eyelashes fluttered. "Mr. Scott, this joke isn't funny."

"Do I look like I'm joking to you?" Eugene's expression was calm. He did not have the habit of smoking. His fingers were slender and flawless.

His left hand rested on his right wrist, making him look lazy and casual.

Melanie had no idea what Eugene meant by this. She wanted to ask him, but before she could, Frank had arrived.

After exchanging pleasantries with Eugene, he smiled and shook hands with Melanie. His bold and lewd gaze made Melanie uncomfortable.

Melanie embraced herself when she shook his hand. However, Frank was not as bold as before, maybe because Eugene was around. They talked about business seriously.

Only when they were done talking business did Frank divert his topic to Melanie. "Miss Smith, you're young and pretty. Do you have a boyfriend?"

Melanie lifted her head and looked at Eugene. Looking at Eugene's indifferent expression, she answered, "No."

"Why don't I introduce you to one?" Frank chuckled as he pointed at himself and asked, "What do you think of me?"

Melanie forced a smile. "Please stop joking, Mr. Yates."

However, Frank insisted on getting an answer from Melanie. He was drunk and a little unreasonable.

Melanie could not reject him and could only drink with him.

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After Frank's secretary supported him and walked out of the private room, Melanie felt that her head was heavy. She tried to get up by holding onto the table. She wanted to leave, but her legs felt like jelly, and she fell.

Fortunately, someone held her by the arm, preventing her from falling.

Melanie squinted her eyes and saw Eugene's expressionless face.

Startled, she reached out to grab him.

Frowning, Eugene took a step back. "Melanie."

Melanie's mind was blurry, and she tugged at Eugene's shirt. She half-squatted on the ground

and lifted her head as she asked Eugene, "Don't you like me anymore?"

Her eyes were red, and she looked puzzled. Her grip on his shirt was tight.

Eugene was stunned by her question. However, he nodded calmly. "Yes. I don't like you anymore."

Hearing that, Melanie loosened her grip and let Eugene help her get up.

Chapter 59

However, she held onto Eugene again when he sent her home. She was reluctant to let go as she muttered, "Why?"

Eugene did not hear her. He placed Melanie on the sofa and prepared to leave, yet Melanie grabbed his shirt again.

Then, she leaned against his body with her soft body. She kept muttering his name, "Eugene

When Melanie woke up the next day, she was sleeping on the sofa. She was not covered with a blanket, and the window was wide open..

Her head was aching, Looking at the time, she saw that it was already 9:00 am.

It was already too late for her to go to work. Melanie called Yana and asked her to apply for a day off for her.



She went to take a bath, but she still felt dizzy afterward. When she checked her temperature, she found out she was having a fever.

Melanie wanted to take some fever pills, but there were none left at home. She had no choice but to go out and purchase them.

Just as she stepped out of her house, she bumped into Eugene.

Melanie had no memory of what happened after she was drunk, but she knew Eugene might have sent her home.

Her face was pale as she looked at Eugene. She wanted to speak, but the pain in her throat stopped her.

Eugene was in casual attire and did not seem to be going to the company.

When Eugene saw Melanie's pale face, he quickly looked away and left.

He seemed to be rushing somewhere.

Melanie felt weak and fell before she could get to the elevator. She felt cold and ill.

When she woke up, it was already noon.

Melanie touched her forehead, which was still warm.

She licked her dry lips and wanted to see the time on her phone.

All she saw was the notification from the company's group chat.

When she tapped into it, she saw a photo a colleague had sent.

The people in the photo were Eugene and Viola. They seemed to be at Jepton University. Viola might have returned to the campus to attend some activity.

Melanie stared at the photo for some time.

She realized why Eugene seemed different from his usual self today.

It turned out that he had gone to accompany Viola for her campus activity.

It reminded Melanie of the year she graduated. She had begged Eugene for a long time, asking him to accompany her to her graduation ceremony. However, Eugene only told her he was busy.

She wondered if he was busy or just reluctant to go with her.

The ringtone of her phone snapped her out of her thoughts. She looked at the caller ID and saw Stephen's name.

She answered the call and heard Stephen's gentle voice through it. "Mel, where are you?"

Melanie recalled she had stood up on Stephen and held her head apologetically as she said, "I'm sorry. Something came up last night."

Stephen noticed that something was wrong with Melanie's voice. He asked, "What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?"

Then, Stephen visited her with some medicine and food. When he saw Melanie's pale face, he draped the blanket nearby on her.

"How did you fall ill?" Stephen looked worried. "Why—didn't you call me?"

Melanie's face was pale as she held the blanket that was draped on her. Her tiny face made her look weaker than usual.

Smiling, she asked Stephen, "Is the person in charge of the exhibition willing to meet me? I want to talk to them."

It took Melanie two days to recover, and she met the person in charge on the third day.

The salary and benefits they offered were less than Melanie had expected, so she had yet to answer them.

Stephen comforted her, saying, "I have friends in the same field. I can introduce them to you."

Chapter 60

Stephen did as promised and introduced Melanie to some friends. They had a good conversation, yet the problem emerged when discussing the salary.

That made Stephen feel bad. However, Melanie thought it was fine. After all, it was not that easy to get a suitable job.

"Melanie, Mr. Scott asked if you've prepared the conference room?" asked Yana as she

knocked on the desk.

"Yes. Here's the conference record. Eugene might take Viola." Melanie handed the conference record to Yana.

Yana was shocked. "Aren't you going?"

"I have other work to do," said Melanie casually. The secretarial department was busy. Her workload was so much that she had no time to rest.

After Yana left, Melanie proofread two documents and was about to get a glass of water from the pantry. However, she saw Yana rushing back.

When Yana saw her, she urged, "Melanie, go to the conference room. Quick! One of the meeting records is missing. Mr. Scott is angry."

Melanie was not the one who prepared those, but Yana still dragged her to the conference room.

It was quiet when she was in the conference room, and Eugene had a cold expression. The atmosphere in the room was tense.

The clients had yet to arrive. Eugene happened to go to the conference room and found out that one document was missing.

Melanie looked at the time. They had only five minutes before the conference started.

"Mr. Scott." Suddenly, Viola spoke in her cute voice. She had a record book in her hand. Dressed in an office lady's attire, she looked more mature.

Melanie had nothing to do with this conference. She wanted to return to her office, but Viola said, "Melanie was the one who arranged this meeting, and she should have the record."

Melanie froze. This meeting was indeed arranged when she was still Eugene's secretary. However, she had handed everything over to Viola and Julie.

Eugene still had a cold expression as he stared at Melanie. Melanie pursed her lips. "I handed everything to Viola."

She knew Eugene's temper. Thus, she paused and added, "I have no access to your documents now."

Eugene was still displeased. This conference was important. Otherwise, Melanie would not have arranged it long ago.

He was angry, indeed. Viola shrunk her neck and stood aside silently.

Those responsible for welcoming the clients were already heading to the company, yet the

atmosphere was still tense in the conference room.

Melanie lowered her eyelids and took the meeting record from Viola. Then, she stood next to Eugene and said calmly, "I remember most of the contents in the meeting records."

She had worked in LeapCo for years, and her memory was her best talent.

However, Viola would have to leave if she were to record the meeting.

When Viola walked out of the conference room, she looked at Melanie again with a meaningful

gaze.

When the staff led the clients into the conference room, Melanie spotted a familiar figure among them.

It was Joshua.

He had also noticed Melanie and smiled at her shyly.

Melanie had filled in the document that was missing. After the meeting ended, Eugene ordered expressionlessly, "Follow me to my office."

She followed him calmly. However, Eugene scoffed when they were in his office. "I heard you want to resign."

Melanie was apparently less enthusiastic with her work recently. There were many rumors about her wanting to resign.

"No," Melanie answered calmly as she placed the meeting record on the table. "All the records are here. I'll excuse myself if there's nothing else you want me to do."

"Melanie!" Eugene was annoyed with her attitude. She always had an expressionless look, which agitated him.

He called out her name and asked, "Are you trying to put on an aloof act before me?"

Looking away, Melanie said in a low voice, "You're the one who asked me to stay away from you."

Eugene was frustrated as he stared at Melanie, wanting to see through her disguise.