

N Destiny 1641

Chapter 1641

"I found it!" At once, Ellen was relieved. "What? How is it in the trash can?" Olive, who was beside her, asked. Ellen, too, was puzzled. I'm sure that | sorted all of the folders earlier, so why is there one in the trash can under the desk?

"Anyway, be careful not to repeat the mistake next time. If she's really to report you, you'll really be dismissed, Olive warned.

Ellen nodded. She also forbade herself from repeating such a mistake in the future. Thereupon, she personally delivered the documents to the veteran employee from the Finance Department, only to catch Olivia complaining and throwing shades at her to their coworkers. "It really baffles me how such useless workers get into the company. What a disgrace!"

Sadly, Ellen could only bear it through. After returning to her post, her phone rang, and when she saw who the caller was, her heart skipped a beat. Apparently, it was Lilac. Swiftly, she accepted the call. "Aunt Lilac!"

"Ellie, your Uncle Garrett didn't scare you when he was drunk last night, did he?" Ellen immediately answered, "Aunt Lilac, please tell him not to do that again, or I'm going to call the cops.

"Ellie, you're quite close with your boss, right? Can you put in a good word for your uncle? He's in trouble." Dazed and confused, Ellen asked, "What trouble?" "He was sued, and now he has to pay a million for the car's reparation."

Upon realization, Ellen uttered in dismay, "Is the money for our president's car reparation?" She remembered how Garrett picked up a rock and whacked Jared's car numerous times with it. It must be extremely costly to repair such an expensive car....

"Aunt Lilac, you should let Uncle Garrett deal with the problem himself. | don't think | can contribute in any way." Ellen had no intention of being a good person again. Besides, it was entirely Garrett's responsibility to reap what he sowed.

"I beg of you, Ellie. Help your uncle out!" When Lilac finished, another woman's voice was heard. "Ellie, it's your Aunt Ayrenn here. Your Uncle Garrett was indeed at fault yesterday, but can you please speak up for him? There's no way our family can afford a million!"

In response, Ellen sternly stated, "Aunt Ayrenn, I frankly can't help you here. My boss and I are merely a superior and an employee. Besides, it is only reasonable that Uncle Garrett compensates after having destroyed someone else's car."

"Ellie, help us out here, would you? We will stop asking you for the relocation fund, and we assure not to trouble you anymore in the future. Is that fine for you?"

"I'm sorry, but my hands are tied." Ellen sounded very persistent. Furthermore, there was no reason for her to beg for mercy. She was already remorseful enough given that she was the cause of Jared's car getting damaged.

Meanwhile, gloom engulfed Garrett's place as he was sent an insurance bill earlier this morning, in addition to a lawyer's letter that clearly stipulated a million for the car's reparation fee. He never expected to have gone into a frenzy after getting himself drunk and ending up owing a compensation fee of a million. Furthermore, it was precisely stated in the lawyer's letter that he was to pay for the car's reparation fee within three days or legal actions would be taken against him.

The Andino siblings were all present then. Simultaneously, they felt unfair for being unable to get their hands on the relocation fund and helpless toward their eldest brother's trouble. Garrett was grasping his head. His son was about to graduate from university, and if he, as the father, was to hold any criminal

record, his son's future career would be doomed.

"Why don't we look for Connor and have him talk it out with Ellen? I'm sure her boss purchased the most deluxe insurance for each of his cars, so all we have to do is have her beg and make her boss acquire the claim with his own insurance," Ajax suggested.

"Right! Ellen only needs to say a word and the entire problem would be solved. How are we going to look for a million anyway?"

Right at that moment, a black sedan stopped by the entrance of Garrett's grocery store. From within, a middle-aged man got out and asked with a stern face, "Who is Garrett Andino?"

Chapter 1642

"I am Garrett." Garrett sprung up from his seat "I am here to negotiate with you in our boss' stead."
"And your boss is?" "Mr. Jared Presgrave, President of Presgrave Group."

"Oh, yes. Good day to you!" Immediately, Garrett welcomed the middle-aged man with passion and not a trace of disrespect. There was nothing but gratification in his eyes.

"Our boss has expressed that, as long as you stop pestering Miss Reiss, he shan't pursue the car's reparation fee any further, but he shall still retain the right to pursue the matter. Do you understand?" The middle-aged man was Dean Tilly, and he was Jared's personal assistant who dealt with Jared's private matters.

Instantly, thoughts arose in the Andinos' minds. At the same time, the overwhelming weight in Garrett's heart vanished, after which he hastily answered, "Yes, of course! | did some unspeakable things when | was drunk last night. | assure you that we the Andinos will stop troubling Ellen, and | will definitely fulfill my part of the promise as long as your boss no longer pursues my obligation."

"Garrett, the fault is your own. Why are we dragged into your promise as well?" Nicole scoffed.

Hearing that, Dean turned to her and warned, "Ellen Reiss is under Mr. Presgrave's protection. Should any of you Andinos dare to bother her in the future, he will not go easy on you, and if any of you dare meddle with Miss Reiss relocation fund, you should get ready for prison.

Dean's warning instantly startled the Andinos. Never had they expected Ellen had found herself such an enormous pillar of support.

After Dean departed, the Andinos got into a quarrel right away. The matter with the relocation fund left a crack in the Andino siblings' relationship, as though there was a grave family feud. Seeing that, Lilac couldn't help but shed a tear in helplessness

In the afternoon, Ellen received a text message, which she assumed to be a spam message at a glance, but to her surprise, the sender was Jared. 'I've dealt with the Andinos for you. Nobody will trouble you anymore!

Reading the text, Ellen was overwhelmed with emotions as her eyes were dampened thanks to the sentiments. She had no idea how to repay Jared's deeds as she replied, 'Thank you so much, President Presgrave. | promise to repay you at the first opportunity.

No need. Just focus on your work! "I certainly will, Ellen replied. All of a sudden, the phone on her desk rang, after which she answered, "Good day, you're speaking to Presgrave Group's reception."

"Ellen, please come to the Human Resource Department Manager's office."

Ellen was taken aback to receive a call from the Human Resource Department manager. After informing Olive about it, she went straight upstairs. Soon, she anxiously entered the HR manager's office, wondering if the employee of the Finance Department she encountered earlier had made a complaint about her.

However, Ellen saw no signs of anger from the lady manager as she merely took a look at her, after which the manager pulled out a form. "Fill this form out and sign it."

Peering at the Employee's Living Quarters Application Form, Ellen subconsciously blinked and asked, "Miss Curry, what form is this?"

"It's one of the accommodation benefits the company offers to its employees, and you're one of the few selected to enjoy this benefit. Fill it out, and you'll receive a key once you're done!" Finished, the manager continued observing her. Essentially, such a benefit was not open for application to ordinary employees as only manager-level employees were eligible to apply for it.

Moreover, the house assigned to her was a luxurious benefit specifically designed for those of director-level and above. "Seriously? They picked me?" Ellen was pleasantly surprised.

Despite letting out a chuckle, the manager wondered how oblivious Ellen was to her own luck. But of course, the higher-ups stated that she was not to disclose anything more than that. "Indeed, but you are obligated not to reveal the matter to anyone else. Now, you may simply move into the house."

"Got it. Thank you, Miss Curry!" Ellen was extremely grateful.

In response, the manager bitterly grinned. Why is she thanking me? She should be thanking the boss himself. Without his signature, who would have dared to make such a decision?

After filling out the form, Ellen claimed a bunch of keys, as well as a card with an address to an apartment on it. Now, she could officially move into the new home the company arranged for her.

Chapter 1643

As Ellen was eager to share the good news with Jared, she sent him a text. 'Good news! | was selected to move into the employees' living quarters!' Really? Congratulations!"

'I don't have to look for a new place anymore. I'm so happy! Wanna have dinner tonight? It's on me!' 'Next time, perhaps. | have something else on tonight.'" 'Okay. Ellen beamed. I'll have to adjust according to the big boss' time, then!

After getting off work, Ellen speedily went home to pack up her clothes and some important belongings before grabbing a cab to the apartment she was assigned to.

After settling the move-in procedure with the neighborhood's management, a lady from the management enthusiastically helped her carry her bags to the floor of her unit. Soon, the elevator stopped at the twelfth floor.

Right as Ellen entered the apartment, she was thoroughly dumbfounded. She never expected that the employees of Presgrave Group got to live in such sumptuous, extortionate homes. As such, she reckoned that the rooms must be smaller.

After all, it was meant to contain one employee only. Regardless, she was blown away by every facility from the hall to the upper stories. And when she finally reached her unit, the lady from the management left.

Grabbing the keys from her bag, Ellen then opened the door, and right after she pulled the door open, she saw a lavish porch, after which she entered through the doorway, only to find herself stupefied.

She was stunned for quite a while, unable to collect herself. Shockingly, it was an extravagant apartment that was roughly 2,000 square feet, ornamented by French windows, opulent couches, mesmerizing crystal chandeliers, and a massive TV.

She blinked her eyes repeatedly before grabbing her keys to verify the unit number, thinking, | must have gotten to the wrong unit, right? How do I, a mere receptionist, deserve such grand treatment?

Nonetheless, the unit number wasn't mistaken, just like everything else. This was the very unit the company arranged for her. As such, she suspected that the company must have made some error.

They must have accidentally prepared such a grand apartment instead of a simple unit. That must be it! I'll have to refer to Miss Curry tomorrow so that | don't waste the crucial resources of the company! After all, to her, a simple single-bedroom unit was more than enough.

Meanwhile, at Connor's place, having heard. about Garrett's matter, Olivia grew immensely frustrated. She never expected that Ellen would be so bold as to have Jared defend her and

deal with the Andinos' desire to seize her relocation fund. Initially, she wanted a slice of the cake, but now that the Andinos could no longer obtain the fund, there was no way she could have it.

Nevertheless, what worried her the most was how Jared would react to the passing of Ellen's brother given the time Ellen and he had been friends. By then, Jared would very soon find out that Ellen did not receive the compensation of one hundred million back then, as Olivia and the rest had been fully enjoying the benefit for the past sixteen years, which Jared would definitely be infuriated to find out.

Olivia grew more panicked as she thought about it. She couldn't help but shut the door in the middle of the night and dragged her husband over to talk about it. "Connor, why do you think Young Master Jared is so committed to protecting Ellen? Does he already know of her identity?"

Hearing that, Connor was startled, after which he hastily asked, "Lena didn't tell anyone about this, did she?" "Lena doesn't even know about this. I'm worried that after seeing Young Master Jared's wealth and influence, Ellen might try to

seduce him by any means. As things develop, Ellen might tell him about her brother's death, and if that were to raise his suspicion, he would certainly look

into it. Consequently, we won't be able to run away from this. Besides, if this were to get out, the entire world would be shaming us!"

At once, Connor, too, grew hasty. He had been feeling guilty lately, and the mere thought of the consequences scared him. "What do you suggest we do, then?"

"Why don't we find a partner for Ellen and get her married as soon as possible? By then, Young Master Jared would lose his interest in her. Since you're her uncle, you should be in charge of her romantic future."

Chapter 1644

Connor gave his wife's idea a thought and reckoned that it was reasonable. He then nodded. "You're right. | can be in charge of her romantic future."

"That's right! So, we should look for a boy from a good family to woo Ellen as soon as possible. Since Ellen hasn't been exposed to the world much, she might just agree to get married right away: Olivia was immersed in her imagination.

After pondering for a bit, he stated, "I've got a friend. His son is twenty-six this year, and he seems to be looking for a wife. Perhaps | could introduce Ellen to him."

"You should do that, then! We'll match them up by then and have her married to him!" Olivia was relieved by the future she fantasized about.

Meanwhile, in another room, Selena no longer had the energy to do anything. Whenever the thought of Ellen and Jared's relationship arose in her mind, she would behave as though she lost her source of happiness, feeling that no matter how marvelous of a life she led or how excellent her job was, she could never be as happy as Ellen, who got to enjoy Jared's care.

The next morning, Ellen came to the company early. Being the diligent person she was, she wiped the surface of the desks around her even though the janitor had done that before her, perfecting the cleanliness by tidying up the desks and leaving behind a satisfying sight.

At half past nine, she took the opportunity to visit the Human Resource Department and looked for the lady manager who arranged her accommodation. The manager was surprised to see her knocking on her doors and entering her office.

“How may I help you?”

“Excuse me, Miss Curry. Has there been some kind of mistake in the living quarter the company arranged for me?” Ellen sternly inquired.

“What’s wrong? Could you not find it yesterday?”

“It’s not that. I’ve found it, but the room is too big and lavish... Why am I, a mere receptionist, assigned to such an extravagant unit?” Ellen genuinely hoped that the company was mistaken.

Hearing that, Joanna, the manager, immediately laughed aloud. It was her first time seeing someone complaining about the spaciousness of the living quarter assigned to them. “Ellen, I absolutely assure you that there is no mistake. That was indeed the living quarter we have arranged for you, so spare the doubt and settle in at ease!”

“But the unit is too big for me... Are there not smaller ones?”

“Well, that is the benefit our company offers. There are no smaller units. Just remain there. You just have to continue working hard to repay the company.”

At once, Ellen was dazed for a few seconds, after which she nodded. “Understood. Thank you, Miss Curry!” Joanna watched as Ellen left before heaving a sigh. “Oh, she just doesn’t realize how fortunate she is!”

With that, Ellen returned to the reception, and it didn't take long until she saw Selena and a few of her coworkers walking in a group. When Selena saw Ellen, cunning flashed across her eyes, after which she hastily grabbed the cup of coffee in her hand and walked toward Ellen. With utmost enthusiasm, she greeted, "Morning, Ellie. Here, I got you some coffee."

"Thank you, Lena, but I had my cup earlier!" Ellen tactfully refused her offer. "Aww, what's wrong? Why are you being so courteous to me? Are you still mad at me?" Selena questioned. Ellen shook her head. "No, I'm not."

"Ellie, where are you currently staying?"

"... rented an apartment by myself..." Ellen answered.

"Really? Then perhaps I should go hang out at your place sometimes." Selena attempted to build a sisterly relationship with Ellen so that she could make things work between her and Jared.

"Sure." Ellen couldn't reject her right away, though she didn't want anyone to visit her new place either.

As the next day would be the weekend, the reception crew was rather joyous since Presgrave Group's best benefit to its employees was the two-day break during the weekend. As Ellen had been needing some rest recently, she wanted to take the time to relax.

"Ellen! What's going on between you and President Presgrave?" Olive suddenly asked out of boredom. In response, Ellen honestly replied, "President Presgrave and I know each other. As simple as that."

Given that Ellen was an honest, innocent woman, Olive believed what she was told.

After getting off work, Ellen bought some takeout for dinner on her way home. Later, she sat by the French windows. Captivated by the distant sunset, she couldn't help but snap a few photos of it. Then, for some reason, she felt the urge to share the photos with Jared and unconsciously sent him a text, stating, 'The sunset glow is beautiful today. You should take a look at it if you have the time now.'

Chapter 1645

Currently, in the meeting room, the man received the message, the corners of his mouth curling upward as he read it. However, he couldn't see the sunset in the meeting room, and it made him curious whether the evening sunset today was really that beautiful.

After taking a glance at the time, he dismissed the meeting and left the room. As he stood in the hallway, he admired the evening sunset, which was even more magnificent and spectacular with the bird's eye view. He then took a photo of it before replying to Ellen.

'I saw it. It's beautiful! After sending the message, Ellen was filled with sudden regret. He was busy, so how could she send him trivial text messages? Wouldn't that take up his time?

Either way, it was too late to think about deleting her message now. Ellen was just berating herself for not doing something as thoughtless as this anymore when she heard a message notification and saw his reply. Instantly, her earlier frustration disappeared, and the corners of her mouth curled up in a smile.

So, he was looking at it too! He even sent a picture. 'Are you still at work?' Ellen asked, noticing keenly that the place he was standing at was a hallway in the company.

Yeah. I left work after my meeting ended earlier. Have you eaten?" Ellen looked at the bread she was eating in amusement before replying, 'Yes.'

What an honest girl, he thought. If it were anyone else, they'd be able to tell that he was going to treat her to a meal, while she told him that she'd already eaten instead, making him somewhat embarrassed to invite her out.

'All right. I'll treat you to a meal next time!

Upon seeing his text, Ellen lost interest in the bread in her hands. She couldn't help but let out a forced laugh. Was he planning to treat her to a meal earlier?

'No, no, I only ate some bread, so I'm still hungry. Why don't we eat together?' Ellen replied, attempting to salvage the dinner he mentioned.

Jared was just about to enter the elevator when he heard the notification. His lips curled up into a smile, making Dean, who was trailing along next to him, curious about whom he was texting.

‘Okay, I’ll pick you up, he replied. Ellen asked, ‘Do you know which neighborhood I’m staying in?’ ‘Of course, I do. I won’t take long, so come to the entrance in ten minutes. Ellen sent a smiling emoji in reply. ‘Okay!

After their texts ended, Ellen couldn’t help but blush and cover her face happily. She couldn’t believe she had taken the initiative to ask him out for dinner so boldly. If he’d refused, she did not know how she would face him again. Upon looking down, she realized that she was still wearing her uniform. As she was going to have dinner with him, she decided to put on something casual.

Therefore, Ellen went digging through her clothes. Soon, she found a white dress that she was most satisfied with and put it on. Although its design was nothing out of the ordinary, fortunately for her, she had a pretty face and a decent figure, so it didn’t look too bad on her. With that, she took her bag and went out quickly.

Ten minutes later, a gray sports car slowly came from the driveway, and she reached out to wave at it before heading over. The door of the car opened and revealed Jared in a black suit, who was exuding the charm and elegance befitting of a business elite. “You look really good in a suit.” Ellen praised him. In fact, she wanted to tell him that he was the best-looking man she had seen

so far.

“Is that so?” Jared was in a good mood as well. He was tired of hearing compliments from others, but he felt exceptionally happy when this girl praised him.

He took her to the restaurant they had been to in the past. As it was her second visit, she didn’t feel constrained. Besides, it had a homey and warm atmosphere, and it was quiet and private.

“Are your relatives still harassing you with phone calls?” he asked, his eyes narrowing.

“Not anymore. Speaking of it, it’s all thanks to you. I wouldn’t have known what to do otherwise.” She looked at him thankfully. As soon as he made a move, even people like Garrett obeyed him wholly.

"If you find yourself in a tight situation in the future, you can just tell me and I'll solve it for you, Jared assured readily.

Chapter 1646

Ellen smiled. Of course, she hoped that she wouldn't have to bother him in the future.

"By the way, did you know how big the apartment unit that the company assigned to me was? It's at least two thousand square feet!" She nearly forgot to tell him about this.

Jared froze for a beat before he played dumb and replied, "Is that so? The company randomly assigns the units sometimes. You should take it."

"But I'm just a receptionist. How can I stay in such a nice place?" "Just enjoy your stay!" Jared assured her, worried that she might notice something. With a sigh, Ellen continued, "I even asked Miss Curry if she gave me the wrong unit, but she said she didn't make a mistake."

Immediately, Jared coughed and said, "The HR team is usually in charge of these things. Since there weren't any mistakes, you should just make the most out of it and stop overthinking things."

Suddenly, she turned her gaze to him and blinked as she asked, "President Presgrave, don't tell me it was of your doing?"

Jared was drinking from his glass and nearly choked on a mouthful of water. After hurriedly controlling his expression, he denied, "I don't have time for this sort of thing! I'm swamped with work after all!"

Although Ellen was a little skeptical, she couldn't press him any further, so she propped up her chin and said, "In that case, I'll work hard in the future and live up to the excellent benefits the company has given me."

At this, Jared finally let out a sigh. It seemed that she had her bright moments at times as well.

After they finished dinner, it was already half past eight by the time Jared dropped her off at her house. After getting out of the car, she reminded him, "Be careful while you're on the road."

He looked at her and said, "I'll leave once you're inside."

Her heart turning warm, she turned around and went in, looking back with each step she took. Meanwhile, Jared was surprised by his concern for her, which seemed to have emerged involuntarily.

The following day was a rest day, but Ellen had been accustomed to getting up early. Right after she woke up, she sat in front of the French window while looking at the morning scenery as well as the crowd in the nearby square, feeling inexplicably lonely. She knew that after

her grandmother's death, she was really all alone now. Her uncle, Connor, the only one who was related to her by blood right now, was someone she couldn't rely on. Besides, her aunt, Olivia, prevented her from depending on him as well, so she was on her own for the rest of her life.

When she thought about her future marriage and having children, she suddenly felt fearful and terrified that she would meet the wrong person and be unable to find someone to rely on if she was hurt in any way. Hence, she made up her mind to spend the rest of her life alone. In any case, she had enough money in her account to live comfortably, and as long as she worked earnestly every day and received a stable salary, she could live a moderately wealthy life alone.

While she was doing her laundry, she received a call from Connor.

"Ellie, I'll take you out for lunch today," Connor said on the other end of the phone. "Uncle Connor, it's fine, I..."

"Do you not have any respect for me anymore? It's just a simple meal. We haven't seen each other for some time, no?" he pressed, his tone holding a hint of elderly authority.

At that, Ellen had no choice but to agree. "Okay, Uncle Connor."

"I'll pick you up at noon." "It's fine. Just tell me the address, and I'll take a cab myself."

“Fine by me. I'll send the address to you later,” Upon saying that, Connor hung up. Ellen let out a sigh. In fact, she preferred to be by herself as eating with her uncle's family was constraining for her.

At half past ten, Connor sent the address and urged her to be there on time. She agreed, and at eleven o'clock, she went out and took a taxi, heading straight for the restaurant.

Due to the traffic, she arrived a little late and was led into a private room by the waiter soon after. There, she saw three other people that looked like a family at the table in addition to Connor and Olivia.

“Ellie, you're here. Quick, come and have a seat.” Connor greeted her enthusiastically, pulling out a chair for her.

Chapter 1647

Ellen was a little bewildered by the sight. Wasn't she supposed to eat with Connor and his family? Why were there strangers here? She smiled politely and greeted, “Good to see you, Uncle Connor and Aunt Olivia.”

“Ellie, here, let me introduce you to them.” Connor said to her, “This is my old friend, Murray Fuller, and beside him is his wife, Christina. And this man here is their son, Harvey Fuller.”

Ellen gave the couple a courteous smile before glancing at the young man. “Nice to meet you.”

“Wow, she's gorgeous!” Christina praised, grinning from ear to ear. “Of course, she is. All of the girls in our family are pretty,” Olivia immediately replied.

Harvey immediately got up to pour tea for Ellen, and she hurriedly thanked him. Ever since Ellen entered the room, Harvey's eyes had been glued to her face. He thought his date today would be just an ordinary girl, but he didn't expect the heavens to give him such a huge surprise.

Ellen was one of the innocent yet pure girls whom he rarely saw. In particular, the sweet way she smiled put him in a better mood at first glance. Moreover, he had been informed about Ellen while he was on his way to the restaurant. She was a relocatee from Lockwood Village, and she even had a small fortune. Who wouldn't like a beautiful and wealthy woman?

Just then, the dishes were served, and the two families ate while chatting. Ellen only had a few bites when she heard Connor's voice. "Ellie is beautiful and kind-hearted, but she seems lonely from living alone for a while now."

Hearing that, Ellen hurriedly explained, "Uncle Connor, I'm doing good. I'm not lonely."

"Ellie, Connor just wants you to have someone to take care of you and protect you, to give you a shoulder to lean on," Olivia said.

Ellen's heart skipped a beat as she had an epiphany. Did Connor invite her for a meal to set her up on a blind date? Was he trying to introduce her to a man?

At that moment, Christina began to praise her son. "Harv really is the ideal man! He has the personality and looks, and he's capable too. He's definitely the best candidate as a boyfriend and a husband."

"Of course. He looks talented to me." Although Olivia inwardly despised this family, she enthusiastically agreed with them on the surface.

Instantly, Harvey took the initiative and said to Ellen, "Miss Reiss, do you mind if we exchange contacts? | heard that you're working in Presgrave Group, and it so happens that | work nearby. I'm sure we can meet up for a cup of coffee next time."

She was about to refuse, but Olivia immediately picked up her phone and said, "Oh! | have Ellie's phone number here. I'll give it to you, so write it down!"

Ellie felt helpless but didn't have the nerves to lose her temper. Hence, she watched as Olivia gave Harvey her phone number, who happily called her afterward. "This is my number."

Without beating around the bush, Christina said, "Miss Reiss, | heard that you've been relocated. You're so lucky! That place used to be worth nothing, but | heard that many of the relocatees have become millionaires now!"

Ellen gave her an awkward yet courteous smile. "Well, you're not wrong about that. Ellie has always been lucky." Olivia could tell that the Fullers were happy with Ellen, and she quickly added her two cents.

After three glasses of wine, Connor began to speak more bluntly, saying to Ellen, "Look, Ellie, I'm going to be honest with you. Murray has been my colleague for many years, and his son, Harvey, is a good boy, so I want to match you two together. Once you get married, both of our families will become in-laws and will be able to help each other out."

Ellen's mind went blank, and she hurriedly waved her hands in disagreement. "Uncle Connor, I'm not looking to get into a relationship any time soon, much less marriage."

"Oh sweetie, girls have to get married eventually! How nice is it to have someone you can rely on and who would take care of you?" Olivia cajoled from the side.

Ellen's face flushed red with anger. She deeply regretted showing up for this meal. "Miss Reiss, as long as you marry our son, we promise to treat you like our own daughter," Christina added, expressing her sincerity.

Chapter 1648

Murray nodded as well. "Although our family is not that well off, we'll definitely treat you well." At a glance, Ellen could see that the Fullers were dressed averagely, and that Murray always had a sense of inferiority in front of Connor, as if he was not confident and was constantly trying to please him.

While Ellen did not look down on them, there was nothing sincere about their faces. In fact, as they were saying nice things on the surface, their eyes were constantly sizing her up.

"Not bad, Ellie. Our families know each other well, and you shouldn't be too picky at your age. As a girl, it's about time for you to get married." Connor was still a chauvinist in some ways, and he spoke without considering her feelings.

With Ellen's meek appearance, no one could figure out her emotions and they assumed that she was an easygoing person and that she would even agree to marry someone on a whim. However, while she was indeed an easygoing person, when it came to marriage, she would definitely not be fooled simply.

“Uncle Connor, Aunt Olivia, I’m done with my meal. I have some other matters to attend to, so I’ll be leaving first.” Upon saying that, Ellen picked up her bag and fled the scene without another word. If she stayed any longer, she might forget about maintaining Connor's pride and throw a tantrum right then and there.

Connor and Olivia exchanged a glance, and the latter immediately chided, “How dare that girl embarrass us like this!”

Despite Ellen’s actions, Christina laughed benevolently. “Oh, it's fine. Girls are always shy! I'll just tell Harv to contact her more in the future.”

From the way Christina was constantly placing food on his plate and urging him to eat, it was clear from a glance that Harvey was a mommy’s boy. Knowing this, Olivia sneered inwardly. If Ellen married into this family, her days would definitely be difficult as Christina didn’t look like she was easy to deal with.

After leaving, Ellen walked some distance before she was suddenly unable to suppress her frustration and her tears flowed out. Why was Connor doing this? Couldn't she just live a good life alone? Had they ever considered her feelings when they did this?

Once lunch ended, Connor and Olivia had other business and took their leave, while the Fullers still remained seated. Without any outsiders around, the family no longer had any regard for their conversation.

“Harvey, it’s up to you to win Ellen over. Once you do, make her pay half of the down payment, then you can pay your mortgage off together.

Since she’s rich, you don’t have to worry about not being able to pay.”

“Mom, I'll definitely make her your daughter-in-

law, Harvey promised.

Murray supported him as well. "We aren't that well off, but things will get easier if we have a rich daughter-in-law."

Harvey's eyes glowed with determination. Not only was Ellen pretty, but she was also wealthy. He had to win her over even if it meant going through blood, sweat, and tears.

After getting into the car with Connor, Olivia fumed, "Ellen is so ungrateful! We're just doing this for her own good, but all she does is give us that disdainful look"

"We can't blame her for that. It's our fault for not telling her about the blind date," Connor reasoned.

"Does Ellen think that she can marry a millionaire now that she's gotten somewhat rich? Is she trying to find someone even wealthier?" Olivia said sarcastically.

"They've already met, so things are up to them now," he said.

Hearing that, Olivia felt a surge of joy. Upon hearing that Ellen was a relocatee, the Fullers nearly had their eyes bulging out of their sockets. They'd definitely not let her go until they had their hands on her.

Ellen had just reached home when she received a text from Harvey. 'Miss Reiss, are you free tonight? Let's have dinner with just the two of us!'

Upon seeing the text, she felt nothing but irritation, not wanting to be disturbed at the moment.

However, as he was the son of Connor's friend, she put up with it and rejected him courteously. 'I'm sorry, but I already have plans tonight.'

Relentless, Harvey sent her yet another text. 'Miss Reiss, I had a really good impression of you after today. I wonder what you think of me.'

Chapter 1649

Ellen bit her cherry lips as she decided not to respond, thinking that her indifference would drive Harvey away.

In a flash, it was the weekend morning again. As Ellen was still sleeping, the unexpected ringtone of her phone shocked her into consciousness, after which she grabbed it and took a look at it. Seeing that it was Jared who called her, she couldn't help but suspect whether she was still in her dreams. Quickly, she answered the call. "Good morning, President Presgrave."

"Are you free today? The weather's nice today. Wanna go hiking?" "Now?" Ellen was still feeling a little dozy. "Mm-hmm! I'm on the way to get you." Immediately, Ellen sprung up from her bed and widened her charming eyes. "You're already on the way?"

"Relax. Take your time to pack." However, she wouldn't dare to take her time and make her boss wait for her. Hastily, she replied, "Okay. I'll head down in a bit."

"See you soon, then." Finished, Jared hung up the phone, At once, Ellen tossed her phone aside and went straight to wash up before picking a set of sportswear from her wardrobe.

Then, she sat before the mirror and pondered whether to put on some subtle makeup, but since she was to go hiking for the day, her sweat would only ruin the makeup and she would end up embarrassing herself.

In the end, she decided to simply put on some sunscreen. Despite having no makeup on, her skin looked as delicate and smooth as a baby's. Moreover, it accentuated the tiny mole on her nose, adding to her charm.

Ten minutes later, she headed downstairs in a little run. Luckily, Jared had yet to arrive, but she merely waited for five minutes before a black SUV dazzling under the sunlight approached her. The car window slid down, revealing a man in gray sportswear that was shrouded in unrelenting masculinity in the driver's seat. Ellen was used to seeing him in his expensive suits, but now that she saw him in his casual attire, she couldn't help but feel flustered.

After all, she was no longer a little girl but a twenty-two-year-old woman, so it was understandable if she were to take a few more glances at such an impeccably dashing man on the street, let alone after being asked out to a hike. Amidst the excitement in her heart, there were wavering emotions.

"Stop dreaming and get in, will you?" Jared laughed and asked.

Only then, Ellen realized that she was so dazed that she forgot to get into the car. Thereupon, she pulled open the car door and got into the car, only to find herself enthralled by the fine scenery one could only perceive in a huge SUV. And so, Jared started to drive away into a line of vehicles.

At that moment, Ellen curiously asked, "Where are we going to hike?" "You'll know once we're there."

If the one speaking was another man, her alertness would have gone off the charts. Nonetheless, because Jared was the very man who uttered those words, she felt only one thing whenever she followed him around—a sense of security. She had little to worry about whenever she was around him, except whether she would be a hassle to him.

As Jared drove up the viaduct, his car phone rang, to which he accepted the call with his Bluetooth earphones, and he was heard saying. "You don't have to come."

Upon the caller's response, he tensely furrowed his brows. "Do you not hear what I said?"

With that, he hung up his phone. He then turned to the side and saw Ellen slightly startled, after which he comforted, 'Don't worry. My

bodyguards wanted to follow us as per my father's arrangement. They can be unwantedly persistent sometimes."

"You should let them follow us. Just in case one of us gets injured,' Ellen placated.

Nevertheless, Jared didn't want too many on his trip. Essentially, his destination was a mountain his father brought him to hike back when he was a child. Although it was somewhat distant, he wished to revisit it once more.

After half an hour of high-speed drive, they reached a county road near Aversa, before proceeding for another twenty miles from the county road. Eventually, they arrived at a hiking paradise.

Followingly, Jared took out a map and said, "I brought some food over. We'll be hiking for about two hours. You good with that?" Determinedly, Ellen gazed at the mountain and nodded. "No problem. I can do it."

And so, the two began their hike from the foot of the mountain. In the beginning, there were man-made stone steps, but as they ventured deeper, the steps faded away, replaced by the harsh path of the mountains.

Chapter 1650

Apart from them, there were also couples hiking, as well as families along with their children. The atmosphere was quite merry. "There's a temple on top of the mountain. Perhaps we can pay our respects when we reach there," Jared stated.

Not long after they started to hike, they arrived at a slope, which not only challenged one's legs but their arms as well since they would have to hike with the support of the branches by the sides. After climbing up the slope, Jared naturally offered his hand to Ellen.

Seeing him extending his hand over, Ellen was dazed for a moment before bashfully reaching for his hand. As her petite hand was grasped by the man's massive palm, a force dragged her upward, allowing her to borrow the power to ascend the slope. However, as her shoes were not designed for hiking, she suddenly slipped.

"Ah!" She let out a shriek. Fortunately, Jared had yet to unhand her, and the moment he sensed that she was going to fall, he exerted an even greater force to lift her up. Fearing that she would fall down, Ellen subconsciously wrapped her arm around the man's waist as her face snuggled against his chest.

Thereupon, the two firmly embraced each other on the sixty-degree slope. As Ellen was shocked, she hugged Jared especially tightly. While he comfortingly patted the woman in his arms as he encouraged, "It's okay. I'm holding you."

After she regained her stance, her face grew extremely red. After all, it was her first time holding a man this tightly, let alone the fact that the man was her very boss, but by no means did she do it on purpose.

Upon Jared's forceful pull, Ellen safely made it up the slope. With that, they continued to traverse through the captivating, primitive scenery and fresh air. As a chilly breeze blew over, they were highly invigorated, since such a sensation couldn't be felt in the city. Ellen felt exceptionally relaxed, as the

atmosphere helped her forget all her troubles. Besides, hiking with her handsome boss was nothing but thrilling.

At the side, there were a few smooth boulders. Jared sat on one of them and pulled out two water bottles from his backpack and delicately twisted open the cap before handing one of them to Ellen.

Feeling spoiled, Ellen extended her arm to receive the bottle and said, "Thank you." "You're welcome." Jared, too, was happy. It only took him a call for her to willingly join him on the hike.

After taking a couple of sips of the water, Ellen put down the bottle and took out her phone to snap pictures of the surrounding scenery. At the same time, Jared's phone beeped as a notification popped up. He then put down his bottle to check out the message.

After taking a few more photos of the scenery, Ellen suddenly felt thirsty again. She then grabbed an opened bottle and started drinking.

Followingly, Jared put his phone back into his backpack. When he reached for his bottle the next moment, he realized that the bottle he drank from disappeared as there was only a bottle that was sipped a few times left. Then, he was stunned to find Ellen drinking from the bottle he drank from. Taking a huge gulp, he pretended as though nothing happened and grabbed Ellen's bottle before naturally chugging down the water.

Ellen was completely clueless about the awkward matter. Otherwise, if she knew that she was drinking from Jared's bottle, she would have died of embarrassment.

Accordingly, Jared took out some bread and snacks. Among the snacks, a box of chocolate, which he brought over specifically for Ellen, stirred up her desperation. "Here. Women's favorite." "Did you bring this just for me?" she asked out of surprise.

"Mm-hmm." Jared nodded. Enlivened, Ellen grabbed one of the chocolate pieces and handed it to him. "Do you want one? It tastes really good." In response, Jared accepted it and munched it.

Although it wasn't his favorite dessert, he still complimented it. "Indeed."

At that moment, two women behind them reached where they were. When their gazes fell upon Jared, their hearts palpitated. They saw this perfect specimen of a man back when they were at the foot of the mountain, but never expected to bump into him again here. Coincidentally, there was a boulder beside them, which they then walked over to and sat on.