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Hours after hours went by; three solid hours had passed before Myra woke up. The hot spring resort operated 24/7, so nobody woke her up. They patiently waited for her to wake up on her own instead.

When Myra woke up, she did not remember what had happened before this. All she recalled

was that she had bumped into Matthias at the hot spring resort, and everything else that happened after seemed to have faded from her memories. Nevertheless, she simply assumed that her memories were hazy because she was too tired.

This was, in fact, good news to both Heather and Tony. It would be for the best that Myra did

not remember any of it. At this moment, the awkward atmosphere instantly disappeared and the three of them were back to laughing and chatting around.

Although there were still some hard feelings between Heather and Tony, they did not show it

in front of Myra. As both of them were good actors, they easily concealed it from her. Myra beamed at them, causing them to ignore the flash of uneasiness in her eyes, as well as

the cryptic gaze she had when she looked at Heather ever since she had woken up. Both Heather and Tony did not notice her unusualness. They started to act natural when Myra woke up, so they were unaware that she had already regained her consciousness before they even noticed it.

She lowered her eyes so that the other two wouldn't note the difference in her gaze. Facing two masters of disguise, she had her ways to disguise her true feelings too.

"Let's head back!" Tony suddenly suggested.

It was late and they should return home soon. They had spent the whole afternoon at the hot spring resort after all. To that, Myra smiled and replied, "I'm afraid I won't be able to sleep when I return home."

Tony cast a glance at Heather before he turned to Myra. and when Heather noticed it, she sensibly chimed in, "Let's have some more fun and return home later, then."

Myra agreed to her suggestion, and Tony had no objection either. With that, the three of them—each with respective thoughts in mind—got into Heather's car and drove straight to Zion Club since they had not been there for a long time.

When Elliot was informed that Myra and Tony were coming, he went downstairs to welcome

them personally and saw Heather. Upon seeing them together, he nearly could not believe his own eyes.

"Tony, Myra, I thought that you two were still abroad. Why didn't you inform us in advance that you are coming back?" Elliot was a little surprised by their sudden visit, but what was more surprising was that Heather was with them.

That was because Heather was rumored to be a workaholic. For multiple times, Philip had tried to invite her on a date but she kept rejecting him with the excuse that she was busy with work. Now, it appeared that she was the first person who learned about Myra and

Tony's return. Elliot truly could not understand the relationship between Myra and Heather.

"Hello, Miss Langston. We've met again. You're beautiful as always." Elliot greeted her warmly as he was usually extra amiable when it came to beautiful women.

"Hello, Young Master Elliot," Heather greeted nonchalantly. Her expression was as though frozen for the entire day—she was either impassive or wore a stiff expression.

However, Myra seemed to not mind any of it. After all, when Myra looked at her, she would deliberately squeeze out a smile. Tony, on the other hand, seemed unfazed; he only acted like his usual self. Nevertheless, after the unpleasant encounter with Matthias and the series of events that came after that, which was something that even Tony had no knowledge of, Heather was in an awful mood. Yet, she still had to force herself to put on a smile, which explained her stiff expression.

Her phone was particularly quiet on this day, especially without Myra's text messages since the latter was right next to her. Moreover, Matthias also did not disturb her as they had a conflict earlier.

There weren't even Leon's chatty messages because she had planned to look for him the next day. Everything had jumbled up into a big ball of mess, and Heather really wished that she could drop all of it and devote herself to her company instead. She believed that the following day would probably be a fresh start.

Meanwhile, Myra's appetite was whetted by the delicacies in Zion Club as she could not get such authentic local food abroad. She was used to the taste of the food in Bradfort City. Although the foreign cuisine was refreshing, it was still no match to that from her hometown.

Like Heather, Elliot was shocked by Myra's increase in appetite after returning to the country.

While devouring the delicacies, Myra discovered that eating scrumptious food would put her

in a good mood. The more she ate, the fewer worries she had.

Although the four of them were not as hyped up as they had used to, Myra did not want to go home just yet. Therefore, they proceeded to have fun till late at night. If Tony had not forcefully dragged her away, she would have stayed longer.

In the end, only Elliot and Heather were left behind, staring at each other. Elliot took the initiative to ask, "Miss Langston, it's late. Do you need me to send you back?"

He felt that he should offer his kindness as a man since Heather had handed her car keys to Tony to lend him her car.

"No." She rejected his offer without any hesitation nor any words of courtesy.

"It's not safe to take a taxi home so late at night." Elliot continued to show her his concern. He even regretted a little for not asking Phillip to come over so that the latter would have the

chance to send the lady home. However, he was aware of Myra and Tony's intention to set Heather and Lucas up. At the same time, he thought that with Phillip's character, the man was probably not going to be a good match to Heather, especially having seen how indifferent Heather could be. After some contemplation, he still found Lucas a more suitable

man for her. In addition, ever since Myra had left, Heather had become even more

unapproachable and cold—even looking at her expression gave him the chills.

"I'll be fine." When Heather gauged that Tony and Myra had probably left the club by now, she did not bother to talk to Elliot further. She stood up at once in an attempt to leave as well. Elliot had wanted to display his kindness, but upon seeing her unfriendliness, his words

were stuck in his throat.

"Young Master Elliot, you can leave." She emanated an aura that was even colder than Tony's, making those around distance themselves from her.

Watching as she left, Elliot had a thoughtful look. Women like her were really rare, and she was very different from the rumors. According to the rumors, Heather was smooth and sleek in dealing with people, and she had indeed displayed amazing social skills during the day when he first met her.

However, she seemed strange this time around. He had a hunch that this was her true self, so perhaps her perfect social skills were merely a show she put up for the sake of doing business. It was obvious that she had a strong desire to succeed, which made her a completely different person from Myra.

He was baffled by friendships between women—Myra had a best friend like Heather and another like Estelle. Women surely were complex creatures. It was fortunate that Tilly wasn't

as complicated as them. In contrast, Tilly was simply much more adorable.

Concurrently, Heather had hailed a taxi and was on her way home. She disliked the shabby-looking interior of the vehicle and felt uncomfortable sitting on the hard seats without a soft cushion. With her arms folded across her chest, she pulled a long face that repetitively deprived the young driver of the courage to strike a conversation with her. Every time he looked into the rear mirror and met her pair of cold eyes, he would swallow back the words he wanted to utter. Her gaze alone was enough to send shivers down the spine of anyone she was staring at.

As the car drove along the road, Heather's face brightened and darkened intermittently under the passing street lights. She remained in the same position throughout the journey without the slightest change in her expression.

The young lad almost suspected that he had picked up a beautiful female ghost. When the taxi pulled to a stop in front of the Langston Residence, Heather opened the door and handed the driver a note worth 100.

The young man initially intended to give her the change, but she alighted from the taxi without looking back, so he went after her as he did not want to take advantage of her. There was a bashful expression on his honest-looking face as he spread his palm to hand her the money.

"Here's your change," he shyly said.

Heather could not help smiling faintly and replied, "Just take it as your tips." She did not take

the money from him, and her voice sounded angelic in his ears.

After that, the main gate of the Langston Residence opened at her voice command and she headed inside, leaving the young lad rooted to his spot. Then, he held the money tightly in his hand and retracted his extended arm.

When he glanced at the lady from the back again, she was seen entering the door and

slowly disappearing from his sight. Only then the young man revealed a shy smile. Meeting a stunning woman like her made his spirits fly high.

Heather had no idea that she had become a stunning scenery to someone else and made his day; she kept wearing her cold expression as she walked to her room. The day ended at the moment she opened the door, and the next day would be a new one.

Her room was filled with a familiar fragrance, which made her feel relaxed both physically and mentally. It was yet another awful day. Meeting Matthias had never been good news to her when he kept putting her life off track.

After all, he had disappointed her over and over again. Sometimes, even she could not figure

out why she would still set her hopes on him despite knowing that he would never do anything to make her happy.

If this was how one behaved upon falling in love with someone, Matthias' actions made her wonder what sort of mortal sins she had committed in her past life to gain his love in this life.

On this night, Heather was able to fall asleep very quickly as she already had plans for the following day. She had never officially introduced Leon to the Saffords, hence it would be a good chance to invite them out so that she could get them acquainted with one another. Early in the morning, she woke up in time and immediately texted Leon. However, she did not receive any replies from him, so she thought that he might still be sleeping. Then, she texted Paige a similar message to invite her out to Cat Maid Café, where the waitresses dressed up in maid's outfit and cat ears. There were also many cats of various breeds in the café.

Heather was an animal lover. Although it would be impossible for her to rear one on her own, she still enjoyed occasionally petting one. When Leon woke up and saw the name of the café, which sounded like his cup of tea, he immediately contacted Heather.

On the other hand, Paige was quite surprised that Heather would invite her over to a place like that. The café was designed with an anime theme, something she did not expect Heather to be fond of. Truth was, Heather chose the place to suit Leon's preference. Of course, Josiah would not go to this sort of a place, but it was not Heather's intention to force him to go. She just thought to let the two youngsters, Paige and Leon, get to know

After that, Leon showed up at the café on time. Upon seeing the waitresses in maid costumes and cat ears, he could feel his heart racing.

He arrived a little early this time. Since Heather had yet to arrive, he began his plan to flirt with the ladies.

Meanwhile, Heather had gone to Paige's office to pick her up. When they pushed open the door and entered the café, they saw Leon chatting with a waitress.

Paige spotted Leon at one glance and said to Heather, "I didn't expect there to be male waiters too." As she thought that there were only female waitresses in maid costumes in the

café, she was surprised to find a mixed-race young man here.

each other.

Heather burst into laughter at her remark and then waved at Leon. "Leon's flirting with girls again when I'm not paying attention." Hearing this, Paige turned to Heather in surprise, then

glanced at the puzzled Leon. Finally, it dawned on her that she had made a fool of herself. She felt awkward, but Leon was clueless about it and walked up to them. It turned out that he was actually quite tall.

He kept staring at Paige, making her feel embarrassed, while Heather noticed his interest in Paige at once. This guy must be contemplating if he should pursue her.

Mercilessly, she stomped on his foot, making him turn to her in pain. "Heather, you're giving

my future girlfriend a fright!" With a forced grin, he exclaimed as he tried to contain the pain,

but his frivolous tone made Paige look down on him.

Upon hearing his words, Paige ran off with a flushed face. Only Heather knew how much of a playboy Leon was, who constantly flirted around with women.

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Sunlight poured into the room, casting long shadows that overlapped one another on the floor. The three of them were quiet for a moment and the atmosphere was a little awkward.

"Let's find a place to sit," Heather said to Paige next to her, ignoring Leon.

After choosing a spot next to the window, she directly went to take a seat while Paige followed her from behind. Leon fiddled with his hair and the corner of his lips curved upward

into a resigned smile before he quickly went after them.

As Paige sat down next to Heather, Leon took a seat opposite them. For the whole time, his eyes were intermittently glancing at Paige. Heather took in his behaviors and met his gaze in the course, so she was pretty clear of his intention.

He had always been interested in beautiful women, especially mature ones. Paige carried the temperament of a mature lady from her head to toe, but what was more uncommon was

the sense of abstinence on her.

Naturally, a playboy like him could not resist the charm of a mature yet chaste woman. "Introduce yourselves." Heather prompted in a formal tone. Not only was she not against workplace romance, but she also thought it might be good for Leon to fall in love with Paige.

On the other hand, Paige particularly disliked Leon's frivolous bearing. She cast a look at him and impassively said, "Nice to meet you. I'm Paige." She was reluctant to even hold out her hand to shake his.

Courtesy was meant for those who deserved to be respected, and that did not include Leon.

Paige's impression of him was awful, especially when he kept staring at her with a greasy gaze, which made her feel extremely uncomfortable.

A small smile formed on Leon's face. He looked mesmerizing and beguiling when he smiled, but Paige was not attracted to him.

"I'm Leon. Nice to meet you too." He winked at her, trying hard to make her fall head over heels for him.

Great, Heather thought, Paige's impression of him must have hit rock bottom now. While

watching their interactions from the sideline, she noticed that Leon seemed to have hit a hurdle. Even with his heavenly handsome face, it could not guarantee him smooth sailing when it came to picking up girls.

However, the colder Paige treated Leon, the more motivated he was to win her heart. The challenging situation evoked his desire to conquer her. To him, women were always at hand,

and he loved those who were hard to get.

Not only did he not learn his lesson from the failed attempt to charm Heather, but it instead

intensified his urge to flirt with other women who were uninterested in him. Nevertheless, there were very few who were able to resist his charm, and it was rare to encounter them. Now, he had finally met Paige, who was similar to Heather.

Therefore, Leon definitely would not miss this opportunity. Still, he had to make clear one thing, and that was whether Paige had a boyfriend. Heather had only mentioned that Paige was unmarried, but she did not tell him if she was still single.

He wanted to know more about Paige, and although he was able to investigate her background using the computer, it would be more direct to hear it from Heather.

After a while, three cups of civet coffee were served by the young waitress that Leon had flirted with earlier. She was a girl in her teenage years, and her face was flushed red from shyness.

Seeing Leon wink at the waitress, Paige felt disgusted at him. She found this sort of behavior childish and irresponsible. However, the young waitress was mesmerized by Leon's

flirtatious acts. If Heather had not darted her a sharp gaze, she probably would have been reluctant to leave.

The timid girl cast a glance at Heather before hastily leaving. Then, Heather darted a warning look at Leon, whose playful smile remained, unfazed by her warning. Meanwhile, Paige tried to not look at him as the very sight of him annoyed her.

Two years ago, Paige had a relationship that she would never forget—she had encountered a playboy. She initially thought that she would spend the rest of her life with him, but it turned out that the man had merely been fooling around with her.

Throughout their relationship, he had been caring to her; he treated her with extreme gentleness and would always say sweet nothings to her. However, she later realized that it was exactly how he had treated every woman he met, with the same tactics and means. Just as she had genuinely wanted to marry him, she found out about his true colors from someone else. As the saying went, once bitten, twice shy. Ever since the incident, Paige had been devoting herself to work and never fantasized about romance.

Now, looking at Leon reminded her of the man; he even had the same flirtatious gaze as the latter. When one succumbed to love, one might mistake the flirtatious gaze as admiration to

oneself. It was only after one had come to their senses did one know that he or she was merely a prey who had been played.

As seconds went by, Leon's interest in Paige grew, but it was the opposite for her feelings toward him, especially when she noticed the trace of lust in his gaze as he looked at her. After all, Heather had introduced Leon as her junior in university as well as her friend.

So why is he looking at his friend's friend like that? Paige felt disdainful as she thought. He is just the same as my ex-fiancée. Both of them are sc*mbags.

Meanwhile, Heather gracefully took a sip from the cup of coffee in her hand. Unlike her, Leon disliked doing things slowly. He preferred gulping the coffee because to him, coffee was merely a drink to keep him awake.

The way Paige drank her coffee was different from Heather's as well. While the latter usually

seemed as if she was conducting a coffee-tasting session, Paige drank like any other ordinary person.

Upon seeing the way Heather drank, Leon wore a smug look on his face. "Heather, you possess the temperament of a noblewoman no matter what you do." Leon had always loved

to make fun of people—the more he liked a person, the more he made fun of them. Judging

from the wide grin on his face, Heather could more or less guess that he was not complimenting her. After all, he usually praised the person before saying anything harsh. "Shut up," Heather replied rudely.

Hearing this, Paige looked at the two of them with a puzzled look on her face. This is probably how they interact. Therefore, she remained silent as it would be safer to watch quietly from the sideline to prevent getting involved in anything.

"Heather, I was complimenting you. Why are you so fierce to me?" Leon grumbled in aggrievement. However, Paige found his attention-seeking behavior unacceptable, especially when it came from a man because her ex-fiancée had used to do the same, just more extreme.

Why would a grown man like him try to make people feel sorry for him? Is he trying to compete with a woman to find out who is more sentimental between them? With such thoughts in mind, she inwardly gave him a negative score.

Nonetheless, she had some reservations about his working ability. After all, he must be a professional in his industry to be able to be recruited by Heather. No matter what kind of character he had, she still hoped that he would be mature and responsible in his work; hence, she suppressed her disapproval toward him for the moment.

"Nothing good ever comes out from your mouth. You can tell me straight if you want to criticize me. Don't play any tricks," Heather snarled. Paige, who witnessed Leon being told off, felt a little happy as seeing Leon being scolded actually eased her discontentment. "Heather, I can't believe that you view me in such an awful manner. I complimented you from

the bottom of my heart, yet you treated me so cruelly." Leon continued to act pitiful; his pair

of large bottomless eyes could even melt the heart of the observers.

Then, he took the opportunity to approach Heather but was pushed away by the latter. "Drop

the act. We are here to talk about some serious matters." She did not want to continue to watch him fooling around, and at the same time, she did not want Paige to see her fierce side.

"Okay, I understand. The reason you asked me out is to discuss the start-up of the business,

right?" Leon casually replied. He seemed nonchalant, as if he did not treat this important matter seriously.

"What are your thoughts? We can briefly discuss it today." At this topic, Heather's attitude became stern as she pushed the cup of coffee to one side. The way she slightly narrowed her eyes was stunning.

Her eyelashes were prominent and her complexion was flawless under the sunlight that cast on her face. Leon could not take his eyes off her gorgeous face, and Paige took notice of the hint of inconspicuous fervent emotions in his gaze.

However, it lasted for barely an instant. When Paige looked into his eyes again, all she could see was a smug look. It stunned her for a moment and made her think that she might have seen things. Nevertheless, Leon falling in love with Heather wasn't something surprising. "Pick an auspicious day to start the business. It's that simple. We will play according to the rules and take it one step at a time. We are just starting a company. Relax and have fun." Leon had always been skittish, but the word 'have fun' stung Paige's heart and caused her

glare at him in anger.

When he realized that her fierce glare was directed at him, it was too late for him to regret his words. Then, she uttered in dissatisfaction, "We are not starting a company for fun, so I hope you can take this seriously. The three of us gathered here today to make plans about our business, and we are going to start from scratch. This is an important moment in our lives. If we have this sort of carefree mindset, how are we going to face all the future challenges?"

Listening to Paige, Heather became more engrossed in watching the commotion and gloated over Leon's position. He's in deep trouble now! He actually rubbed the nice-tempered Paige the wrong way and infuriated her. Thinking of this, she was somehow secretly excited about the turns of events. Although she knew that Leon was extremely serious about their new business set-up, she had no intention to explain to Paige on his behalf. Instead, she wished that Paige would be able to teach him a lesson for speaking without thinking.

When Paige started questioning Leon without warning, the atmosphere suddenly became so serious that he felt awkward. It seems like Paige can't take jokes.

Pleadingly, he darted a glance at Heather, hoping that the latter would stand up for him and

explain the situation. However, she only gave him a you-are-on-your-own glance in return. "Please don't misunderstand me." Since Heather had no plans in helping him, he had no choice but to clear the misunderstandings himself. "Have you heard of Chairman Mao's famous quote? It is said that 'all enemies are paper tigers'. Our strategies should be built on the foundation of our contempt toward the enemies, but our tactics should be devised by starting from taking them seriously. What I'm trying to say is that we should have a carefree mindset when working. A happy job makes a healthy life."

Leon was not sure if Paige accepted his explanation, but from the surface, her anger seemed to ease a little. Her gaze somehow made him feel guilty and reminded him of his homeroom teacher when he was in third grade, who had dominated his nightmare as a child. He intended to ask Heather in private if Paige had been a teacher before this because her intimidating presence was comparable to that of a stern homeroom teacher.

Heather took another sip of coffee, concealing her smirk with the cup. I can foresee that things will become interesting between them. They seem to make quite a good match. "Paige, do you have any suggestions?" Heather thought that it was time for her to say something, else Paige and Leon would continue to stare at each other awkwardly. "November is just around the corner. Why don't we set the grand opening on the first day of

the month? I've checked and it turns out that it's an auspicious day." Paige had long been waiting for this day to come. Ever since Heather mentioned finding a day to officially start their business, she had been keeping it in mind. After conducting some research, she thought that 1st November was a good day.

"I don't really mind the date. The arrangement of marketing activities on that day is more important. Don't you think that you guys should be a little more specific and practical in your

proposals?" Heather said helplessly. Not only was Leon being unhelpful, but even Paige's suggestion was not on point.