

No Chance 1821

[Chapter 1821 Deep Resentment](#)

As she recalled what happened just now, Bella's hands started to tremble again. One of the police officers passed her a blanket, but she continued to shiver in fear.

"Did the stranger say anything?" Elisa inquired.

Bella shook her head. "I tried to warn the person that I had already called the police, and they were on their way. I asked who it was, but they continued to knock on the door vigorously without replying to a word I said," Bella's voice quavered weakly, her breath growing thin and ragged. Her eyes had widened so large, and her body froze as if being pulled back to her memories of what had happened. She buried her head in her arms, struggling to figure out why this was happening to her.

The police officer at the side helped her explain, "The person ran away as soon as we arrived. They had been trying to smash open the bathroom door with a hammer. They would have gotten to her if we had arrived a few minutes later."

Elisa felt her stomach churn at the thought. She felt terrible that Bella had to go through this. She hugged Bella and reassured her again, "You're okay now."

Bella had never been this emotionally distraught, even when her ex-fiancé and best friend betrayed her. It was all down to the pressure of being alone in a different city, getting oppressed by the executives in the company, and getting so close to death that all the compounded stress opened up her bottled-up emotions like a broken dam. She just wanted to cry and let it all out.

Even Gareth, who usually appeared cold and distant, couldn't help but pity his cousin. His eyes softened as he stared at her, thinking about who might've done this to her.

But according to Bella, this wasn't even the first time that something like this had happened.

Bella's phone call in the middle of the night was because she noticed someone following her. She also received a bouquet from an anonymous sender. She never thought much about it but suddenly realized everything could be connected. The flowers weren't sent as a sign of love or admiration but as a threat.

Elisa's face darkened. "Bella just moved to Bayswe. There's no way she could have made an enemy here in such a short period. Even if she did, they wouldn't have such deep resentment towards her. If we narrow down the possibilities, there's only one person..." Elisa trailed off, not wanting to say the name out loud.

She shot a glance at Gareth, signaling for him to follow her outside so they could talk privately.

Bella was in a very vulnerable state, so Elisa wanted to stay by her side. She also didn't want to say anything that might trigger her.

Hence, Elisa stayed by Bella's side and waited for her to fall asleep before leaving.

Gareth was leaning against the wall by the door, smoking a cigarette. His right hand was on the railing, and his body was slightly curved forward. He held the cigarette in his left hand and let out puffs of

smoke from his mouth. The smoke from his cigarette obscured his face, making it impossible to read his emotions.

When he saw Elisa exiting the room, he stubbed out his cigarette in the trash can and stood up.

"How is she?" Gareth's tall, lean frame stepped closer to Elisa, casting a shadow over her features.

Elisa stared at him, wondering if she should tell him he didn't need to put out his cigarette. She decided to keep it to herself.

"She's asleep," she said.

Gareth nodded. "That's good."

Elisa didn't say a word as she leaned against the wall, mirroring Gareth's posture from a moment ago.

Gareth stood before her, his eyes glinting with curiosity. "What were you going to say just now?"

Elisa kept quiet momentarily, her eyes slowly lifting to meet his. "Bella just moved to Bayswe. Although she can sometimes be a little reckless, she would never go overboard. I don't believe anyone would have such deep hatred towards her that they would plot something like this to scare her. Only one person in Bayswe would do something like this."

[Chapter 1822 Illegal Ways](#)

Their eyes met in tacit understanding as they both said the name in unison.

"Paul Grayson."

"Paul Grayson."

Gareth let out a sharp laugh, his eyes glinting with amusement. Elisa followed suit, her cheeks turning red.

"This has to be about me," Elisa continued. "When Bella first joined the company, everyone knew that I was the one who brought her in. Initially, she had no potential to be appointed, so I appointed her interim leader. She could have been promoted once she proved herself, but that never happened because Paul kept her in check."

"I'll be proposing for her promotion at the executive meeting tomorrow. It has to go through, no matter what. It'll also be a good time to test Paul and see if he has anything to do with this. If it was him..."

Elisa's eyes turned cold as ice before she could finish her sentence. Gareth knew that this wouldn't end well for Paul.

"But," Elisa suddenly changed her tone as she considered other possibilities. "if it wasn't someone from Bayswe, then we'll have to look into the people she knew before coming here."

It immediately made Gareth think of her good-for-nothing ex-fiancé and the w*nnch that stole her best friend's husband. The thought of it sent a chill down his spine. How could she have such terrible taste in men?

"Are you thinking that this has to do with her ex-fiancé and the so-called best friend she had? If I remember correctly, they were taken in for questioning for embezzlement. It wasn't a small amount of money. I doubt they would be released so soon."

Elisa nodded her head, but Gareth knew what she was thinking. She must have thought that Bella's ex-fiancé and best friend had broken free from prison illegally.

They might not even get a truthful answer if they asked the correctional officers. And if they sent in a request for visitation, it would most likely be rejected.

Gareth knew what he had to do to get to the bottom of this. "Don't worry," he said. "I'll find out the truth within three days. Whoever dares to touch the people of the Wickam family will face the consequences."

Gareth's words were like poison dripping from his lips. His eyes narrowed into two black holes, sucking in all the light around them.

Elisa folded her coat. She was confident that Gareth would be able to investigate everything concerning the despicable acts that had been happening to Bella. The only thing she had to worry about right now was staying with Bella overnight. She would test Paul the following day to see if he was involved.

Elisa had been fighting sleep all day. She thought she could shower and fall asleep, but the events of the day had kept her awake. She was about to pass out from exhaustion after she got Bella to sleep.

Gareth looked at her with pity and worry. As soon as she looked up, she met his warm and affectionate gaze.

Elisa touched her face and asked confusedly, "Is there something on my face?"

"Yes," Gareth replied nonchalantly. "Don't move."

Gareth reached out and gently wiped the dirt off her face.

Gareth's calloused hands brushed against Elisa's soft cheek, sending a shiver down her spine. She wasn't sure if it was from the intimate contact or the sudden chill in the air.

At that moment, she also caught a whiff of tobacco on his breath. Usually, she despised the smell of smoking, but for some reason, it didn't bother her now. In fact, it was strangely intoxicating.

The smell of the tobacco on Gareth was like a cologne that mesmerized her. It made her feel calm and relaxed. It was a smell that belonged uniquely to him, and she didn't hate it.

[Chapter 1823 Grateful](#)

She subtly tried to inch away, but there was barely any space between them. She knew this was her way of silently rejecting his advances, but she didn't want to make a scene.

Gareth was slightly disappointed but quickly regained his composure and acted as if nothing had happened.

"The police are still gathering more information from Bella. I know you want to stay with her tonight, but I don't want you to sleep here. I booked a room for you at a hotel nearby. I'll ask the officers to take you there."

Elisa looked reluctant.

"It's only a mile away. I booked two rooms. If we're needed here, we can come back together. If you stay in the waiting room here, you'll catch a cold," Gareth explained in a deep and concerned voice.

Elisa hesitated for a moment before nodding her head.

"Thank you," she muttered softly. She turned around and headed towards the rest area to wake Bella up.

Gareth's voice rang out behind her.

"You don't have to thank me. I'm the one who should be thanking you."

Elisa didn't respond as she opened the door to the resting area.

Gareth let out a sigh of relief. He had been worried that Elisa would refuse his offer. He knew she was a strong-willed woman; once she made up her mind, it was hard to change it.

He booked a presidential suite with two rooms opposite each other.

Bella slept in the same room as Elisa. They fell asleep quickly.

Gareth couldn't help but sigh, thinking how much better it would have been if they were at Wickam Manor.

The night passed quietly.

The following day, Gareth sent Elisa and Bella back to the police station.

After a good night's sleep, Bella looked much better than before. She was no longer panicking at the slightest movement.

Bella was able to recover quickly from her anxious breakdowns thanks to Elisa's comforting presence by her side throughout the day. She was also a mentally resilient person by nature.

Gareth had work to attend to at the office, so he took a taxi to Wickam Group after accompanying Bella and Elisa to the police station. It was a rare sight for his employees to see him taking a taxi.

Bella gave a concise and detailed account of the incident to the police at the station. The police assured her that they would do everything in their power to apprehend the intruder.

After thanking the police, Elisa brought Bella to the car.

"Are you feeling okay? You look like you're still breaking out in cold sweats," Elisa said worriedly as she took out a few tissues to pass to Bella. "Use this to wipe your sweat away."

Bella thanked Elisa and started to wipe her sweat away.

"Ms. Benett, I'm so sorry for being a nuisance the past two days. I had no one else to call but you yesterday. I don't know anyone else in Bayswe, and I couldn't bear to frighten Grandma."

Elisa smiled warmly. "What are you saying? How is this a nuisance? I can't let anything happen to my best employee. We have a big proposal coming up. Who am I supposed to find if something happened to you?"

Bella finally smiled. She knew Elisa was trying to lighten her burden.

Elisa's kindness deeply touched her, and it made her feel extremely grateful for her support.

In the car, Elisa asked Bella if she wanted to go to the office or home.

[Chapter 1824 Settle](#)

Elisa suggested that Bella go home and rest, but Bella declined.

"The proposal is almost done," she said. "I can only sleep in peace once it's been signed."

Elisa respected Bella's decision but couldn't help but feel uneasy. She gripped the steering wheel tightly. "Let me know if you don't feel well," she responded.

Bella nodded in agreement.

Elisa drove to the office in silence. She couldn't shake the feeling that something was wrong.

Bella was in a vulnerable state, but she insisted on working. She felt grateful to Elisa and also wanted to prove her worth.

Paul's refusal to let the proposal go through made Elisa's blood boil. She was determined to make sure the proposal was passed today. She thought to herself that she would do whatever it took to make it happen.

The car stopped at the entrance of the office. Elisa accompanied Bella to the top floor and supported her to her seat. Bella was reluctant, but Elisa insisted on helping her. Elisa wanted everyone to know that she had Bella's back. If anyone tried to hurt Bella, they would have to answer to her.

Elisa predicted that Paul would be furious if he knew her plans for promoting Bella. He was known to despise people who used connections to get ahead.

He believed integrity was about earning your position through hard work and merit, not nepotism or favoritism. He also believed that a company would be in a mess if people were promoted based on their connections rather than their qualifications.

Ultimately, the people who were plotting schemes and flaunting their power and status were all people under Paul.

In the past, Elisa had paid no heed to this, as Paul had been one of the investors supporting the company for a long time.

But she couldn't let it be anymore!

As expected, Paul was late for the executive meeting.

Someone in the room asked if they should send a staff member to remind him.

Elisa's lips curled up in an inscrutable expression. "Even the president knows how to be on time. Who does Mr. Grayson think he is? Do we need to cancel the meeting if he's not here?" she said coldly.

The person looked displeased by Elisa's criticism. His lips started to tremble, but he didn't say a word. Not everyone had the ability or power to speak over Elisa.

After asserting her unwavering stance, she started the meeting.

About twenty minutes later, as the director of the project department was giving his speech, Paul barged into the meeting room angrily.

Everyone's head turned towards the door. Paul was standing by the door, his eyes flaring red and his anger visible through the veins popping out of his neck.

"Mr. Grayson, I thought you won't be joining us today," Elisa muttered dismissively.

Paul had to clench his fists to keep himself from slapping Elisa across the face. Her words were respectful, but her tone was condescending and mocking.

"I had something to attend to," Paul said with a lilt, though he was boiling with anger.

He wouldn't have achieved his current position if he couldn't maintain his composure in front of people of higher authority.

Within a short while, Paul had composed himself and returned to a neutral expression.

"Since you're here, take a seat," Elisa said, pointing to a seat on her left. "You're just in time to listen to the upcoming plans. The next one has to do with market research, the department you're in charge of." She didn't spare another glance at Paul.

Paul seethed with anger, his face red and his fists clenched. He knew he couldn't lash out at Elisa, so he sat down and tried to calm himself down.

[Chapter 1825 Meeting](#)

Elisa announced, "Let's begin," with a slight nod. Rochelle stared between Paul and Elisa, unsure of what to do. She didn't want to offend either of them.

She had significantly benefited from being under Paul's wing and couldn't afford to disobey him.

Paul smiled slowly, savoring his moment of power. His smile seemed to say, "Look at this. She is my employee. They only listen to my orders. You may be the CEO, Elisa, but you're nothing compared to me. Who do you think you are?"

Paul's eyes lit up with a mocking glint, his face devoid of the anger he felt a moment ago. He spoke matter-of-factly, "Ms. Bennett asked you to start your presentation. Why aren't you listening to her?"

Although he was reprimanding her, anyone could tell that his voice had no hint of displeasure. Instead, his tone was light and carefree, secretly pleased with her actions.

A few stakeholders who didn't want anything to do with their feud started to lower their heads. The others were curious to see how this would end up.

Paul was facing Elisa head-on, and the people in the meeting room wanted to witness how Elisa would diffuse the situation. Without a doubt, if Elisa couldn't manage it, Paul would hold her by the nose for the rest of her time as CEO here.

Elisa's eyes were cold, devoid of any emotion. They looked directly into Paul's eyes, and their gazes met in an intense stare.

Elisa shifted her gaze to Rochelle and smiled, her eyes a half-moon shape. "You should have told me you weren't feeling well. Is there anyone who can take your place in presenting the report?"

Rochelle's deliberate attempt to step over Elisa was met with a quick-witted dismissal from Elisa.

Before she could say anything in her defense, Elisa had already found someone else to present.

It seemed that if someone wasn't going to rise to the occasion, Elisa didn't need them around.

Rochelle had chosen to side with Paul, but that didn't mean everyone on the events team was siding with him.

"Ms. Bennett, let me do it," a familiar voice rang out in the meeting room.

Everyone turned their heads to the source of the voice and saw Bella enter the meeting room, carrying files and her notebook.

She nodded her head, politely greeting everyone in the room.

She then walked over to Elisa and placed the notebook before her. "Ms. Benett, if you would allow me, I would like to present our report to the executives here today," she said. As she finished her sentence, she winked at Elisa mischievously, her lips curving into a smile.

Elisa was stunned to see Bella here. She had not expected her to show up, especially after what had happened the day before.

But she was also intrigued by Bella's plans.

She saw this opportunity as a chance to evaluate the management of the project department and make significant changes if necessary.

Since Bella was here, it would make things much easier. She could take this as her chance to get used to her future responsibilities.

Elisa smiled back at her and gestured for her to start her presentation. "You can go on."

Bella nodded and walked to the front of the projected screen.

Rochelle felt uneasy at Bella's actions. She pointed at Bella and said sharply, "This meeting is only attended by the executives and directors. Bella has no right to present here as a mere temporary leader." She turned to Elisa as soon as she finished her sentence. Remembering what had happened the

other day, her voice deepened with conviction and a hint of displeasure. "Ms. Benett, Bella has no right to be here."

Elisa kept quiet and stared at her indifferently, the corner of her lips lifting subtly. Her expression was unreadable.

A heavy silence hung in the air after Rochelle's unwavering statement.

"Calm down and have a glass of water," Elisa said with a chuckle.

[Chapter 1826 Hypocrite](#)

But her eyes were like two empty sockets, devoid of any emotion.

Rochelle stood rooted to her spot, unable to move. She didn't dare to drink or take her seat. Her eyes widened in fear. The atmosphere in the meeting room turned awkward.

She then shot a pleading gaze at Paul.

Paul cleared his throat and said, "Exactly, Ms. Benett. Ms. Matterson has a point. This doesn't seem right."

Elisa's lips lifted slightly in an indiscernible look as she tapped her finger on the table. No one could tell what was going through her head.

Elisa scanned the meeting table and asked, "What do the people here think?"

She proposed a discussion, but her authoritative voice demanded a response.

No one dared to speak up.

As Paul was about to say something, Elisa threw Rochelle's report onto the ground.

Everyone was left in shock by her unexpected actions.

Even Paul stood frozen, struggling to wrap his mind around what had happened.

"The rules need to be changed if it doesn't work. Also, I sent the proposal for Bella's promotion two weeks ago. Why didn't you approve it?" Elisa lowered her voice, emphasizing every word clearly.

This was the first time that Elisa had lashed out in anger, especially towards someone with such a high status in the company.

Although Elisa had nothing to lose by going against Paul, she had never directly expressed it to his face.

Paul had never respected Elisa, and now that she targeted him, he would only become more arrogant and condescending.

However, he had a thick skin from years of experience, so Elisa's threatening remarks rolled off his back. He kept his composure and feigned a saddened expression, but inside, he was seething with anger.

"I know this matter upsets you," he said, "but the company does not tolerate anyone who obtains their position through connections. If I approve her promotion, there will be more problems that will arise in

the future. It is already an unusual practice for Bella to join the company, and now you want her to be promoted in such a short time. She can't depend on connections to climb her way up. It would be inevitable that other employees would be displeased with the unfair decision."

Elisa snickered at his remarks. She was baffled yet amused by how he acted as if he cared for the company.

"Mr. Grayson, are you sure that's not how you feel?" she asked, her eyes narrowed at him in a provocative stare.

Paul's face turned grim immediately. He pointed towards Elisa, his voice trembling as he raised his voice, "What are you implying?"

He had fallen right into Elisa's trap. As soon as he felt the slightest hint of accusation, he felt compelled to lash out in self-defense.

Elisa twirled a strand of her hair in amusement as she watched Paul squirm. He had fooled himself into thinking he cared about the company, but she knew better. He was only in it for himself.

Elisa took out a file and slammed it down in the middle of the meeting table. The executives and directors exchanged nervous glances before taking a document each. Their eyes bulged out of their heads as soon as they saw what was on the document.

The document revealed that Rochelle had embezzled millions from the company and sold off the company's confidential technology.

It also described in detail how Rochelle obtained the director position through Paul's connections.

Elisa sipped her tea and said, "Mr. Grayson, you're acting like a hypocrite. You said that promoting Bella through connections would make the employees feel upset. But this is what you're doing behind everyone's back? Rochelle has schemed such despicable acts using your name. Are you unaware of this, or have you been feigning indifference all this time?"

Paul slumped in his chair, defeated. His confidence, which had been so strong before, had been completely shattered by Elisa's exposure of his lies.

[Chapter 1827 In My Position](#)

The color drained from Paul's face, and his eyes widened with fear.

He had been caught red-handed, and he knew it.

Elisa had exposed him in front of everyone; it was no different from a public execution.

Rochelle noticed Paul's gaze staring at her. She hung her head, staring at the ground. Paul's eyes turned cold with indignation.

She had caused a mess, and now Paul was left holding the bag.

Elisa ignored their interaction and turned to the other stakeholders. She raised her voice and asked, "If people like Rochelle can become the director of our project department, then why can't Bella take up the team leader position?"

Rochelle, who was brought into the company by Paul, was now being brought down by Elisa, who was exposing her past schemes.

Paul felt a sinking feeling in his stomach as his face turned crimson with rage.

"I believe Rochelle should be held accountable for her actions," he said, his voice tight with tension.

"However, she has also been a valuable asset to the company. I propose we dock her pay for the next three months as punishment. As for Bella, I believe she is more than qualified to be a team leader, and I approve of her assignment."

Paul tried to downplay the situation by giving Elisa what she wanted, but it wasn't enough. Rochelle should be in prison for embezzling the company's funds. There was no way Elisa would let her off the hook by merely docking her salary for three months.

He was proposing a solution that would have benefitted them greatly, but he acted as if he was on the losing end.

His tone implied he didn't mind taking the fall for this matter as long as the company didn't go into chaos.

As expected, he continued, trying to deflect the severity of the matter. "Elisa, you're still young. You don't have the experience of handling a matter like this. The company will lose its stability if it is not handled properly."

Rochelle knew Paul was trying to protect her, so she readily agreed to his proposed action. She also vowed to guide Bella well in her work.

Everything seemed to be going according to plan.

After all, Paul had finally decided to give the team leader position to Bella.

But Elisa wasn't here to discuss matters with them.

She had the authority to determine what happened to them.

"It would be the company's greatest mistake to keep someone who betrays everyone else's trust," Elisa asserted in a commanding voice. "Ms. Matterson, you're fired. Your position will be taken over by Ms. Wickam with a probation period of three months."

Elisa said it all in one breath, leaving Rochelle in utter shock. Even Bella was stunned to hear her announcement. Elisa had never brought up the possibility of taking up the role with her before.

Rochelle had already walked over to Paul, begging him in tears to keep her in the company.

Rochelle broke down into tears as she clung to Paul. He would have to comfort his lover later.

But she was begging the wrong person.

Paul's veins bulged in his neck as his eyes narrowed at Elisa. "What are you trying to achieve?" he asked indignantly. "Are you not afraid of losing the support of the people who have been here for decades and have helped build this company?"

Elisa stood up from her chair and walked to the middle of the meeting table. She placed her hands firmly on the table and stared at everyone with a pressuring gaze.

"Everyone here has contributed greatly to the company," she said in a clear and determined voice. "I would never take that for granted. However, I have my principles and my values. I would not tolerate anyone who goes against what my company stands for. It would be a dereliction of my duty as CEO to let Rochelle go today."

Elisa emphasized the gravity of her words, making sure that everyone understood the importance of her decision. She had made everyone stand in opposition to Paul.

Seeing how no one disagreed with her remarks, she gave Paul a visceral look of satisfaction.

[Chapter 1828 Not Suitable](#)

"Mr. Grayson, if you have any objections, please let me know once you are in my position. I will be leaving now," Elisa concluded, her voice dripping with sarcasm.

Elisa turned on her heel and left the meeting room, not bothering to look back.

Bella was still trying to wrap her head around her new title. However, her demeanor changed as soon as she spoke to Rochelle. "Ms. Matterson, please tidy up your office as soon as possible. I'll be moving in three days."

She then turned and followed Elisa out of the room.

The meeting room erupted into chaos when they left. However, at that point, there was nothing Paul could do to change the meeting outcome.

He had a plan, but he wouldn't sacrifice it for Rochelle.

As expected, Rochelle packed up her things and left in the afternoon. Bella was elated but also apprehensive. Her mind was racing, and she decided to seek out Elisa in her office.

She knocked on the door and heard Elisa's voice.

"Come in."

Elisa saw Bella as soon as she lifted her eyes, but she didn't seem surprised to see her.

"I knew you would come to find me," Elisa said. "I just didn't think you would come so soon. Have a seat."

Elisa poured a glass of coffee for Bella as she took her seat. Bella held onto the glass with both hands, unsure how to start the conversation.

Elisa smiled knowingly when she saw Bella's discomfort. "You're not one to beat around the bush, are you?" she teased. After a pause, she continued with a grave voice, "It'll be a challenge for you to take up the director role if you act this way."

Bella's eyes widened in alarm, but she quickly regained her composure. "I came here to talk about that," she said calmly. "I'm afraid I'm not capable enough for the position. I don't think I can do a better job than Rochelle. Maybe you shouldn't have fired her."

Elisa's smile froze as Bella's words sank in. Her eyes narrowed into a cold, icy glare.

Bella felt like she had made a terrible mistake.

Elisa's gaze was chilling, reminding her of Gareth's when he was angry.

The two of them looked very similar when they were furious.

Bella fidgeted nervously, her arms wrapped around her body. "Did I say something wrong?" she asked Elisa, her voice small and timid.

Elisa shook her head and poured herself a glass of coffee, her eyes never leaving Bella's face.

"I just think you've overestimated your value," Elisa said, her voice cold and unsympathetic.

Bella's face paled at Elisa's words, her confidence evaporating like water in the desert sun.

"I'm not sure why you think I fired Rochelle because of you," Elisa said. "Of course, you played a part in it, but the more important reason was that Rochelle was a threat to the company. I also don't think you'd be able to do well as a director."

Bella's face had turned ashen, her eyes wide with fear.

Bella never expected to be met with such harsh criticism when she decided to find Elisa.

Bella couldn't understand why Elisa was treating her so differently. She was usually approachable and friendly, but now she was cold, distant, and indifferent.

Bella felt a rift growing between her and Elisa. She had always looked up to Elisa, but now she felt she didn't know her. She was devastated by Elisa's criticism; it was as if she was drowning in the deep ocean. She had always admired Elisa, and now she felt like she had let her down.

A knot of dread began forming in her stomach.

Elisa took a sip of her coffee and sighed, her eyes lingering on Bella. Her tone softened as she said, "No one is perfect at their job right away. It's normal to feel like you're not cut out for this position. That's why I gave you three months of probation."

Bella's unfocused gaze sharpened, and her face slowly brightened.

Her raw emotions were displayed as plain as day.

[Chapter 1829 The Black Sheep](#)

"I get what you mean now!" Bella's face lit up like a radiant sunrise, and her cheeks flushed with excitement. Her genuine smile reflected the newfound enthusiasm that had ignited within her.

With determination in her voice, she declared, "In three months, I will establish a firm footing in this position and prove to you and the board of directors that your choice was right."

After her bold statement, Bella gracefully rose from her chair and bowed to Elisa, expressing her gratitude and respect.

Elisa watched Bella's departure with a satisfied smile, reaffirming her confidence in the young woman's capabilities.

While the atmosphere around the office was filled with the excitement of Bella's promotion, there was one person whose mood was tainted by bitterness and defeat.

Rochelle returned to her office, feeling humiliated and defeated as she began to pack her belongings. She would choose not to pack her things if she could turn back time. The humiliation she had endured was immeasurable.

The leaking of the meeting's contents had left Rochelle suspicious, wondering if Elisa might have orchestrated it. Still, she couldn't deny the reality before her. All her belongings were carelessly tossed into a shabby cardboard box, placed right outside the office door as if they were eager to see her gone.

But that wasn't the end of her ordeal.

As Rochelle walked out with the box, her colleagues couldn't hide their contempt, and their disdainful glances pierced her already wounded spirit. To add to her misery, someone purposely bumped into her, causing scalding hot coffee to spill all over her body. The searing liquid left her skin red and irritated, tarnishing the carefully prepared appearance she had maintained in the past. Once a prominent figure in the company, she quickly became the black sheep, the outcast of the workplace.

Rochelle had never experienced such treatment before. Her body trembled with barely suppressed rage, on the verge of exploding.

However, Bella, now in her newly appointed managerial position, quickly intervened to end the escalating conflict.

As Bella emerged from Elisa's office and witnessed the scene, she paused momentarily, her sharp mind working to grasp the unfolding situation.

Despite her humiliation, Rochelle seemed to have regained some courage, tilting her head defiantly as she lashed out, "These people are just opportunists. They treat me like this now and might treat you the same way in the future. I haven't even officially resigned, and they are already so eager. Bella, can't you control your subordinates and have them behave?"

Despite her downfall, Rochelle's insolent demeanor remained unchanged.

The young employee who had spilled the coffee realized she had gone too far. Nervously, she looked at Bella with tears welling in her eyes, struggling to find the right words to explain herself. Afraid of being misunderstood by Bella, she was on the verge of tears.

The office fell into silence, with everyone waiting for Bella's reaction.

Suddenly, amidst the tense atmosphere, Bella burst into laughter.

Rochelle's eyebrows twisted, demanding to know what was so amusing.

Others looked at Bella with bewilderment, unsure of her reaction.

Bella folded her arms and turned to face Rochelle, and her voice tinged with contempt and mockery. "I thought you would become wiser after this incident. But you're still as foolish and stubborn as ever."

Rochelle couldn't believe what she heard. "What did you say?!"

Her face contorted with rage, twisting her beautiful features into a ghastly sight.

Without hesitation, Bella responded, "First of all, you have been fired. When Ms. Benett spoke, you were no longer the company's director. Stop using your former position to bully others."

Rochelle wanted to retort, but Bella ruthlessly cut her off. The situation had taken an unexpected turn, and Rochelle's arrogance crumbled in the face of Bella's newfound strength and determination.

[Chapter 1830 The Demeanor of a Director](#)

With firm resolve, Bella stood her ground and addressed Rochelle's ill-intentioned words. "Also, these people are my team members. You've abused and suppressed my team for so long, so it's only fair for us to seek revenge now, right?" Her words exuded confidence, and her authoritative presence filled the room with awe.

She continued, not giving Rochelle a chance to defend herself, "Call security and have this person escorted out of the company. Don't let her take anything that doesn't belong to her. Also, thoroughly check the files on her phone."

Rochelle's fury escalated, and she unleashed a barrage of curses, heedless of her image. "Who do you think you are? How dare you treat me like this?" Rochelle's arrogance knew no bounds.

"What, didn't you get your position after hanging around that b*tch, Elisa? Everyone knows why you were promoted to chairperson at such a young age. You're no good either!"

Before Rochelle could finish her derogatory tirade, Bella's palm struck her face with a resounding slap.

In the distance, Elisa noticed the commotion and stepped out to see if she needed to intervene. As she approached, she slowed to observe Bella's actions from a distance, leaning against a nearby pillar calmly. She watched, curious to see how Bella would handle the situation.

Elisa couldn't help but be impressed by the force and impact of Bella's slap. The decisive action caught her attention, and she silently admired Bella's boldness in handling the situation.

The impact was powerful, and Rochelle's face immediately swelled up. The stinging sensation in Bella's hand lingered, a testament to the force she had used, but she couldn't let Rochelle's slander go

unchallenged. Despite the tension in the air, Bella stood her ground, unwavering in her determination to put an end to Rochelle's insolence.

Taking hold of Rochelle's collar, Bella's voice held an unmistakable edge of authority as she threatened, "If you continue to defame others, be prepared to receive a lawyer's letter."

With a firm push, Bella released her grip on Rochelle, causing the disgraced woman to stumble backward and eventually fall to the ground.

The security guards arrived, and Elisa watched the unfolding scene from a distance, her gaze fixed on Bella, curious to see how she would handle the situation.

Rochelle appeared dazed from the slap, her expression a mix of shock and bewilderment as the security guards escorted her away, leaving the office area in awkward silence.

As the tension in the room began to subside, Bella took a moment to collect herself, her strong exterior hiding a wave of relief washing over her.

However, there was still one matter to address.

Turning her attention to the young employee who had joined in the conflict, Bella looked at her with stern eyes and delivered her admonishment, "And as for you, don't take the lead like this again. It'll only get you in trouble. Let her go where she belongs, with the rest of the trash. No need for you to waste your time and energy on her."

The young employee meekly nodded in acknowledgment.

Observing the office area, Bella noticed Elisa, who had approached during the commotion.

Her eyes lit up, and she swiftly instructed everyone before leaving the office area.

Amid the commotion, the office was abuzz with discussions.

"Ms. Wickam turned out to be completely different from what I had imagined. I thought she was a gentle and fragile Ophelia, but I never expected that she's more like Joan of Arc."

"How could anyone around Ms. Benett be anything less? I feel that our project department will only get better and better!"

"But if she's this fierce... I'm afraid I won't be able to handle it."

Bella was unaware of these conversations and paid no attention to them.

Bella's eyes sparkled with a sense of achievement as she approached Elisa, feeling pleased with how she handled the situation. "How do you think I did? I hope I didn't embarrass you."

Elisa's smile warmed as she praised Bella's decisive actions, "You handled it well. A director should be firm in both rewards and punishments."

Bella blushed modestly, humbled by the compliment from the woman she admired.

Elisa couldn't help but notice the change in Bella's demeanor. She teased playfully, "Hey, where is the feisty Ms. Wickam from earlier? I've just praised you a little, and you're blushing like a cherry."

In Elisa's presence, Bella's tough exterior seemed to soften, revealing her personality's more vulnerable and sincere side. Her admiration for Elisa was evident in her expression and demeanor.