

No Chance 1971

[Chapter 1971 Who Is That Lady](#)

With a gentle smile, Kaylee excused herself, "I accidentally sprained my ankle when I ran away the other day, and it hasn't healed yet." Therefore, that was the excuse she chose to not to get out of the car.

Elisa wore a smile that didn't reach her eyes. She knew all too well whether Kaylee had sprained her ankle that day or not.

Speaking of this matter now, it was simply a reminder to Eliza that Kaylee was indeed her lifesaver.

A mocking curve tugged at the corner of Elisa's mouth.

She absolutely despised being blackmailed using favors.

So, when they got out of the car, Elisa was the first to head towards the company. Kaylee was left standing alone and became the subject to the scrutiny and speculation of many onlookers.

This made her feel as if she was standing in the center of a storm.

Even though they might not have any ill intentions or say anything offensive, no phony woman could handle such situation.

While speaking, they would occasionally steal glances. To someone like Kaylee, who already had an inferiority complex and came from the mountains, it felt more like mockery and contempt.

With a swift move as if she had grease under her feet, Kaylee quickly caught up with Elisa, albeit in a somewhat disheveled manner.

Little did she know, the people behind her bore no ill will. They were merely pondering about her relationship with Elisa.

"Is this the new employee? Who is the lady who came with Ms. Benett? How come I've never heard about her before?"

"They must be quite close, right? Ms. Wickam has never come to work with Ms. Benett before."

Ever since Elisa returned from the small fishing village, she had come to understand Bella's loyalty and capabilities.

Before long, Bella was promoted to deputy CEO, in charge of HR and Finance besides her department.

All three were the elite departments of the company. To say that Bella was Elisa's favorite in the company was no exaggeration.

Clearly, the newcomer brought by Elisa had caught everyone's attention, and they couldn't help but start making comparisons.

"That's different. Ms. Wickam has already taken the seat as deputy CEO. Can others even compare to her?"

“Well, didn't you notice that when Ms. Benett left, she didn't even wait for her? I'd say they're not on the best of terms.”

...

There were various views and everyone had their own perspective.

At that moment, a cold, ruthless voice echoed, causing a few people to shudder in fear.

“Why are you all analyzing this instead of working? Shall I report this to Ms. Benett?”

A chill ran through them, their bodies stiffening like they were frozen.

A few of them slowly regained their senses and upon seeing Bella who had no expression, they let out a startled cry and quickly rushed into the elevator.

Bella couldn't help but chuckle as she watched the group flee in disarray.

At the same time, curiosity about this Kaylee also arose in her heart.

Who exactly is this lady who came with Elisa?

Can she really measure up to me?

To be honest, Bella felt a bit upset.

In the meantime, everyone was discussing about someone who got lost in the building.

As Kaylee was chasing after Elisa, she had already taken the CEO's private elevator to the top floor.

And there she stood, foolishly rooted to the spot, unsure of what to do next.

Before long, those who were just outside gossiping had all walked back in.

Fortunately, they didn't say anything more, but glancing at her occasionally.

Kaylee felt even more embarrassed.

Luckily, Elisa had no intention of leaving Kaylee behind just like that.

After all, if I've promised Gareth something, I will follow through. Otherwise, I wouldn't have agreed in the first place.

So, before long, a receptionist respectfully escorted Kaylee to the office she was supposed to go to.

She was directly interviewed and entered the HR department.

[Chapter 1972 Special Treatment](#)

On this matter, people in the department had heard one or two rumors. Especially after knowing that Kaylee was somewhat connected to Elisa, they became even more attentive and eager to please her.

While some people could see that the relationship between the two wasn't as harmonious as imagined, there were still those who tried to curry favor with her. They were simply hoping to use Kaylee as a

stepping stone to get close to Elisa. If that trick was successful, they would achieve rapid success instantly.

Thus, there was no shortage of people trying to bootlick Kaylee.

A male colleague asked her if there was anything she wanted to eat, so he could order it for her.

Shortly after, a female colleague asked her if she wanted to have iced coffee, and they ended up ordering together.

At first, Kaylee was somewhat uncomfortable and politely declined each offer.

Later, she understood that these people were trying to please her for their own reasons, and so she accepted their offer without worries.

So, in less than half a day, everything went smooth sailing for Kaylee in the department. She was treated like a queen.

By right, given her current status as an intern, tasks like buying meals, getting coffee, running errands, and picking up deliveries were all part of her responsibilities.

However, they were all taken care off by volunteers.

Kaylee even found a few little followers for herself. Her day was really comfortable.

Bella had also seen that.

All morning, Kaylee neither studied the information required to be a HR personnel, nor did she think about improving her own abilities.

She spent the whole morning basking in the flattery.

The people in her group practically hadn't been working much, so their work efficiency was low.

Kaylee's matters were their priority.

It was simply outrageous when someone even gave Kaylee a massage while she was taking her afternoon nap. It was just absurd!

When Bella briefly reported the situation to Elisa, she was flipping through the quarterly report, not even bothering to lift her eyelids.

How should I put it... as I have expected?

I initially took her in thinking she was just a good-for-nothing, but I never expected this useless prick to start throwing her weight around and even forming cliques.

I thought people living in the mountains are very simple?

Elisa ignored Kaylee, but Bella couldn't stand it.

She said, "How can you let her abuse your credibility like this? Those who don't know might think you condone this. Isn't this damaging your reputation?"

Elisa shrugged indifferently, "Let her be, I don't expect her to contribute anything to the company. As long as she doesn't tarnish the company's reputation or harm its interests, you don't need to worry about her."

Bella was clearly a bit dissatisfied. Fortunately, the next sentence from Elisa made her feel much better.

"However, feel free to assign her any tasks. She's here to work, not to enjoy herself. As long as the others see you treating everyone equally, her current privileges will soon disappear."

Upon hearing these words, Bella felt much better in his heart and nodded in response.

Elisa raised her eyes, blinked, and asked, "Is there anything else?"

Bella shook her head.

"You may go then."

Bella bit her lip, and immediately left the office.

However... the reason Elisa didn't fuss over Kaylee's doing was because she was magnanimous.

If it were up to me, I wouldn't be so magnanimous.

As soon as she returned to the office, Bella immediately called for Kaylee.

Kaylee felt a bit nervous. She had heard early on that Bella was Gareth's cousin, and they had a good relationship. Therefore, naturally, Kaylee also wanted to leave a good impression on her.

However, Bella worked at Elisa's company, which indicated that their relationship was much better.

She was worried about encountering some kind of setback.

[Chapter 1973 She Has Created Trouble](#)

However, it turned out that she was overthinking it.

Bella simply called her over to ask if she had the basic professional knowledge to handle the interview in the afternoon.

First, Kaylee let out a huge sigh of relief. Then patted her chest to show that she was definitely up to the task.

Bella knew that Kaylee came from the mountains, naturally she didn't believe her, so she specifically asked, "Are you sure?"

It's just an interview after all. If you can pass by answering a few questions, then one naturally will. Isn't it all about who writes a better resume?

In order not to lose face in front of Gareth's cousin, Kaylee agreed without hesitation.

Bella was rather skeptical, so reluctantly relayed the information.

It was precisely Kaylee's overconfidence that ultimately led to disaster.

...

“Your company is really foolish, huh? What kind of Mickey Mouse operation hires such an HR?”

“Insulting someone? I'm not insulting a human!”

“Are you so foolish that you can't even take a bit of criticism? I don't know where this nepotism came from, but you'd better hurry back to your family. You're really getting on my nerves.”

...

There was a commotion in the Human Resources department, as if a dispute had erupted.

Bella had a bad feeling, so she quickly walked over.

At the center of the crowd stood a tall figure, around six feet one in height. He was casually dressed, donning a down jacket, sweatpants, and sneakers. He exuded youthful vitality, and his hair was styled in a trendy perm.

There was a teardrop-shaped mole at the corner of his eye and the tip of his eyebrow. It was a feature that was incredibly captivating.

In short, he was a handsome male university student. Of course, he was the type who had taste and high expectation.

He was in a standoff with Kaylee.

The male university student was clearly more articulate than Kaylee's.

With just a few words, he left her speechless. All Kaylee could do was point at him with a trembling hand.

“You...” she stuttered, unable to find her words. She was about to resort to her old tactics of feigning vulnerability, so she squeezed out a couple of tears, ready to use her “authority” to have him thrown out.

The university student, a young man full of vigor and vitality, immediately became upset upon hearing this.

“No need. I can walk on my own. But who would have thought that Benett Corporation has fallen to such a state? They can't even afford a decent HR.”

The man's words were incredibly rude.

Without uttering another word, he turned around and headed for the door.

As they passed by Bella, the two exchanged a glance, and it seemed as if everything around them had slowed down.

Just as the man was about to leave, Bella stopped him.

“Mister, please hold on a moment.”

Upon hearing this, the male university student stopped in his tracks and looked at Bella.

Bella was taken aback by his gaze, then she gave him a smile.

“Apologies for any inconvenience. I'm the person in charge here. This HR representative is new to our department, having just started less than half a day ago. If there are any issues, we kindly ask for your understanding.”

Upon hearing this, the man's face lit up with sudden realization.

Tears welled up in Kaylee's eyes. She never expected that Bella would disregard her so easily with just a few words.

Bella didn't care about what she thought as maintaining the company's image was the most important thing.

Besides, she was just stating a fact and it was just as she stated.

The university student snorted coldly, casting a somewhat contemptuous glance at Bella.

“You're so young. In fact, you look even younger than me. Are you sure your words hold weight? Or are you just another rich girl from some family out there to experience life?”

Bella couldn't help but laugh.

Judging by their ages, she was probably about four or five years older than this university student.

Yet, he claimed to look even younger than his actual age.

Regardless of whether it was the truth or lies, Bella found this young man quite interesting.

“I'm not kidding. I'm in charge here. Just tell me if there's anything you need.” Bella laughed sincerely from her heart.

[Chapter 1974 Mike Durham](#)

Only then did the university student believe Bella, and he walked towards her.

As for Kaylee, she was desperately trying to stop it perhaps out of a guilty conscience.

“He has no respect for our company at all. What's the point of hiring someone who stays but doesn't follow orders?” Kaylee's voice was somewhat sharp. Her finger that was pointing at the university student trembled slightly.

She looked around, hoping that those who had previously flattered her would step forward and say a few words.

Unfortunately, no one stepped forward to speak...

Buttering up Kaylee was for the sake of Elisa.

But Bella and Elisa had a great relationship, and Bella was also the deputy CEO of the company.

One was deputy CEO of a company, and the other one was an intern.

The difference in status was simply a world of difference.

Anyone with discernment knew which side to choose.

Kaylee felt a sense of despair, along with a touch of resentment.

Bella ignored her, wondering why Elisa would be so wary of such a naive and sweet girl.

She is simply brainless.

Bella didn't deal with the mess. She got the university student and returned to her office.

The university student followed suit and left, but not before casting a smug glance at Kaylee before he departed.

The latter was so furious she could hardly breathe, yet she was helpless. All she could do was watch, wide-eyed.

At the same time, she understood a fact. I must gain power.

A deputy CEO alone is enough to suppress me.

What about facing Elisa?

What chances of success do I have?

It's about time to get closer to Gareth...

Inside the office, Bella settled into her seat. Without waiting for an invitation, the university student naturally plopped down in a chair across from her.

He looked around at the decor, generously offering his own assessment.

"Good taste."

Bella chuckled lightly. She did not want to fuss over such trivialities with him.

She asked, "What is your name?"

The university student took out his resume and placed it on the table, then tilted his chin to signal Bella to take a look.

Bella didn't get angry. She picked it up and started reading it seriously.

Her gaze first fell on the column labeled "Name."

Mike Durham. Bella raised her eyebrow. Oh, we went to the same school.

Then, she looked at his major. It fitted the job very well.

He had gained numerous certificates and received many awards in school.

He was a few years older than she had imagined.

After graduating from university, he went abroad to further his studies, and continued in the same major. However, he also minored in psychology, bagging a dual degree at the master's level.

In reality, he was only about one to two years younger than her.

The resume was indeed excellent and very suitable for this position.

One could even say that it would be a waste of talent if he were to start off as a grassroots employee.

In an average company, this resume would at least qualify for a director-level position.

And Mike simply chose to become an intern at a venture capital firm.

It's quite a surprise.

Bella put down the resume, looked at Mike, and said earnestly, "I've reviewed your resume. It's excellent and fully meets the job requirements. In fact, it has... exceeded our expectation. May I ask why you only want to be an intern?"

He is more that qualified for the job, but he wants to be an intern... What is he thinking?

Mike shrugged and spread his hands, appearing somewhat indifferent.

"Start from the grassroots level, learn the management model of big companies. Then I can start my own business in the future."

Bella paused for a few seconds and laughed when she realized he wasn't joking.

"I've never seen someone who wants to learn from others secretly act so brazenly. Aren't you afraid the company won't hire you? Some things you say are too blunt. It's better for you to have some understanding on ways of the world."

Mike curled up the corner of his lips. "To be honest, with an HR like that woman in the company, I never planned on joining."

[Chapter 1975 Suspension And Investigation](#)

Bella was taken aback, feeling somewhat dissatisfied.

"Then why did you still come to the office for a discussion?"

Mike laughed mischievously.

"Just to prove that your company's HR is blind, and lost a promising talent. That's all."

Having said that, Mike stood up, dusted himself off, and turned to leave.

Bella called out from behind, "Your resume!"

Mike waved his hand without looking back. "I don't want it. Just appreciate it. Next time, don't let such a brain-dead HR conduct any interview."

Bella stood still, and laughed involuntarily. What a character!

However, this incident had indeed served as an alarm for Bella.

This Kaylee is not only illiterate, but also loves to show off.

She could have declined the task. I had given her the opportunity and even asked her.

But she confidently stated that she can manage.

After the task was assigned, she could also humbly seek advice. As the saying goes, a sword sharpened at the last minute can still be used. She could have saved us from the embarrassment.

Besides, she also loves autocracy.

At the time of the interview, there were two other experienced interviewers there. Yet, Mike was still offended under such circumstances.

This clearly shows that Kaylee must have been abusing her power at that time, taking advantage of her status to act arrogantly.

Bella simply couldn't stand people like her.

Immediately, it was announced that Kaylee was to be suspended for investigation.

This was the first time an employee had been suspended on the first day of work.

There was no response from Elisa. Since Kaylee was assigned to Bella's department, the latter was given full authority to manage the staff.

Everyone then understood that Kaylee's background might be fake, so they no longer treated her with the same respect as before.

In just half a day, Kaylee had fallen from being the apple of everyone's eye to hitting rock bottom.

The intern, just starting her job, was immediately suspended for inspection. Her chances of becoming a regular employee were almost zero. She was the first one to experience this.

In just half a day, the tone of their conversations took a turn. It shifted from praise to disparagement.

"I've been saying she's not related to Ms. Bennett, but you guys wouldn't believe me, would you? When Ms. Wickam first arrived, even Mr. Grayson, didn't like her, but didn't she still get a promotion and became the deputy CEO? Kaylee only started as an intern and was suspended not long after, so how could she have Ms. Bennett's backing?"

"You know, Ms. Wickam really knows her stuff, unlike this Kaylee. She seems to know nothing and yet has quite a temper."

"That's why I said she's not related to Ms. Bennett. How could someone like her possibly have such a dim-witted relative?"

...

Kaylee, hearing those rumors and gossip, naturally wouldn't accept them.

She slammed the table, stood up and shouted, "Have you all had your say? What a bunch of meanies who add insult to injury."

It seems these people have forgotten how they were fawning over me this morning.

Now they're gossiping about me.

Kaylee couldn't bear this injustice any longer. Then, she stormed directly into Elisa's office in a huff without going through the secretary.

At that time, Bella was reporting the progress of the project with Elisa, along with a group of team members from the project, when Kaylee barged in so nonchalantly.

And then came a barrage of pointed questions.

“Why am I being suspended? Is this some kind of personal vendetta? You clearly promised Gareth that you would take care of me, and this is how you do it? Elisa, you really have no tolerance for others!”

After venting her frustrations, Kaylee felt much better.

Several members of the project team exchanged glances, each looking at the other, wishing they could bury their heads in the ground.

Did we overhear some secret we shouldn't have?

[Chapter 1976 Elisa Lectures Kaylee](#)

“Ms. Benett... How about we leave first, and you take care of your matters?”

The project team's director was a very shrewd person, so she was thinking about making an exit at this time.

Elisa shook her head, signaling them to sit down.

The expressions of the group were as tense as sitting on pins and needles. Their gazes towards Elisa were also quite complex.

The last time someone dared to speak to Ms. Benett in this manner were Paul and Rochelle.

It's just that both of them are now...

With this in mind, their gazes towards Elisa carried a bit more sympathy.

Kaylee, however, didn't care about all that. She just wanted to cause a big commotion.

Look at her. Does Elisa have no shame at all!

Elisa looked at her calmly, not showing any signs of anger, and appeared to be quite approachable. “Tell me,” she said, “what's bothering you? Where do you feel you've been wronged?”

Before Kaylee could speak, Elisa added, “I forgot that you don't know the rules, so you don't know where you went wrong, right?”

A wave of paleness washed over Kaylee's face. Elisa was undoubtedly using her background against her, which was Kaylee's deepest source of insecurity.

Elisa was not the type to poke at others' pain points. It was just that Kaylee didn't know her place.

To put it bluntly, she got carried away.

Elisa already had a poor impression of her. With her causing such a fuss, resulting in the company losing a talented individual, Elisa naturally wouldn't show her any pleasant expression.

Elisa closed the documents on the table, set them aside, and propped her chin with her hand. "You've entered the human resources department which is a relatively less intense department where it doesn't require you to do overtime. As a new intern, your superiors have already asked if you can handle the tasks assigned. It's your urge for quick success and lack of self-awareness that was the problem. That's the first point."

Elisa stood up and walked over to face Kaylee.

Unknowingly, Kayleen took a half step back.

"There are procedures to do interview, and a single interview typically involves three interviewers. You were acting high-handedly earlier and disregarding the process while prioritizing your personal desires over the company's interests. That's the second issue."

Each and every one of these were mistakes that were explicitly forbidden by the company rules and regulations.

Kaylee made a lot of mistakes.

It was already quite considerate to have her suspended for investigation instead of dismissing her outright.

The rest of the people in the office hung their heads, some feeling a bit relieved.

Ms. Bennett hasn't treated us so brutally. At least she's good-tempered.

If one encountered such a spectacle, it would be strange if one's legs didn't turn to jelly.

Kaylee opened her mouth, but she was unable to utter a single word. Only her eyes welled up with tears again.

Elisa didn't mind one crying. After all, there were moments when one wanted to cry.

But crying had never been a solution to problems, it was merely a way to express emotions.

Clearly, Kaylee's crying was intended to serve the former purpose.

There was really nothing much Elisa could say to her.

She said, "Take today's events as a lesson, go back and reflect on your actions. Then submit a 5000-word report. I will personally review it. If it passes, you can come back to work. If not, don't ever come back. Your tears have no effect on me..." Leaning in, Elisa spoke in a voice only the two of them could hear, "You can also choose to complain to Gareth, but my decision will not change. Otherwise, you can quietly be a freeloader. If you want to return, you must do as I say."

After she finished speaking, Kaylee took a half step back. Her gaze was fixed intently on Kaylee, as if trying to see right through her.

For some reason, Kaylee always felt like there was nowhere to hide whenever she faced Elisa.

It seems like nothing can escape her gaze.

This feeling is very uncomfortable.

[Chapter 1977 The Gathering](#)

Kaylee cried and ran out.

Bella cast a somewhat worried glance at Elisa and asked, "Could something go wrong?"

Elisa disagreed, "What could possibly go wrong? She's an adult, and she should take responsibility for her own actions."

Upon hearing these words, Bella no longer dwelled on the issue.

She wasn't genuinely worried about Kaylee, but rather, she was afraid that if anything happened to her, the responsibility would somehow fall onto Elisa's shoulders.

Since Elisa had put it that way, it did make sense. Furthermore, she didn't feel like dealing with Kaylee anymore. Not only would it add to her mental stress, but it was also a burden.

With that, they continued discussing the progress of the project together.

It must be because of the example set by Kaylee, everyone became surprisingly enthusiastic and serious when they carried on with the discussion.

In fact, they were even more serious than before. It was mainly because they were afraid that Elisa would treat them with that kind of attitude...

So, they were surprisingly efficient today.

Before leaving, the project director, who was the girl previously in Bella's position, didn't forget to give Elisa a big thumbs up.

Although it was quite terrifying when one had to face such a situation, it was rather satisfying to watch.

It was a bit like those scenes in novels where the female lead broke down the facade of a phony woman with just a few words. Those words were quite powerful.

Elisa smiled and didn't say a word.

She didn't really intend to teach Kaylee a lesson.

Before she took the initiative to get involved, Elisa hadn't even considered dealing with this matter.

She was busy every day, keeping a close eye on the overall operations of the company, and steering the wheel. Hence, she didn't have time to deal with these trivial matters.

Moreover, each department and each manager had their own responsibilities. Elisa tried her best not to interfere within their scope of authority giving them with ample freedom.

This also made them feel more comfortable with work and managing staff.

Perhaps this was why those capable and experienced executives prefer to stay with Bennett Corporation.

As Bella was about to leave, she was stopped by Elisa.

She said, "There's a party tonight. Shall we go together?"

This was Rachel's plan, and she even invited Gareth. She probably didn't invite Vincent, but he would always find a way to do so.

Elisa also wanted to introduce Rachel and Bella to each other.

On one hand, it was out of self-interest, as both were people she trusted deeply.

On the other hand, it was due to work.

Rachel was very proficient in the legal knowledge in this business. Last time, it was thanks to her that both Paul and Rachel were sent to prison.

So, it was a good thing that Bella could communicate with Rachel at any time.

After some thought, Bella nodded.

"Shall we head back to Wickam Manor together after the party? Grandma has been aware of this matter and hasn't been sleeping well for several days."

Elisa felt somewhat guilty when she thought of Julia.

It was her lack of awareness that had caused the old lady to worry again.

After much difficulty, I finally returned from the small fishing village. It seemed like good days were ahead with the malignant tumor successfully removed. But then, I was kidnapped and almost sold...

One could only imagine the fear and anxiety Julia went through.

After some thought, Elisa shook her head.

"I'll call Grandma to console her. I won't be going back tonight. It'll be too late, and I don't want to disturb her rest."

Bella nodded, winking at her and said, "Then you'd better hurry up and make a call. Grandma has been really worried lately. She's afraid that you haven't come to your senses yet, and she is also afraid that she might disturb your work, so she hasn't called."

Elisa nodded.

After Bella left, Elisa dialed Julia's number.

[Chapter 1978 The Formal Meeting](#)

The call to Julia was quickly answered, but it was Maria picked up the phone.

"Ms. Benett, I'm so glad you finally called. Madam Smith will definitely be delighted when she wakes up!" There was a hint of excitement in Maria's voice.

With a smile tugging at her lips, Elisa asked, "Is Grandma resting now?"

“Yes, ever since you were taken away, Madam Smith hasn't had a good rest. It was only after knowing you were safe that she could finally rest.”

Elisa nodded, instructing Maria to take good care of Julia. Then, she assured that she would visit Julia later with Gareth.

After finishing the message, she finally hung up the phone.

At the same time, she was also reflecting on herself.

Grandma is already in such an old age, yet we're still causing her to worry about me. From now on, I need to consider the consequences when taking action. It's not just about thinking of my safety, but also considering those whom I care about and those who care about me.

Thinking about this, Elisa couldn't help but anticipate that today's gathering should be quite interesting.

When it was almost time to get off work, Rachel sent over the address.

They went to the large food stall they often visited, with Elisa bringing along Bella.

By the time Elisa arrived, Rachel and the two guys were already there.

The three individuals, dressed in incredibly lavish attire worth seven-figure, sat at a street food stall. No matter how one looked at it, the scene was undeniably odd.

Yet, there was a strange balance that made things look rather normal.

Perhaps it was because, even though this place was a street-side food stall, it was kept very clean. It didn't look dirty, messy or anyone making a racket nearby.

Apart from Gareth, all were unfamiliar faces, which made Bella seem somewhat restrained.

Elisa pulled her to sit down and began introducing everyone one by one.

“Allow me to make the introduction. This is Rachel, a very good friend of mine.” Elisa stood up and started introducing Rachel to Bella.

With a light heart, Bella raised his wine glass, her smile radiant.

“So you're Rachel. Elisa often mentions you.”

Rachel also liked Bella very much, and stood up to return the toast.

The two of them sat together, feeling as if they had met each other too late.

It was all because Rachel really liked the scenery, culture, and charm of Juxshire, and Bella was originally from Juxshire.

This was also why Bella's character was gentle.

It was not because she was afraid of inviting trouble or timid.

That was simply the characteristic of the people from Juxshire.

The girls there spoke softly and gently.

However, after spending so much time with Elisa in the company, Bella had shed her naivety and some of her gentleness. She had become efficient and decisively assertive.

But she maintained her kind, patient and understanding nature.

That was no wonder Rachel liked her.

Seeing the two of them chatting so comfortably, Elisa finally felt at ease.

Next up was to introduce Vincent.

With a sense of self-awareness, Vincent stood up holding a glass in his hand, and began to introduce himself.

“Hello, I am Vincent Shane. I work as a lawyer. I am a friend of Ms. Markee.”

Upon hearing that, Rachel on the side rolled her eyes so hard, they could have almost reached the sky.

Elisa and Gareth exchanged glances, seeing the hint of laughter in each other's eyes.

Bella sarcastically drawled, “Oh—” with an exaggeratedly long tone.

And just like that, they had officially met each other.

Rachel had already ordered the dishes, and they were served one by one.

Beside them was the menu. Rachel picked it up and handed it to Bella.

“Take a look and see if there's anything else you'd like to add. Elisa doesn't need anything else, I've already ordered everything she likes.”

Upon hearing this, Elisa smiled, her lips pursed.

[Chapter 1979 A Happy Gathering](#)

Bella ordered a few of her favorite dishes, and in no time, all the dishes were served.

Rachel suggested that everyone take a photo together.

Everyone agreed without any objections.

The cellphone was handed over to the waiter.

The five of them shifted around and sat in a row.

The two men on the farthest sides were Gareth and Vincent.

Naturally, next to Gareth sat Elisa, who was sitting beside the host, Rachel.

Beside Rachel sat Bella, who seemed slightly ill at ease.

Vincent sat next to Bella.

The moment the shutter clicked, the gazes of Elisa and Gareth unintentionally met.

Vincent's gaze swept past Bella and landed on Rachel.

Only Rachel and Bella were looking directly at the camera.

But the one thing everyone shared was a genuine smile on their faces.

After taking the photos, they ate together.

The meal was enjoyed in peace and harmony, without talking about work or the bothersome Kaylee.

They chatted about some interesting events recently.

The main point was Vincent was the one who told the stories and everyone was listening. From time to time, they laughed sincerely from the heart.

...

They had eaten quite a lot, and it was about time for everyone to leave.

Bella went to the bathroom, and Rachel went to settle the bill.

Elisa felt a bit dizzy from her drinks, and was carried away by Gareth first.

As they were leaving, they were still muttering about getting together again next time.

A faint smile tugged at the corners of Gareth's lips, knowing she must also enjoy gathering with her good friends.

Otherwise, she wouldn't be this happy. Hence even someone who didn't usually drink had gotten herself drunk.

Gareth was contemplating when to set up another gathering.

He carried Elisa, and walked slowly as if he was holding his entire world in his arms.

Because she was only gentle and obedient when she was asleep.

Vincent waited for Rachel right where he stood.

Rachel wanted to leave with Bella, but she didn't know why she left early.

Vincent's lips curled up in a smirk watching Bella walk out alone.

It seemed that Bella could read the room very well.

Indeed, she didn't want to be a third wheel, so she left on her own.

A total of five people came out to dine, and there were two couples. Bella shook her head as she was a bit of helpless.

Bella was in good spirits today, so she chose not to take a cab home, but to walk instead.

The cool breeze blew, dispersing much of the alcohol effect.

If I go home at this hour, Grandma will surely be asleep. But I also don't want to wake up tomorrow morning feeling all hungover.

As Bella was walking, she stumbled upon a group of people fighting at a street food stall.

She initially didn't want to meddle in others' affairs and intended to leave directly.

But upon seeing the face of one of them, she stopped in her tracks.

That person was none other than Mike.

He stood alone, facing five or six burly men with tattooed arms. Just looking at them was enough to make one's heart quiver.

He seemed not the least bit afraid, but standing tall and straight. It was as if he was ready to charge and fight that group of people at any moment.

After much contemplation, Bella furrowed her brows and decided to step forward. She positioned herself between the two groups of people.

Four or five burly men looked at her in confusion, whispering among themselves, "Does anyone know her?"

Bella didn't care in the slightest, she just winked at Mike.

Only then did he recognize that the person in front of him was the deputy CEO of Bennett Corporation.

But there was no excess emotion on his face, as if he was looking at a stranger.

"Miss, we have some private matters to attend to. Please don't stand here for we don't want any innocent bystanders to get hurt." The group of burly men were surprisingly polite, wanting to clear the area before they started their fight.

Bella chuckled, but did not move.

[Chapter 1980](#)

We Meet Again

Instead, she stood in front of Mike, smiling as she sized up the group of people.

"This is our employee, and since I've seen it, I have to check the situation naturally. I wonder why you all have to resort to this method to settle the matter?"

Mike looked at Bella's, his gaze filled with a sense of complexity.

Those few people exchanged glances, each could see surprise in the others' eyes.

The one leading the group, likely the boss of this bunch, spoke up, "Miss, we're just here to do a job we've been paid for. It's best if you don't get involved."

Bella listened to the other party's words, half threat and persuasion, without any intention of backing down. Instead, she asked, "Oh? How much did you get paid? I'll pay you double. As I said before, this gentleman is an employee of our company, so I won't stand by and do nothing."

The leader started to laugh, and a few others joined in. Their laughter was deafening, filled with unabashed mockery.

The person leading the group sized up Bella.

“Young lady, it’s clear that you’re inexperienced and unfamiliar with the rules of our trade. What we value most is one thing: trust. It’s not as simple as you hiring us...” At this point, his tone shifted dramatically, and he said menacingly, “Young lady, I’m warning you one last time to leave quickly. Otherwise, when the fighting starts, we won’t take responsibility if you get hit.”

Immediately after, someone taunted Mike, “What’s the matter? Are you just good at hiding behind women?”

The group of people burst into laughter again.

Bella looked at Mike, his face filled with an expression of worry and loss. It was a stark contrast to the domineering sharpness he displayed this morning.

He looks more like a little puppy abandoned by its owner in winter.

He shouted at Bella, “You should leave. This is my own business. Besides, I’m not really an employee of your company.”

Bella slightly raised her eyebrows, speaking with a confident tone, “You will be soon.”

The group of people didn’t want to waste any time, and with that, they were ready to charge forward.

But Bella casually glanced at her phone, and it was unmistakably on the 911 page.

What followed was the sound of an alarm.

Those people looked around cautiously, unable to determine the direction of the siren. They could only scurry away with their heads in their hands.

It was at this moment, Bella took Mike’s hand and started to run while pulling him along.

“What are you waiting for? Run, now!”

12

Bella’s hair fluttered in the wind. From this angle, all that could be seen was her resolute profile and the top of her head.

The wind howled in its pursuit, but it couldn’t catch up with them.

For the first time, Mike experienced a different kind of emotion.

Several burly men gradually realized that the alarm was set off by Bella. Then, they chased after them, while cursing and grumbling.

As Bella saw that the distance between them decreased steadily.

Shea pulled Mike with her as she turned the corner.

The two of them hid outside a doorway, where a pillar conveniently concealed their figures.

The few burly men who were chasing them found them disappeared suddenly. They looked at each other with faces filled with confusion..

Bella, with one hand still holding onto Mike, looked outside with a vigilant expression.

Only after making sure that everyone had left, she finally let out a sigh of relief and began to gasp for air heavily.

“How did you offend those people? Didn’t you just graduate?” Bella asked, catching her breath..

Mike didn’t say a word, his face was just very red. He kept staring at their hands where the two of them were connected.

Bella only realized that after following his gaze.