

Our Billion 341

Chapter 341-Why else would Catelyn remain in the office to work overtime?

Even if she did not have enough time to compare the data, she could have taken them home to analyze. The only thing she could take away from the situation was that the data analysis had been saved and that she would not have to start over again the next day.

Cedrick looked at her intently before calling Charles. Though the power went out, Cedrick's phone was fully charged, and he managed to reach Charles shortly after.

It was late at night, and Charles had not been expecting a phone call from Cedrick, so there was a drawl to his voice. "Hello? Master Cedrick?" Cedrick cut to the chase and asked, "Who was the one who notified everyone about the upgrade in the office's security system?" "It may have been the admin department. I haven't paid much attention to that." Charles slowly began to snap out from his drowsy state. It was a quiet night, and even though Cedrick's phone was not on speaker, Catelyn could hear faint shuffles which sounded like Charles was getting out of bed.

Both Charles and Cedrick remained quiet for two seconds when Charles realized that something was wrong. "Master Cedrick, what happened?" he asked hastily.

"I'm stuck in the office right now. All the electronic locks have been shut down and are pending for upgrade, so I can't get out," he answered. "I'm with Catelyn." Charles sobered up at this. "What? I'll contact the security team to let you out right away!" Silence fell in the room.

Because of the power outage, there was no heater in the empty room, and it grew colder and colder by the minute. Catelyn began to shiver due to the cold, especially with the thin shirt she was wearing. All of a sudden, something weighed down on her shoulders. She glanced at the black suit jacket on her shoulder and gazed up.

Cedrick had removed his jacket and given it to her before pulling her into his arms. "You won't be cold if I hold you." Catelyn glanced up at him in awe.

She had not mentioned that she was cold, yet he had given her his jacket and warmed her up when she needed it most. She had not mentioned that she was afraid of the dark, yet he provided a shoulder for her to lean on in the dark.

She felt...touched. Was it because it had been too long since someone took care of her?

"Do you still have the cross you wore this morning?" she whispered. She was not afraid of the dark, of course, but she was terrified of the things that lurked in the darkness.

Cedrick hummed in response.

"Can I...borrow it for a second? I heard that a cross repels evil spirits." Cedrick fell silent at this.

Mistaking his silence as concern that she would break it, she muttered, "Relax, I'll take care of it and make sure that I don't break it. I'll give it back tomorrow. I just had this weird feeling when I went to close the window. Aren't you getting chills down your spine? Like someone is blowing air at the back of your neck?" "Superstitions," scoffed Cedrick but retrieved his cross from a small pouch regardless.

He placed the cross on her palm and wrapped her hands tightly with his own.

"Keep it safe. You can't afford to lose it." Catelyn smirked at her. "It's just a silver cross." Cedrick tightened his grip around her waist abruptly. 'Catelyn Clark, do not betray my trust in you."

Chapter 342-Charles arrived shortly within half an hour after his phone call with Cedrick, followed by the staff in the security department.

When the security department employees saw Catelyn with Cedrick and noticed that she had Cedrick's jacket, everyone gaped at the sight.

Since the entire building was still in progress with a security upgrade, they could not open the electronic lock until the upgrade was completed.

Cedrick glanced at Catelyn before he gave them the order to destroy the lock on the door. The process of breaking the lock was quick and only took a few minutes, but the entire door would need to be reinstalled the next day.

When Catelyn heard the sound of the lock being disassembled outside, she was overcome by a bad premonition that this would trigger waves of gossip in the office tomorrow.

However, as Cedrick had already given the order, she could not stop them in any way.

Once they exited the building, Cedrick took Catelyn to a restaurant right away. He had noticed her stomach rumbling a few times when they were stuck inside the office. Since she had been working overtime in the office, she must have been starving.

The next day, Catelyn arrived at the office an hour early without having her breakfast to work on the uncompleted data analysis. She managed to complete it and placed the report on Jennifer's desk before finally heading out for breakfast.

To her bewilderment, she returned to the office after breakfast only to hear rumors of her being stuck in the office with Cedrick going around the entire company. On top of that, the details of the rumor were far more outrageous than the previous rumors concerning her and George. No one knew where the rumor started, so everyone came to ask Catelyn if she had truly spent the night with Cedrick.

There were even people asking if Cedrick had suggested anything to her when they were alone at night.

Catelyn simply maintained a fake smile and brushed them off.

Jennifer arrived at the office from the top floor. She seemed to have been summoned for questioning and appeared extremely pale.

Her eyes glittered with disgust when she walked over to Catelyn. Without mentioning a word concerning work, she glared coldly at Catelyn and questioned her about the gossip. "Did you do that on purpose?" "Did what on purpose?" Catelyn retorted.

“You knew that the security system in the office would be upgraded last night and the power would go out. You stayed behind to work on purpose so that Master Cedrick would see you.

That way, you can show him how hard-working you are and point the blame on me for bullying new employees! On top of that, you’d get a chance...to seduce Master Cedrick!” Catelyn was utterly confused as she listened to Jennifer and was stunned at her final sentence that sounded all too accusing. She did not know Jennifer held such unreasonable prejudice toward her.

“I’m not as sly as you picture me to be,” Catelyn argued. “Truth is, I didn’t receive any notice and wasn’t aware that the power would go out last night. I only worked overtime because you said that the analysis was wrong. I’m just as clueless as to why Master Cedrick was in the office at the time, so how am I supposed to plot to run into him?” “Do you think I’m going to believe that?” Jennifer sneered. “I saw with my own eyes that the admin department had distributed a notice regarding the security upgrade to every employee’s desk in the afternoon the day before yesterday. How can you not know? Are you blind or something?!” “You...” It then dawned on her why she did not see the notice; the notice was given the day before yesterday. She was about to explain that she had gone out to dine with George but hesitated as everyone knew that Jennifer was in love with George.

Just as Catelyn contemplated her answer, a man raised his voice behind her

Chapter 343-“Jennifer, I took Catelyn out for dinner the day before yesterday, and I can stand witness to prove that she didn’t see any notice. I’ve been working with her for some time now, so I believe that she’s not the social-climbing woman you painted her to be.” Catelyn and Jennifer looked over and saw George walking toward them.

After readjusting himself yesterday, he appeared slightly more energized than before, but the complicated look in his eyes remained when he looked at Catelyn.

Catelyn had not expected George to be in their office. Though they belonged to the same department, not everyone shared the same office.

George’s office was two doors next to Catelyn’s office, which meant that there was a distance in between.

He quickly made his way when he overheard someone saying that Jennifer was arguing with Catelyn, and true enough, he immediately heard Jennifer accusing Catelyn of scheming as soon as he arrived.

Jennifer had been secretly in love with George and beamed when she saw him, but when she realized that George was here to defend Catelyn, her eyes were filled with anger.

She stared daggers at Catelyn before confronting George. "Just because you invited her out for dinner doesn't mean that she didn't see the notice! Samantha is close with her, so she would've told Catelyn about it yesterday, even if that's the case. George, this is a workplace and everything requires concrete proof, not your personal claim." Still frustrated, she added, "Or maybe, the rumors going around are true, and you two are an item. Are you trying to defend your girlfriend now?" "Bullsh*t!" Not wanting to cause any trouble for Catelyn, George immediately snapped, "Catelyn and I are just friends. Stop trying to bring our private lives into this!" "You are the one bringing your private life into work! If she's just a friend, would you take her out for meals three times throughout the week? Would you care so much for her?" Jennifer had long forgotten about the notice and was obsessed with the relationship between George and Catelyn. She was confident that she was far more brilliant and good at her job than Catelyn ever would be, and she had tried to flirt with George multiple times, so how would George ignore her?

Annoyed by the question, George retorted, "That's my business, and I don't have to tell you anything—certainly not here in the office. Miss Monroe, I'd like to remind you to hold your tongue." With that, he took Catelyn's hand and strode out. "I'll submit an application to the Design Director to make you my assistant so that you won't have to stay here to deal with this harassment." To George, someone as superior as Cedrick would not be associated with Catelyn. He remembered when Catelyn had to stay in Cedrick's mansion because of the rain at the time, and she still rejected Cedrick.

George refused to believe that Catelyn would seduce Cedrick and thus blamed everything on Jennifer's false accusation.

Catelyn had yet to recover from the argument between George and Jennifer and was even more confused when she heard George saying that he would apply for her to be his assistant. "Uhm, listen to me, George. Actually, I—" "Master Cedrick?" To their surprise, they ran into Cedrick on their way past the design department.

Catelyn stilled.

Cedrick stood in the distance with one hand inside his pocket, while Charles and the design director stood closely behind him.

Through the glass door, she noticed that his expression twisted for a moment. He glanced at the joined hands of George and Catelyn and his lips curled into a faint, icy smile. When everyone finally stopped talking, he asked rhetorically, "Are you done?"

Chapter 344-When Cedrick appeared, every employee in the office stopped what they were doing and held their breaths as they looked over gingerly.

Cedrick remained outside and did not step into the office. "I don't think I've heard enough. Why don't you keep the drama going?" Everyone held their breaths as chills ran down their spines.

Sensing that something was wrong, Jennifer hurried toward Cedrick in hopes to explain herself. "Master Cedrick, it's not what you think! There's some issue with my subordinate's work, and I just wanted to educate her about it. Mister Graham here might have seen it differently, and that's why we had a little argument. We're usually very close friends!" George froze, intimidated by Cedrick's sudden appearance. Meanwhile, Catelyn frantically pulled her hand away from George's.

"Master Cedrick, it's my fault for interrupting the others' work." After a brief silence, George bowed and apologized to Cedrick sincerely.

However, Cedrick had not spared him a single glance and, instead, turned to look at Winnie. Winnie was about a year or two older than Catelyn and appeared dominating with her long hair tied up, sporting the professional outfit and heels she was wearing. Without a doubt, she was a standard beauty who had a small face and pouty lips with just a touch of valiance.

"Winnie." "Yes, Mister Mason?" Winnie would address Cedrick as 'Mister Mason' whenever they were in the office as that would be more appropriate and would effectively avoid being the subjects of gossiping as well. Cedrick parted his lips and, without a moment of hesitation, ordered, "Jennifer Monroe has disrupted the order in the office by bringing her personal emotions into work and framing another employee.

Give her a six-month worth of salary and fire her." Winnie's eyes widened with shock. She knew that Cedrick would be upset, but she had not imagined that he would fire Jennifer right away!

"Noted, I'll notify the human resource department," answered Winnie immediately.

Chills ran down Jennifer's spine as coldness took over her entire body. "I'm sorry, Master Cedrick! I won't do this ever again! Please give me another chance..." she pleaded with quivering lips.

He ignored her and glanced at Catelyn before leaving.

All strength was drained from Jennifer as she turned to Winnie for help. She tugged at the hem of Winnie's clothes weakly and begged, "Director, I've been working for you for years, and I've done so much for you! Please help me talk to Master Cedrick. I have a mother who's sick in bed, and I can't afford to lose this job!" Winnie narrowed her eyes and helped Jennifer up. "Have you done anything 'for' me?" Her hands were ice-cold, and Jennifer shivered to the touch.

"Miss Monroe, I'll write you a recommendation letter to one of the best architectural firms in the country. I'll also inform the human resource department to compensate you with a whole year's worth of your salary. You should know that once Mister Mason makes up his mind, no one can change it." Losing all strength once again, Jennifer collapsed onto the ground. Winnie did not make an effort to help her up again and turned to study Catelyn intently instead.

"Catelyn Clark, right?" One glance was all it took for Catelyn to be overwhelmed by the illusion that she had been targeted by a predator. She felt wary, but as Winnie was Cedrick's cousin and the design director of the firm, Catelyn responded with a respectful smile. "Hello, Director." "I heard that you were stuck in the office with Mister Mason last night. Are you okay now?"

Chapter 345-Winnie's tone was gentle, but Catelyn could not decide what she meant with her question." I'm fine. The power just went off, and we got stuck because the electronic lock wouldn't open. I'm alright now." "That's good. Mister Mason seems to trust you, so work hard," remarked Winnie before walking off.

Catelyn sighed a long breath of relief after Winnie was gone.

Noticing how nervous she had been, George consoled her, "You're new here, but our director has always been like that. She might seem difficult to please, but she's actually very nice. Don't feel pressured, and just focus on your own tasks." Catelyn nodded with a smile. "I will." 'Seemingly hard to please? Well, I'm just an employee here. I won't actually have to report directly to the Director, so whatever,' mused Catelyn to herself. Once everyone left, the office returned to silence. Perhaps the punishment Cedrick had given was far too severe, no one else dared to mention the event of the night

before again. Catelyn, meanwhile, was still confused. If the notices were distributed to everyone's desk, where was hers? Where had it gone? She was sure that apart from normal documents, she had not seen anything else on her desk the next day. Samantha returned to the office just after the conflict had come to an end. She pulled Catelyn to the side secretly and glanced at her timidly. "Catelyn, um... I heard what happened. I'm sorry. The admin department did come to distribute the notices the day before yesterday. I just thought that I'd tell you about it the next day and threw it away, then I was too occupied asking you about George that I forgot to tell you. I'm sorry for causing you to stay the night here with Master Cedrick." Catelyn studied the panicked expression on Samantha's face wordlessly.

Flustered, Samantha added, "You don't believe me, do you? I swear, I just forgot to tell you! Don't be mad at me, okay? How about I just stay in the office for tonight to make it up to you?" "Alright, I'm not mad at you." Catelyn tapped her on the shoulder and added, "Don't be so careless next time. The data analysis you submitted to Jennifer also had a lot of issues. It's a good thing that she is gone now, or we're going to suffer a lot more from now on." Samantha sighed a breath of relief and beamed at Catelyn. "As long as you're not mad at me. It's a dream to be able to spend the night with Mister Cedrick, though.

It's a shame I don't have that kind of luck. Hey, how about I buy you dinner tonight?"

"It's fine." Catelyn gave her that smile that lacked sincerity. Before Samantha could say anything else, she pointed at her watch. "It's getting late, so I should get back to work." Samantha nodded and smirked when Catelyn turned her back.

Catelyn returned to her post, and her heart sank when her previous theory was proven.

Samantha was determined to start her career in Mason Group and graduated as a postgraduate student, so she could not have made mistakes in such simple data analysis.

On the day when Jennifer came to collect the report, Samantha, who had never been late before, arrived late because she knew that the report would be rejected due to the error in the analysis. Samantha timed it so that she would leave before Jennifer came back with the report, and in the end, Jennifer was left with Catelyn to vent her frustration. Since Jennifer had not liked Catelyn to begin with, she picked on her and demanded that she re-do the report.

Catelyn could only work overtime when the security system in the office was upgraded. Not only would she be stuck in the office for the night, but she might not be able to complete the task Jennifer handed to her and would take the blame for it.

As a result, Jennifer would only resent her even more.

Catelyn smiled bitterly. She had entered Mason Group at the same time as Samantha did, and she just could not figure out what she had done for Samantha to put together a scheme like that.

Chapter 346-When Catelyn returned home that night, Joanne comforted her while munching on potato chips. "Don't overthink this; it's not like everyone would return your kindness. Besides, you're both in the same position of the same firm, so there's bound to be a sense of competition!" Catelyn watched as her mouth opened and closed. She reached out to grab the bag of chips before securing it within her arms and starting munching on the chips as well.

"I knew there would be competition, but we've just entered the company, right? I didn't think I'd come across as a threat to her at present." The two watched television in the living room for a while when Miles suddenly trotted over with Catelyn's phone in his hand to show her something. "Mommy, there is a three-million transaction to your bank." "Three million?" Catelyn studied her son in confusion.

Where did that money come from? Granny Atherton had offered her one million as the price of winning the competition organized by Chandier Jewelry, but she had refused it and returned every single penny to Edwin. Knowing how stubborn she could be, Edwin simply donated the money to charity.

Even so, the amount did not match what Miles had said. Amid her confusion, she received another text message from the mysterious person from before.

(Have you received the money?) Catelyn's blood ran cold, and she immediately turned to the balcony to call the person, who was apparently waiting for her to respond as well. "Why did you transfer me three million dollars to my bank?" "Congratulations on getting into Mason Group. Next, I'm going to need you to steal the details regarding the city center project for me," the person commanded firmly.

Catelyn had heard about the city center project and knew that it was the most important project for Mason Group in the next half of the year. If the core details of the project leaked, leading to a failure in the bidding... Catelyn could not bring herself to imagine the consequence.

"I'm just an ordinary employee of the company at the moment who hasn't even passed probation. What makes you think that I can get my hands on the information? I'm sorry, but I don't think I would be

capable of this even if I try!" "So you prefer that I hand the photos to Cedrick Mason?" "Don't you dare!" Catelyn gritted out. Not daring to risk enraging him, she could only resort to stalling. "Fine, I'll accept your terms for my son, but I really have no means to get to the data right now. Just give me some time." The only response she received was the person hanging up.

Catelyn sank deep into deep thoughts.

The mysterious person wanted her to be a spy, as she had expected.

Was she really going to betray Cedrick?

The three million she received out of the blue had brought her a nightmare that night as she drifted off to sleep. She dreamed of the mysterious person telling Cedrick about Miles. In that very dream, Cedrick, upon realizing that Miles was also his son, took Miles away in a moment of rage and threw Catelyn into prison for kidnapping.

Waking from the dream, Catelyn's shoulders slumped in despair. When she returned to Mason Group, she was struck with another shocking news... George had been assigned to cooperate with a company in a certain European country to build a landmark that would take up a year and a half.

Someone said that it was a promotion since his salary would double from his long business trip. However, some said that he was being banished due to his argument with Jennifer. Even though Cedrick had not punished him at the time, this was his way of showing that he was not pleased with George's action.

Catelyn could not help but be reminded of the looks Cedrick shot her and George that day. George sent her a message through social media. (Catelyn, I'll be leaving next week. Can we go out for dinner tomorrow?)

Chapter 347-In the end, Catelyn rejected George's invitation. (I wish you all the best in the future.)

The screen on her phone did not light up again for a long time after that, and she had thought that George had finally gained clarity on the situation, but the phone buzzed again after a while.

[I mean everything I said to you before. If you still haven't found anyone by the time I come back, consider me, will you?] She could almost picture the sincere and shy expression on George when he typed the message. She knew that he did not volunteer to go to Europae, at least not in the present. During lunchtime, everyone headed to Mason Group's canteen for employees.

Catelyn did not have much of an appetite and thus placed down her spoon and fork after just a few bites.

Concerned, Samantha asked, "Catelyn, why are you eating so little?" "My stomach feels a bit uncomfortable lately, so I'm already full," she answered before tossing the utensils back into the basket that collected used cutlery. She dragged her feet toward the elevator and glanced at the floor indication on the right. Her finger stopped right before she was about to press on the floor of her office as she gazed up at the top floor button.

With an arm-full of documents, she headed to the CEO's office. By the time she arrived, she noticed that the door was left slightly open, and she could distinctly hear the sounds of the people talking inside the room. It was Winnie, giving updates to Cedrick on work.

"Cousin Cedrick, I've proofread the data, and there won't be any issue concerning the contract with Mister Hyatt. We'll seal the deal by next week." Catelyn decided against going in and stood on the side to wait. "Good work. Go have your lunch," Cedrick's voice came through the door.

"There's also something else that I'd like to discuss with you." Winnie did not leave right away and continued after Cedrick nodded his permission. "I've observed Catelyn Clark for a while, and not only is she under-educated, she hasn't even graduated from college. The human resource department only brought her in because of her connection with Ollie, but she's too careless and incapable, and I'd like to fire her." Catelyn's heart sank into her stomach at Winnie's comment regarding her, and she could not help but fear Cedrick would agree.

"You're wrong about something," Cedrick's low, rumbling voice filled the room.

Confused, Winnie questioned, "About what?" "It's true that they gave Catelyn Clark a job, but not because of her connection with Ollie. It's because of her connection with me," Cedrick drawled. "She is my girlfriend now." Winnie was instantly at loss for words and gaped at Cedrick, seemingly thrown off by the information.

“As for her being careless, I know which report you’re referring to, and she was only responsible for some part of it, so you can’t simply blame it all on her. Winnie, she’s still young. Be more lenient to her.” “So she’s the woman who got you to cancel your engagement to Maia Clark.” Catelyn’s heart raced at their conversation. She had only wanted to hand him the documents and talk about George, but... After an internal struggle, she decided to retreat and mention it again in the future. However, she only managed to walk two steps away before remembering that she still had his cross, and she promised to return it to him. Just then, the office door opened, and Winnie strode out. When she saw Catelyn standing by the door, her features stiffened awkwardly. “Catelyn?”

Are you here to see my cousin?” Overwhelmed by a feeling that she had been caught doing something bad, Catelyn pointed sheepishly at the documents and said, “I’m here to deliver some documents to Master Cedrick. Have I interrupted something?” “No. I didn’t know who you were before, but let’s get along from now on. I’ll be sure to look after you,” said Winnie before leaving.

Chapter 348-Catelyn hesitated from entering the office, but Cedrick had spotted her and thus called out to her, “What are you doing out there?” Catelyn stepped inside with resignation and handed the documents to Cedrick for his signature. Cedrick tossed them aside and asked, “You haven’t had your lunch?” “Well...” Catelyn nodded, before shaking her head again. “I did, but I didn’t eat much, so I finished rather quickly.

“L..want to ask if you were the one who gave the order to send George to Europae.” Cedrick poured himself a cup of coffee and took a sip. “Why haven’t you eaten much?” Catelyn scowled. “I’m talking about George right now.” “So am I.” Cedrick set his cup down and stared at her intently. Her reflection filled his eyes as he stood, and the office instantly appeared less spacious with his towering figure. “You used to have George around, and with him now gone, you’ve lost your appetite for food and simply couldn’t wait to come and plead for him?” He studied her expression without letting the slightest change escape his eyes.

Catelyn bit her lower lip as she finally understood his logic behind the matter.

“I’m just concerned because his family and friends are here in Sapphire City.

Have you even asked about his opinion on sending him away? He would’ve been of more use to you here...” “You know about his family and friends?” He questioned sharply.

This was not the point, Catelyn wanted to tell him.

Feeling slightly defeated, she continued, "Did you transfer him because of me?"

That day at the restaurant, he did say something, but we're just friends-".

"This is a workplace, and I'm not interested in the details of your romantic dramas." Cedrick's expression hardened into an unforgiving mask, and the tenderness of when he first spotted Catelyn faded.

The sunlight shone into the room, and his face seemed to have twisted in a more ruthless manner.

Refusing to give up, Catelyn said, "There has never been any kind of romantic drama between me and him. You fired Jennifer for bringing personal emotions into work; isn't that the same thing?" The last drop of kindness disappeared into the depths of his eyes, leaving nothing but rage behind. "Are you confronting me for his sake?" "Both George and Jennifer had brought their personal emotions into the workplace and argued in front of everyone. Consider it a mercy that I didn't fire him. If you say anything else, I can't promise that I won't kick him out of this company!" With eyes filled with frustration, his tone turned as cold as ice.

'Who does George think he is? How dare he hold Catelyn's hand in front of everyone? I've only sent him away instead of firing him, and now, she's lost her appetite and came all the way here to plead for the guy? I asked her to come up and make me coffee before, yet she kept saying that she doesn't want others to see her. What happened to not wanting others to see her now?' Catelyn swallowed the words she was about to say to defend George, knowing that anything she said would only add fuel to the flame.

She wanted to return the cross to him, but as soon as she opened her mouth, he barked coldly, "Get out!" "I just want to -" "Do I need to get the security to throw you out?" Cedrick interrupted her. She thus left the top floor.

The cross she held slowly turned warm from her own temperature. Her head throbbed in pain at the thought of failing to give it back to him.

Chapter 349-Time flew by swiftly, and Catelyn never had the chance to talk to Cedrick after what happened in his office.

The day George boarded the flight leaving Sapphire City, she received a call from Janice.

Janice said that she was going to Ringo Park for a movie with Ollie and wanted to invite Catelyn along. It had been days since Catelyn had last seen Ollie, and though she informed Miles about the plans of their grand escape, she had not informed Ollie about it.

She dabbed some light makeup onto her face before she headed out to meet Janice and Ollie.

Perhaps it was because Janice was accidentally introduced into the entertainment business when she was younger that she enjoyed movies and would often go to theaters in Sapphire City whenever she had time.

Ringo Park was a famous green building in Sapphire City. Surrounded by gardens, the area was decorated with flowers and plants that grew dense during summer. There were lanterns on the edges of the roof, which added a touch of festive colors.

Cedrick, too, was one of the owners of Ringo Park.

It was Catelyn's first time visiting, and she was guided to where Janice was seated. However, the staff was called to execute another task, so he simply pointed out the direction for her.

Catelyn lost her way when she reached the fish pond as Ringo Park was simply too big. All the buildings looked similar, and without a map or someone familiar with this place, one could easily lose their way.

In the end, she stumbled upon a closed door where she could hear 'Marry Popins' playing through the door.

She tried to go in, but the door was tightly sealed. As she was left with no other option but to look for another way... She subconsciously gazed up and spotted a man standing by the blue lotus flowers with his back facing her.

Catelyn beamed and hurried over. "Mister, do you know how I can get to theater room number 6?" she asked politely.

The man turned around, and his lips instantly curled into a gentle smile when he saw Catelyn. "It's you! What a coincidence that we've met again." "You... You're the gentleman in the Riverdale Mall's elevator!" Catelyn was slightly taken by surprise and felt awkward at the same time.

That day, she went home and realized that she had, indeed, lost 100 dollars when she originally thought that the man was trying to flirt with her.

"You're going to theater number 6?" The gold-framed spectacles resting on the bridge of his nose made his eyes appear gentle. "The coincidence in this is uncanny; I'm going there, too. Do you mind if I take you there?" Her instinct told her that this man was not a liar, and since one theater could seat a large group of customers, she had no reason to reject his help.

The man casually tossed the fish food in his hand into the pond. The blanket of blue lotus flowers floated on the pond and bloomed peacefully under the sun. She followed the man as he stepped away from the pond, yet she forgot that the ground by the pond was often moist.

Thus, she failed to notice the moss on the stone she stepped on. As she slipped and fell backward, she came to a realization and cursed inwardly, 'Crap!' "Careful!" The man moved swiftly and reached over to hold her in place. Before Catelyn could register what had happened, she felt his warm breath on her cheek and heard his gentle voice by her ears, saying, "You'll ruin that pretty face if you fall." The adrenaline coursed through her body from the fall, sending her heart racing.

All of a sudden, she noticed footsteps approaching behind her.

She glanced in the direction and saw Cedrick walking over with a manager and two waiters behind him

Chapter 350-Cedrick, standing in a distance, pursed his lips as he shot Catelyn an icy glare. Worried that he would misunderstand the situation, Catelyn hastily stepped away from the man's arms and smiled sheepishly.

Cedrick strode toward them while Catelyn met him halfway. She had no idea why he did not reply to her message the day before, but she was willing to let it pass since he sent her lilies.

To her bewilderment, he abruptly pulled her into his arms when they were half a meter away from one another. The sheer strength in the motion placed Catelyn in an illusion that her lungs were pressed together, and she struggled to catch her breath.

Catelyn gazed up at Cedrick in shock, not knowing what possessed him. The next instant, Cedrick glanced at the man standing across him casually and uttered jokingly, "Nine, I might just get angry if you keep staring at my woman like that." David tore his eyes off Catelyn expressionlessly. "I haven't had the chance to congratulate you on finding a new girlfriend, cousin." Among the main family branch of the Mason family, Cedrick was the only grandchild of the family's elder, while the elder's sister had nine grandchildren, with David being the youngest. Everyone would address him as the Ninth Master.

Cedrick and David were cousins and were both around their late twenties. They rarely talked and even held grudges due to certain events in the past.

When Catelyn heard Cedrick addressing the man 'Nine', she realized that the gentle-looking man before was the celebrated Ninth Master of the Mason family.

She had heard tales of him forcing three industrial giants into selling their properties to the Mason family with ease over a single night. Since then, he was infamously known as Cedrick's equal.

"I'll notify you when we get married." David took a handkerchief out of his pocket and wiped the hand he used to hold the fish meal before responding casually, "I'm alright with it. I'm just concerned that Miss Maia Clark would be upset." "It's not something you need to worry about." "The lotus could hardly hold a candle to the beauty of a woman." David tossed the stained handkerchief into the rubbish bin and smirked. "It's a pleasure meeting you, Miss Clark. I look forward to welcoming you into our family." Even after David left, Catelyn was left baffled, wondering if that last sentence was meant to be a compliment to her.

Sensing the icy presence looming over her, she glanced at the man standing next to her while he observed her with dark eyes.

He tilted her chin up, applying slight force on the tips of his fingers. "What did Nine say to you?" "I slipped, and he helped steady me. We didn't say anything to each other." She tried to push him away to escape the unpleasant feeling of having her chin held in place.

He simply reached down to grab her wrist and lowered his head to retrieve wet tissues from his bag, before proceeding to wipe every single finger on her hand that David had touched thoroughly. He was practically scrubbing her skin off as though she had touched something extremely filthy. Suddenly, Catelyn realized that David seemed to have touched her wrist when he was helping her up earlier.

'Is that why Cedrick thinks my hand is dirty?' she thought. Rumor had it that Cedrick was not close to his cousin David, but judging from the circumstances, it seemed as though the two even resented one another. The back of her hand soon turned red and she jerked it away. "Alright, it's clean now! I will just go wash my hands later. My skin is going to come off if you keep going." ☹