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Chapter 51: Strangers

The man in front of her was abnormal. Mariana was concerned, she approached him and reached out her hand to touch the man's forehead and feel the temperature.

"He doesn't have a fever."

Then she sniffed him.

"There is also no smell of alcohol."

"So, what happened to him?"

-Mr. Durán, it's late and I still have work to do. If you have nothing to do...

The words were not finished.

When Mariana reacted, the man had already pressed her against the door. The pain in her back made Mariana realize what was happening.

-Señor Durán? Why are you calling me Señor Durán now? You don't call me that in bed.

His words were full of contempt and mockery. Mariana's heart trembled slightly. She didn't know what Leopoldo wanted to do at this hour,

-Although we have married by contract, we have done what a married couple should do. So, Mr. Durán, what do you want?

However, the man in front of him frowned, and his words were full of mockery and at the same time extremely childish.

Leopoldo cared deeply about this deal.

But she had always called Leopoldo that before, except at the family banquet, she called him Leo, the rest of the time she always called him Señor Durán.

Mariana stiffened her body, standing up with difficulty between the man's strong arms, she could feel the man's breath. The breath exhaled by the man made her face turn red and so she was very attractive now.

Being so close to the man, Mariana's heartbeat quickened, and the strong pounding of her heart made Mariana feel as if she were naked in front of Leopoldo at that moment. The thought made Mariana slightly embarrassed.

In the next instant, Mariana's warm cheek felt a soft touch. The man suddenly came closer and closed his eyes. At this moment, the man was no longer as cold as before, and one could not help but want to be close to him.

As if to punish her for her infidelity, Leopoldo bit Mariana lightly.

Mariana's jaw dropped and her heart pounded. She pushed away Leopoldo who was pressing on her with a fierce push. Then she raised her hand to cover her face and looked at Leopoldo in disbelief.

The man staggered slightly at Mariana's thrust and took half a step back. Then he stared at her.

-Mr. Durán, what are you doing?

The man slightly raised his thumb and wiped his lips so hard it was as if he wanted to erase the contact with her.

Mariana's face paled instantly, until it looked slightly transparent in the dim light. She lowered her hands, her pink face with the teeth marks more attractive.

Leopoldo looked at her with aversion, she noticed it, but she could do nothing that left that aversion stabbed into her heart like a dagger.

-Nothing special.

His words were full of mockery, like the axe pressing down on a condemned prisoner.

She could not help crying, she felt sad. Mariana didn't know, what had she done to offend him, why did he treat her like that?

-Even though we are contractually married, we are married now. I don't want to betray you.

Hearing these words, Mariana furrowed her eyebrows. This time, she did not choose to withdraw or hold back as before.

She said with a cold expression,

-I don't know why you are saying this, but since I have signed the agreement, I will abide by it, and if I violate the provisions of the agreement, you can make me pay for the breach of contract.

The cold words severed all relations between the two in an instant, leaving only an agreement between them.

Leopoldo said cruel words:

-Pay for breach of contract? That's why money is what matters most to you.

Finally, the man gave Mariana a cold look and left.

Only when the footsteps disappeared completely did Mariana put her arms around herself and squatted on the floor.

Suddenly she burst into tears.

That night, Mariana stayed up all night, sitting in front of her desk, drawing all night. Whether it was the inspiration from the antique costume design exhibit or something else, her drawings came out beautifully.

At dawn, light shone through the window, falling on Mariana's body. Her cheeks were white and her lips were dry.

After a huge emotional upheaval and the rapid functioning of her brain all night, she now only felt dizzy.

After a brief pause, Mariana opened her eyes, and now the blood in her eyes had greatly faded. She put the computer in the backpack, Mariana opened the door, washed briefly, changed her clothes. She was about to leave when, unexpectedly, she ran into Leopoldo again.

She lowered her head and kept quiet, as if she did not see the person walking towards her.

As she stood there, the man passed by her without looking away. The slight breeze blowing in Mariana's hair made her itch slightly, causing a slight tremor in her heart.

It looked like he didn't see her at all.

The two were like strangers.

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Chapter 52: Like a Dream

Mariana's heart was flooded with various emotions, she didn't know exactly what she was thinking.

The relationship between them seemed to have gone back to the way it was at the beginning, or worse than it was at the beginning.

Shaking her head vigorously, wanting to push these thoughts out of her mind, Mariana adjusted her backpack on her back and walked out onto the set.

During this period of time, due to rumors on the Internet, she did not return to the set and entrusted all the work to Ana.

When she came here again, Mariana felt as if she was dreaming, everything was unreal.

-Look, he has caused so much trouble to the company, and he has the face to come back. What a scoundrel!

-She has backing, although she caused great losses to the set, they did not fire her. They are still waiting for her to return.

-Yes, we have to take her as a queen, we dare not offend her.

Although she heard these comments, Mariana did not stop.

The loud discussion quickly brought her back to reality, the sense of unreality she had just felt quickly disappearing.

Soon, Mariana arrived at the director's and producer's room, knocked on the door and entered. With a smile on her face, she greeted the director and producer. Then she quickly opened her computer to show them the photos.

This time, Mariana did not elaborate her design as a finished product.

After all, everything was incognito. Besides, last time, she was the only one who knew about it, that's why no one helped her.

The producer crossed his legs nonchalantly and cut his nails with nail clippers. He had a mocking gesture on his face and did not look at Mariana.

The director next to him smiled when he saw this scene. After seeing the design, his eyes were full of admiration.

Since the six suits last time, he always felt that Mariana was really a talented and intelligent person. This time she proved her thought.

Nodding his head repeatedly, the director could not help but applaud. He looked at Mariana with appreciation,

-The design this time fits the storyline even better than the previous one. The design uses exaggerated and bold rendering techniques that is appropriate for the dramatic conflict.

The director's comments were elevated.

Hearing this, the producer, who was sitting on the sofa, also straightened up slightly and looked at the design on the computer. Although he said nothing, by the disdain that had disappeared from his face and the expression that had become dignified, he could see that the producer was also pleased with Mariana's design.

Hearing the director's words, Mariana felt relieved and happy,

-Then I will send you the design, you just need to find a studio to develop the final product.

The director frowned and looked at Mariana in confusion and asked her:

-What do you mean? The trend on the Internet has gradually gone down, and now there are new designs, so we just have to look for the person of Diario de Mariana, we can minimize the loss. The words that were intended to comfort Mariana made her feel moved. She did not expect that in the end, it would be the director who had lost so much that would come back to comfort her, the Holy Empress was important to the director.

-This thing started for me, so I have to finish it.

After a while, Mariana continued to say in a low voice:

-The fault is mine, so now I am not qualified to be the head of the Empress Santa's theatrical costume design team.

The nail clippers fell to the floor and caused a sound, and the producer raised his head, looking at Mariana with some surprise.

If Mariana quit her job at that time, all the blame could naturally fall on her, and then the loss would be minimized. But for Mariana, the damage was enormous, and it would even affect her design career.

That determination and courage were impressive.

Stubbornly, Mariana stood up, looked seriously at the director and producer and bowed to them,

-I am going to resign my position as head of the design team and look for the person behind Diario de Mariana as soon as possible so that I can make a clarification as soon as possible.

The bitterness in his heart made Mariana's heart tremble slightly, and her voice also trembled slightly.

-Thank you for taking care of me during this period of time.

Mariana's words were decent.

The director and the producer, sitting on the sofa, looked at each other and were very surprised. They did not expect this result.

The woman in front of them had a serious expression on her face, she was like a bird of unbridled freedom that was about to spread her wings and fly at the next moment. She was determined and resolute.

As Mariana left the rest room, she was relieved.

The guilt and anxiety that had plagued her for so long had vanished into thin air. It was a decision she had made while designing all night.

With light steps, he reached the door to the changing room, leaned against the door, looked at Ana who was busy at that moment, smiled and shouted at her:

-Anita.

When she heard the familiar voice, Ana turned quickly and saw Mariana.

During this period of time, Ana had been busy with work on the set's wardrobe crew, and had only consoled Mariana by phone, after which the two had not been in touch again.

The two looked at each other as if they would not meet for a long time, this feeling was absurd but one that made them want to cry.

-Mari, you're back at last.

Ana took a big step forward and hugged Mariana tightly, her voice filled with obvious sobbing.

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Chapter 53: Encountered a hazard

-It turns out that these jobs you do every day are so complicated that I can't finish at all by myself, now that you're finally back, how nice!

Although Ana was complaining, her tone was full of relief.

Mariana looked at Ana and laughed. Then she felt sad and lost,

-Anita, I'm afraid I have to disappoint you this time, I have to find the person behind Diario de Mariana, that's why I can't help you at work.

She already resigned her position on the set and wanted to see Ana before she left. But she didn't want Ana to know about it.

Ana frowned and felt sad. But in the end, she gave Mariana a smile,

-Go do your business, I'll manage the wardrobe group for you.

Ana's words were full of confidence.

As she left the set, Mariana was walking down the street. Although she had made a promise to the director and producer, she did not know how to find the person behind Diario de Mariana.

That feeling was bad.

Suddenly, Mariana stopped, looking at the neon lights flashing in front of her, and a thought suddenly popped into her mind.

On the home page of that account, an address appeared, and although it was not exact and was located in the center of the city, in the image there was a colorful neon. Just like what was in front of her.

It was a bar.

Mariana's eyes lit up, she already had an idea.

He headed towards the bar, looking at the men and women standing in front of the door Mariana frowned feeling uncomfortable.

The women were dressed very sexy and looked very seductive in the light. The men's hands occasionally touched the back of one of the women.

It was a chaotic and noisy scene. This was Mariana's first impression of this bar.

Clenching her fists, Mariana took a deep breath and entered with the determination to die.

Sitting at a corner table, Mariana ordered a cocktail. The pink liquid swirled gently in the tall glass.

She looked one by one at the people who were present. Mariana was looking for the person behind Mariana's Diary.

Obviously, that account had been updated with clothing designs before, and although those designs had not been published yet, that's why Mariana was sure that the person was a designer like her. The designs were bold, the clothes were sexy, the fabrics were luxurious and impractical, even many exaggerated accessories were used to attract attention. It should be a woman, who longed for freedom and money, who wanted to attract people's intentions and be the center of the world.

So there weren't many people in the room who fit this profile.

At that moment, a woman dancing in the middle of the dance floor attracted Mariana's attention.

Dressed in designer clothes. Her exposed cleavage was very tempting, her skirt was short and her snow-white thighs were exposed, attracting many intentions. With elegant posture and long hair, she was like a seductive mermaid in the dark night. Even the dress she wore was eye-catching, and the makeup on her face looked stunning under the light.

Mariana fixed her gaze on the woman, quietly watching her as she danced in front of different men and flirted with them. She was like a queen of the midnight dance floor.

Finally, the woman seemed to be tired and pushed the men around her aside and headed towards the bar. Mariana was about to approach, but did not expect to be stopped by a man.

He was a robust man who had short hair and a lot of muscles. He had a lot of male hormones.

-Miss, can you drink with me?

The man raised the glass and handed it to Mariana with a smile on his face.

Mariana did not expect to find this kind of thing.

-Sorry, I still have things to do.

After saying that, Mariana was about to walk away, but a large, strong hand grabbed her shoulder, making her unable to move.

Mariana raised her head and realized that the woman had disappeared. She felt a little anxious and impatient.

As he struggled, he searched for the woman.

Suddenly, the man put his hand on Mariana's waist and, with force, pulled her in front of him. The beard was the first thing that caught Mariana's attention, then she looked at the man's slightly rugged face, which made her feel uncomfortable.

Frowning, Mariana began to struggle.

She was already in the man's arms. The man was tall and the woman was petite, they like a beauty and a monster.

Mariana felt very scared and her heart was beating fast.

Feeling the man's breath close by, Mariana's heart felt even more panicked.

-What are you doing?

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Chapter 54: Find this woman

Leopold's mind was still thinking about the image he had just seen, and he felt fear in his heart. When he raised his head again, his eyes were already very cold and severe, he was calm, like the calm that precedes the storm, revealing signs that made people fear.

People were surprised by this scene.

The crowd in the bar surrounded Leopoldo and Mariana, whispering something.

The bar, which had just been noisy, was already very quiet. The crowd waited with bated breath for what was about to happen, but no one dared to approach.

Leopold looked at the Lionel behind him, then looked at the man and commanded cruelly:

-Give him a lesson.

Hearing that command, Lionel began to beat the man fiercely.

Mariana was already out of Leopoldo's arms and standing to the side. Staring at the man on the ground, Mariana was indifferent as Leopoldo at this moment.

However, no one knew that at this moment Mariana was clenching her fists, causing pain. She averted her gaze and looked at Leopoldo, who was beside her. Mariana now had complicated feelings, but she was grateful to Leopoldo.

If it weren't for him, he didn't dare to think what would have happened next.

When the two men stopped, the man on the ground was already in agony, lying on the ground moaning, his body covered with bruises.

At that moment the bar owner arrived, but was stopped by Lionel, who gave him a business card.

When he saw the name Leopoldo Durán, his legs trembled slightly and he was about to say something when he was rudely interrupted by Lionel,

-My boss is just here for a drink, please don't make a scene.

After saying this, he took a check out of his pocket and handed it to the bar owner.

The boss looked at the numbers on the check, his eyes lit up and he couldn't help but swallow as he reached out and carefully took the check.

-Do as you wish.

After saying that, he left, not caring about what had just happened.

Lionel approached Leopoldo and said in a respectful voice:

-Sir, the matter is resolved, do you want to go back now?

Right after saying this, Mariana said anxiously:

-I'm looking for a woman wearing a short black skirt, she had long black curly hair. She is wearing a make-up, she is very important!

He said as he tugged on Leopoldo's sleeve.

Leopoldo looked at his sleeve pulled by Mariana and had complicated feelings.

Finally, he looked at Lionel and ordered:

-Find this woman.

Without even asking Mariana the cause.

Lionel bowed his head and answered yes, then had his inferiors block the door and lined up the women inside to meet the woman.

Mariana remained silent next to Leopoldo, the stillness between the two made her feel a little uncomfortable. Biting the corner of her mouth, Mariana looked at Leopoldo and took the initiative to ask:

-Why are you here?

Leopoldo responded indifferently.

-After a pause, he continued, "Did you come to look for the woman?

His tone had a sense of oppression.

Mariana nodded her head and responded with sincerity:

-I was walking down the road and I looked at the neon lights here and they looked familiar, so I came here.

Leopoldo looked at the men and women in the bar. His eyes were full of coldness. There were many bad people here.

-Mr. Durán, why are you here?

Leopoldo looked at Mariana and said nothing.

At that moment, Lionel approached and listened to Mariana's question. He looked at Leopoldo and sighed lightly in his heart. He then turned to Mariana, with a smile on his face, and said:

-Madam, Mr. Durán asked me to investigate the person behind Diario de Mariana in private. I received the news today, but I did not expect to find you here. After a pause, he added:

-It seems that Mr. and Mrs. think alike.

Mariana did not expect it to be for this reason. She looked at Leopoldo, even in the atmosphere of darkness, one could appreciate the noble and cold aura. His heart was pounding as if he was expressing his affection.

-I can do these things myself, after all, I am the culprit.

She lowered her head, her snow-white, thin neck exposed. She felt depressed.

Leopoldo noticed her sadness and his heart trembled slightly. After all, everything that had happened was because of her. It seemed that no one who was related to her was going to be lucky. At that moment, he found it hard to smile.

-Mrs. Ortiz, how can this be your business? Your business is Mr. Durán's business. A few days ago, Mr. Durán even ordered me to prevent the disclosure on Facebook of this matter.

Hearing this, Mariana looked at the man in front of her in surprise, feeling incredulous.

-Didn't he...?

She didn't finish saying the words.

"Yes, Xavier also didn't say that the business of withdrawing the hot search was done by him, did he?"

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Chapter 55: She didn't understand.

He instinctively thought that Xavier, who was the protagonist of Holy Empress and was also his friend, had perhaps done something to minimize the impact after learning of this affair.

Lionel was slightly stunned, but reacted quickly and looked at the Leopold who had no expression on his face, feeling strange in his heart.

"Sir, you haven't told her anything?"

Noticing this, Lionel was quick to tell Mariana:

-Lady, when that hot search came out on the first day, the Lord told me to take it back.

After a pause, Lionel looked at Leopoldo and continued to say boldly:

-Now it seems that the gentleman has not told you these things.

After saying this, he turned around directly and walked quickly into the crowd. He could already do this, the rest would be up to the two of them.

The commotion in Mariana's heart could not be calmed for long.

The man next to him stood here, as if he were to become a part of the darkness.

"What does he look like?"

When he was in front of and behind her, this man had two aspects.

After a long time, Mariana asked with difficulty:

-Why?

The man looked at Mariana with indifference, he said nothing.

-Why are you helping me?

She did not understand.

-There is no reason.

The cold words, like the wind in the night, hit Mariana's face, making her close her eyes.

"Impossible."

-But this matter is very important to me, it can be a small thing for you. Your help can make me not to lose my job.

It was at this moment that Mariana understood the enormous difference between them. She was so insignificant, incapable of attracting anyone's attention.

Hearing these words from Mariana, Leopoldo's expression changed slightly. Then he spoke:

-We are married by agreement. This is what you deserve.

Hearing these words, Mariana had a complicated feeling, her heart was as if it had received a strong blow.

"Just because of the agreement?"

Lionel looked at them with a serious face as he approached the two of them. Seeing the expressions of the two of them, Lionel felt surprised.

"It can't be like that, I just said what sir has done. So she should be very moved by now. But why did they have that expression?"

Although puzzled, Lionel then informed them.

-Sir, that woman has been found.

Mariana looked at Lionel and asked eagerly:

-Where is it?

-Ma'am, please follow me.

Saying this, he turned and walked around a corner.

By that time, the men that Leopoldo had brought had already emptied the bar, and at that point, only they and the woman in the bar were left.

At that moment, the woman was looking at the men next to her with slightly narrowed eyes and a drunken expression on her face. When she saw Leopoldo, she whistled and smiled coquettishly.

This woman, who was leaning against the wall, got up unhurriedly and headed towards Leopoldo.

-How handsome, I haven't seen you before, new here?

As he said this, he reached out to touch Leopoldo's chest, but was stopped by Lionel as he was about to pull Leopoldo's black tie.

-You'd better not move," Lionel threatened.

But, to his surprise, instantly Mariana who had been standing beside her master stepped forward and stood in front of the man.

Leopoldo looked at Mariana in front of him, and his expression changed. She was not tall enough to block the unknown woman's gaze.

After a pause, Mariana stepped forward and looked at the woman,

-You are the person behind Diario de Mariana, yes?

When the woman heard the words, the smile on her face immediately disappeared, her eyes were filled with panic.

-Who are you? -he said in a trembling, frightened voice.

-Who am I? I am the real Mariana.

Mariana laughed and looked at the woman coldly, her eyes full of anger.

As if hearing something startling, the woman shook her head in panic, shaking her hands repeatedly in denial,

-I don't know anything about Mariana's diary, you're probably wrong, I have something to do, I'm leaving.

After saying that, he was about to leave, but was stopped by Leopoldo's inferiors.

He struggled violently to escape, but ultimately failed. He screamed in panic and fear and slid to the ground.

-How did you find me?

-This account is not mine now, I sold it to someone else at a high price. I don't know what happened next, it's useless to find me.

Hearing this, Mariana felt a little dejected.

In fact, she had already thought about this possibility, now she had to accept it. Now, she could only give up.