

Janie hesitated for a moment but nodded in agreement. She didn't want Harold to accompany her, but she couldn't help but feel that this might be for the best.

She admitted to herself that she was somewhat afraid of Benjamin. His presence was overpowering, capable of subtly consuming those around him. She didn't want to be consumed by him again; she knew she couldn't win against him.

"Ring~"

Janie's phone rang, causing her hand to tremble, nearly dropping the device.

She answered the call.

"Come out!" came Benjamin's low, icy voice from the other end.

He had made up his mind. As soon as Janie stepped out, without a second thought, he would grab her and leave.

He would take her back to Struyria.

Once they were back in Struyria, he would dump her in Glenbrook.

The remaining words would have to wait until he was no longer angry.

Janie remained silent, tucking a stray strand of hair behind her ear before rising to her feet and walking towards the exit. Harold hurriedly followed behind her.

As they stepped out of the bar, they saw a tall, imposing figure in black standing by the railing across the street.

The man was leaning against the railing, with one knee bent, and a cigarette between his fingers.

Even from a distance, they could see the coolness etched upon his strikingly handsome face.

His deep, slightly narrowed eyes held a melancholic glimmer reminiscent of a starry night sky.

He exuded an innate indifference, an elusive aura of danger that was both captivating and unsettling.

With just one glance, Benjamin managed to consume

Janie once again.

But just as that moment unfolded, Harold reached out and firmly grasped Janie's arm.

As Janie emerged, a glimmer briefly flickered in Benjamin's deep, piercing gaze.

However, as Harold's arm encircled her, that glimmer vanished in an instant.

His eyes grew even darker, an abyss devoid of light.

Benjamin extinguished his half-smoked cigarette against the nearby trash bin, releasing his legs from their perch on the railing.

Standing tall, a stronger, more dangerous aura emanated from him, piercing the air.

Harold felt a tremor of unease, and he sensed Janie's body quiver ever so slightly.

But they were already halfway across the street, and turning back was no longer an option.

Gritting his teeth, Harold mustered his courage and, with a firm grip on Janie's arm, took a step forward.

With only seven or eight steps remaining, Benjamin, who had been watching them intently, spoke up, his voice carrying across the distance, "It's alright, no need to come any closer!"

Though his voice was far away, it felt as if it echoed from the depths of an eternal snow-capped mountain.

Janie's body stiffened, leaving her momentarily frozen in place.

Harold, on the other hand, breathed a silent sigh of relief.

Benjamin had already turned around, his long legs striding confidently toward the parking lot.

Since Janie and Harold were together, appearing so intimate, then so be it.

He dismissed the resolution he had just made.

What a waste of time!

Benjamin regretted his impulsive decision to come running here like a madman.

Was he bored?

Or had he eaten so much that he was now stuffed?

The problem was, he wasn't bored, and his stomach still grumbled with hunger!

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Chapter 1027 I Don't Want to Love You Anymore

"We're just classmates," Janie said, her voice filled with a mix of resignation and sadness. "We were in the past, and we will be in the future. There won't be any other kind of relationship between us."

"What's wrong with me?" Harold furrowed his brow. "Among the men at today's reunion, I consider myself exceptional." "Unfortunately," Janie shook her head, "you're not the type of person I'm interested in. So let your exceptional qualities shine for someone else."

"But I only like you," Harold insisted. "From our time in university until now, my feelings haven't changed."

"I haven't changed either," Janie said, her voice tinged with a hint of sorrow. "I didn't like you back in university, and I still don't like you now. We can only be classmates, nothing more."

"Janie, do you have feelings for your boss?" Harold frowned. "Benjamin, the CEO of Adelmar?"

Janie froze for a moment, and the mention of Benjamin caused a sharp pang in her heart.

"You hit the mark, didn't you?" Harold sneered. "Janie, you're overestimating yourself. A man like Benjamin, is he someone you could like?"

Janie remained silent, her eyes welling up with tears.

Benjamin, was she unworthy of him?

But why did she foolishly fall in love with him like this, walking down a path of self-destruction?

"Janie, in marriage, it's important to marry someone of the same social standing," Harold said. "Your ideal partner should be someone like me. I have it all ... a successful career, a car, a house, and an annual income of over a million dollars."

Janie didn't hear what Harold said after that.

Ever since Benjamin was mentioned earlier, her heart had been in turmoil.

Tears now cascaded down her cheeks, making a soft pattering sound.

"Janie," Harold grabbed her arm, attempting to continue speaking.

Janie shrugged him off and said, "Just leave, I'm tired and I need some rest."

"Janie, why won't you listen?" Harold persisted. "Snap out of it! A man like Benjamin isn't someone you can love. Look at me, can't you see how good I am?"

As he spoke, he forcefully turned Janie's body to face him.

Growing impatient, Janie furrowed her brow and turned away.

Just as she was about to push away this irritating man

beside her, Harold reached out and wrapped his arms around her.

"Get off me!" Janie was startled, a hint of sobriety returning to her.

She struggled free from Harold's grasp and grabbed a throw pillow from the couch, hurling it at him.

Harold quickly backed away, his brows furrowed. "Janie, I mean no harm. I just really like you!"

"Get out! I told you to get out!" Janie angrily retorted. "Believe me, I'll call security!"

"No, please, don't!" Harold hastily waved his hands. "Janie, you're drunk. Rest for now, and we can discuss this tomorrow when you're sober."

Harold opened the door and hurriedly left the hotel.

Janie lunged forward to lock the door, leaning against it as she sank to the floor and began to cry.

The combination of alcohol and sadness churned her stomach, and she rushed into the bathroom, hunching over the toilet, and retching uncontrollably.

As the contents of her stomach emptied and her mind cleared, she still felt woozy and couldn't open her eyes fully.

She leaned against the bathroom wall, making her way back to the bed, where she threw herself onto the covers and immediately fell asleep.

When she woke up, the sky outside was already dark.

The effects of the alcohol had mostly worn off, but her body felt weak and limp.

Janie got up from the bed and entered the bathroom, turning on a warm shower.

Her mind was filled with thoughts of Benjamin, interwoven with Harold's words:

Is Benjamin the kind of man you like? You're overestimating yourself!

Is that so?

Is that so?

Is that so?

Benjamin, am I not worthy of you? Am I not allowed to love you?

As the water cascaded down, Janie's hot tears

streamed along with it.

After showering, she wrapped herself in a towel, and the first thing she did was reach into her suitcase for the bottle of "smoked paprika."

She knew that inside was Worryfree.

As long as she drank this powder, she would find release.

No longer would she agonize over that man who sent shivers down her spine with his coldness.

"Benjamin," Janie unscrewed the cap of the plastic bottle, her eyes red as she whispered, "I'm tired. I truly don't want to love you anymore. From now on, we are no longer related..."

She tilted her head back, ready to pour the powder

into her mouth...

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Chapter 1028 How Tasty Was Lunch?

She tilted her head back, ready to pour the powder into her mouth.

A searing pain tore through her heart, deep within her being.

A voice from her soul whispered, "Don't, don't, don't stop loving him... Don't stop loving him..."

"Don't stop loving him?"

"Don't stop loving him?"

"Benjamin!" Janie cried out, tears streaming down her face as she hurled the Worryfree in her hand against the wall.

"I can't do it, I can't stop loving you! Let me go to hell, I would rather go to hell than not love you!"

"Sob..."

Janie collapsed onto the edge of the bed, wailing with heart-wrenching sorrow.

After a long while, she lifted her head, her long hair sticking to her tear-stained face, her eyes swollen like peaches.

Yet, her conviction within grew stronger.

If she was consumed by Benjamin, then let him devour her. She accepted it.

Who made her love him so deeply?

Since she couldn't extricate herself, she would surrender.

Was there any shame in surrendering for love?

At least in this lifetime, she had fought hard, regardless of the outcome!

With reddened eyes, Janie took out her phone and dialed Benjamin's number.

At that moment, Benjamin was in his study, poring over several overseas documents on his computer.

Since his return from Falmouth, he hadn't said a word and immersed himself in his work.

Perhaps love and emotions were not meant for him.

So, he didn't waste his energy on such matters. Work, work, and more work.

That was what he should be doing.

As his phone rang on the desk, he furrowed his brows and picked it up.

At first glance, he thought he must be mistaken...it was Janie's number?

She was calling him?

In the moment of hesitation, the ringing ceased.

The phone screen remained lit, engulfed in silence.

Benjamin fell into a momentary silence before redialing.

However, his number was still blocked on Janie's phone.

She hadn't unblocked him, so he couldn't make the call.

Placing the phone back on the table, Benjamin continued his work.

But his heart couldn't find peace.

He worried that something might be wrong with Janie.

Regardless of the perspective, he didn't want anything bad to happen to her.

If something happened, even Emmeline alone wouldn't be able to contain his wrath.

Benjamin stood up and made his way to the bedroom, retrieving another phone with a new SIM card from his suit pocket. He dialed Janie's number.

After what felt like an eternity, someone finally picked up on the other end.

Benjamin heard Janie's voice, soft and filled with unease, "Mr. Benjamin?"

"Just now..." Benjamin's voice was low, cool, and detached, "Did something happen?"

Janie on her end bit her lip and said, "I accidentally pressed the call button."

There was a two-second pause from Benjamin before he responded, "Good that there's no problem, then I'll hang up."

"Beep..."

Janie heard the busy tone as Benjamin ended the call.

But despite that, a faint blush appeared on her face upon hearing his voice.

Her heart seemed to skip a beat, pounding with newfound vigor.

He said it was good that there was no problem?

And he called her on his own, expressing concern for her.

Was Benjamin's heart not entirely made of ice?

Just like a moment ago, she could discern a trace of tenderness in his demeanor.

The next day, Benjamin finished his breakfast and headed to Adelmar early in the morning.

As noon approached, an intercom call came through the secretary's desk. "Mr. Benjamin, Yvonne from Glenbrook is here with lunch."

"Hmm," Benjamin replied, "Let her in."

Yvonne would occasionally bring lunch for Benjamin, especially when she noticed he was in a bad mood or had lost his appetite. She always managed to prepare delicious meals that allowed him to enjoy a good feast. The door opened, and Yvonne walked in, speaking softly, "Mr. Benjamin, lunch is here."

"Hmm," Benjamin looked up at her, his expression gentle, "Thank you, Yvonne."

"Then I'll go back," Yvonne said.

"Good," Benjamin nodded.

After Yvonne left, Benjamin began to feel the sensation of hunger. He got up, washed his hands in the bathroom, and opened the insulated container.

Inside were four food containers stacked neatly: a portion of rice, seafood soup, broccoli chicken stir-fry, and braised jumbo prawns.

Benjamin furrowed his brow for a moment.

He picked up the utensils and started to scoop some of the broccoli chicken. After savoring a few bites, he swallowed and felt the tension in his brow and around his eyes dissipate.

Then he picked up his phone and dialed Yvonne's number.

Yvonne was in the car with the driver heading back to Glenbrook when her phone rang.

Anticipating the call, Yvonne smiled and answered, "Mr. Benjamin, did you enjoy your lunch?"

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Chapter 1029 Misunderstandings are Inevitable, Just Talk it Out

"Let her know that I want tortellini for dinner tonight," Benjamin told Yvonne. "Get both the seafood and radish lamb versions, and also add a serving of beef and scallion."

"Understood, Mr. Benjamin. I will inform Ms. Janie, and please come back earlier tonight," Yvonne replied.

"I got it, Yvonne," Benjamin acknowledged.

After ending the call and setting down his phone, a smile formed on Benjamin's lips. The food suddenly seemed even more delicious, and everything felt like it was back on track.

He had mentioned that he wanted to have tortellini for dinner, with three different fillings. It was a dish that tasted delightful but was quite labor-intensive to make. Chopping the fillings, preparing the dough, and shaping each piece...it would keep her busy all afternoon.

Well, that would certainly keep her occupied, ensuring that she wouldn't think of leaving.

Before the end of the workday, Benjamin decided to leave early.

He made his way straight back to Glenbrook, changing his shoes in the foyer. As he glanced down, he noticed a pair of familiar women's low-heeled shoes.

A barely noticeable smirk formed on his lips.

Yvonne approached, taking his suit jacket from his hand.

Without hesitation, Benjamin headed towards the kitchen.

There, he caught sight of a slender and graceful figure bustling about, engrossed in the culinary tasks at hand.

Benjamin walked in, positioning himself behind Janie.

With one hand, he reached out and turned off the gas stove. The other hand gently encircled her delicate waist.

Janie jolted as if struck by an electric current, frozen in place with her apron-clad body.

This was a gesture from Benjamin that she had never experienced before.

However, in the next moment, he forcefully turned her

body and captured her lips in a demanding kiss.

"Mmm," Janie was taken aback, instinctively wanting to escape.

But Benjamin held her firmly by the waist, his large hand securing the back of her head, imprisoning her in his embrace.

Benjamin's kiss was hesitant, his technique unrefined.

But the heat it emanated was scorching.

Tears welled up in Janie's eyes.

With a whimper, she cried, wrapping her arms tightly around Benjamin, and burying herself in his embrace.

"You fool, you still know how to come back?" Benjamin caressed her hair. "I admit defeat," Janie choked in his arms. "I wanted to stop loving you, I wanted to drink Worryfree, but I couldn't."

"Worryfree?" Benjamin paused, his face turning serious as he held her petite face. "Where did you get Worryfree?"

Janie hesitated, "I found it on your desk."

Benjamin remained speechless.

"Loving you is too painful," Janie's tears continued to flow. "But not loving you is even more agonizing, so I threw away the Worryfree."

"You scared me to death," Benjamin held her tighter, gently stroking her slender back. "You said you would give me a chance, and I trust your words." "Do you think I'm not trustworthy?" Janie raised her teary eyes, looking at him with a touch of grievance.

"Then what about this Harold guy you brought up?" Benjamin's gaze grew intense. "The first time I saw him in the elevator, I could tell he had improper intentions towards you. If it weren't for worrying that you might find me interfering, I would have thrown him out immediately!"

"You're talking about it!" Janie retorted. "What about you? You saved Ysabel and she's always hanging around you. You even go out for meals together!"

"Which eye of yours saw me going out with Ysabel?" Benjamin snapped. "That crazy woman, do you think I've lost my mind to be interested in her?"

"So, it was my misunderstanding?" Janie asked

timidly.

"Enough," Benjamin held her again, speaking in a gentle tone. "Misunderstandings happen, but as long as we talk things out, it'll be fine."

"Mmm," Janie mumbled softly in his embrace.

However, despite resolving the misunderstanding in just a few sentences, Janie had been tormented and upset for several days. She had even contemplated drinking the Worryfree, thinking that if she didn't love Benjamin anymore, it would be better to end her life.

"I'm hungry," Benjamin said. "How is the tortellini coming along?"

"They're all ready, just waiting for you to come back and cook them," Janie wiped her eyes, her eyes sparkling with enthusiasm. "You did this on purpose, didn't you? Wanting to have three different fillings?"

A faint smile played at the corners of Benjamin's lips, but he remained silent.

After dinner, Janie returned to her apartment as usual.

It was Benjamin who walked her to the door.

Standing in front of her apartment door, Janie didn't invite him in.

Benjamin's Adam's apple bobbed, and his deep, pleasing voice said, "Rest well. Do whatever you need to do tomorrow."

"That means going back to Adelmar Studios?" Janie asked him.

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Chapter 1030 Office Romance Begins?

"If you agree, let's go back to the office," Benjamin's gaze deepened. "I'm not used to it when you're not around."

Janie pressed her lips together and nodded, "Alright."

Benjamin reached out his arm and gently pulled her closer, planting a light kiss on her cheek.

"Go inside, I'll be watching you."

Janie turned around, locked the door, and entered the apartment.

With lowered eyes, she reluctantly closed the door in front of Benjamin.

Three seconds later, she heard the resolute sound of his footsteps fading away.

Quietly, she opened the door again, watching his cold and upright figure take confident strides toward the elevator.

Just as he turned and pressed the floor button, she closed the door.

Leaning against the door panel, her heart pounded "Thump, thump."

Life has a way of playing tricks on people.

Yesterday afternoon, she was in Falmouth, leaning against the door panel just like before, but this time her heart was being ripped apart.

Indeed, if you hold on during the darkest moments, hope and dawn will eventually come.

The next day, Nightfall Cafe.

Abel escorted Emmeline across the road, watching her open the glass door and step inside before he turned the Rolls-Royce around and drove away.

Doris had already arrived and was engaged in conversation with Sam at the coffee counter.

Four newly hired waitstaff were busy cleaning.

Originally, according to Emmeline's plan, they only

needed two waitstaff.

One for the second floor and one for the first floor, and she could manage on her own at other times.

But Abel was afraid that his precious wife would be overwhelmed with too few hands, so he immediately put four people on duty.

The salaries and insurance benefits for all four of them were covered by the Ryker Group.

Surprisingly, Adelmar didn't manage to snatch it away from him.

Upon seeing Doris, Emmeline was delighted and pulled her aside to take a look around, smiling as she asked, "Are you okay now?"

"I just had a sore throat," Doris replied. "Nothing

wrong with the rest of me."

"Well, it looks like your throat is better now," Emmeline smiled, knowing it was thanks to Waylon's efforts.

"Thanks to Mr. Adelmar's medicine," Doris chuckled. "Fifteen thousand well spent."

Emmeline chimed in, "You know, I almost forgot. Waylon prepared the medicine for you, and you paid him fifteen thousand, right? Does he need that fifteen thousand?"

Doris's mouth fell open, and she raised her hand to cover it, but it was too late to hide the truth.

The words were out.

"I'll give him a call and get to the bottom of this!"

Emmeline's expression turned grim as she reached for her phone, ready to dial her senior brother.

"Emma," Doris pressed her hand down, stopping her. "No, please don't call. Things aren't what you think they are."

"What kind of thing is that?" Emmeline frowned. "If Waylon is involved in such disgraceful actions, I'll make sure he regrets it!"

"It's not like that!" Doris insisted. "Mr. Adelmar was just trying to annoy my older sister, so he did that."

Emmeline didn't understand, so Doris had to explain the situation to her again.

"Mr. Adelmar was going to give it for free. But my sister made some casual remarks, and that's when Mr. Adelmar took offense."

"Well, that's still not acceptable," Emmeline said. "A single pill that can be made in two minutes, and he dares to ask for fifteen thousand from you? He's disrespecting me! I'll make sure he gives it back to you!"

"Forget about it, please," Doris pleaded urgently. "If you tell Mr. Adelmar about it, he'll think I went behind his back to complain. That would be even more embarrassing for me."

Emmeline thought for a moment and decided to let the matter rest for now.

But she made a mental note of this debt to Waylon. When the time was right, she would talk to him about it.

Customers started coming in, and Doris went upstairs

to attend to them.

Emmeline sat downstairs, sipping her coffee.

As she looked up, the glass door opened, and Janie walked in with light footsteps and a gentle smile.

Today, she was wearing a white professional shirt with a beige high-waisted pencil skirt.

It was both professional and stylish, and she looked stunning.

Emmeline couldn't help but admire Janie's fashion sense. Her taste in clothing was truly remarkable.

"Janie," Emmeline exclaimed with delight. "You're back!"

"Yeah," Janie smiled. "I came back yesterday but

didn't get a chance to tell you. I'm here now to report in."

"You look really good today," Emmeline said, grabbing her hand. "Did you patch things up with Ben?"

Janie nodded, blushing slightly. "I went back to the secretary's office again. Mr. Benjamin said he wasn't used to it when I'm not around."

"Haha," Emmeline chuckled softly. "Office romance starting, huh?"

"Who said that?" Janie pouted playfully. "It's just work!"

"Who are you trying to fool?" Emmeline pointed at her blushing face. "Look at you, all flushed."

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