

Second Marriage to Mr. Rich

Chapter 221

The day for delivery arrived. Ned must have been anxious.

"No worries. Go meet with them. Set a high price. If they ask who else you've sold the formula to, tell them you've given it to your boss and will ask for them. They're in a hurry, so you can ask for some fees. That money is all yours. That depends on how much you want!" Angeline spoke with a hint of laughter in her voice.

Billy immediately brightened up at the mention of money. "Alright! I'll do as you say!"

Giving enough incentive when asking for a favor was something Angeline understood well. "I'll send you a list later. After dragging them along for a while, give them the list. Tell them your boss sold the formula to the companies on the list," Angeline added.

"Sure, Ms. Emmerson. You can count on me."

After the call, Angeline sent Billy a long list and took the emergency contraception. Her legs were still weak. Feeling she couldn't go out in her current state, she sat on the living room carpet to watch the lab videos.

Once Angeline got into her work mode, she was completely focused until Sean returned at 6:00 pm. She hadn't changed her sitting position as she was busily jotting down notes.

Sean changed his shoes and took off his suit jacket. He came over and gently touched Angeline's head, making her jump. "When did you get back?"

When Sean heard the word "back," his lips curved up. He sat on the couch and kissed Angeline's forehead. "Didn't you have the lozenges?"

Angeline cleared her throat. "I forgot."

"Did you forget lunch too?" Sean asked further.

"I forgot that, too."

Sean glanced at the video showing the logo of Vitality Biotech Group. He didn't ask more but just took off his cufflinks and watched. "Watch a bit more, and then we'll have dinner." "Are we going out to eat?"

Sean smiled as he stood up. "We'll eat at home."

Angeline couldn't help but smile as she watched Sean wash his hands and put on an apron in the kitchen.

She turned back to the video to continue observing Heather's operational process.

When the aroma of food filled the air, Angeline stood up and leaned against the coffee table. Her legs

were numb from sitting too long et

She walked to the dining table and was ready to serve the spaghetti, only to see Sean coming out with two bowls.

"Go wash your hands. Let's eat!"

After dinner, Angeline took the initiative to clean up. Coming out of the kitchen, she saw Sean making a call on the balcony. She sat down on the carpet to video call Xavier and Yasmine. "Mommy, Mr. Lawson Senior seemed very angry today!" Yasmine whispered to Angeline. .

"What happened?" Angeline was surprised.

This was the first time she heard the kids mention Robert being angry.

"It seemed like Mr. Lawson Senior was on a call with someone. We don't know what was said, but he got so angry that he smashed a cup and a chessboard." Xavier recalled seriously. "It seemed like he was saying he wouldn't allow someone to leave the Lawson family." Content

"That's right. Beautiful Ms. Lawson was so scared! I've never seen Mr. Lawson Senior so angry!" Yasmine's voice remained low.

Angeline's heart skipped a beat. She turned to look at Sean on the balcony. She wondered if Sean had told Robert about his plans to leave the Lawson family, which was the reason why Robert was so angry. "How is Beautiful Ms. Lawson now?" Angeline asked.

"Beautiful Ms. Lawson didn't want us

to be scared, so she took us out for ice cream!" Xavier said clearly, "Ms Hull said that in all her years at the Lawson residence, aside from the incident with Beautiful Ms. Lawson, this was the first time she saw Mr. Lawson so furious."

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"Exactly. Mr. Lawson Senior didn't even have his dinner today. It was only after Beautiful Ms. Lawson and I brought him some milk that he drank a little," Yasmine said with her mouth close to the microphone. Angeline's grip on her phone tightened as she felt uneasy. She said to Yasmine and Xavier, "You two must be especially good in the next few days. Please don't upset Mr. Lawson Senior, okay?" "Don't worry, Mommy. I'm always good!" Yasmine assured her.

"Alright, you two should get some rest early. Be good!"

After ending the video call with Yasmine and Xavier, Angeline looked at Sean, who was still on the phone, and bit her lip.

After a while, Sean looked at Angeline after feeling her gaze. He said a few words to the person on the other end of the line and then hung up.

"What's the matter?" Sean closed the sliding door behind him.

"Did you talk to Mr. Lawson Senior today about leaving the Lawson family?" Angeline asked.

Sean sat down behind Angeline with his elbows on his knees and leaned in to say, "This had to be discussed sooner or later, but I haven't mentioned our situation yet. Don't worry." "Mr. Lawson Senior is very angry."

"Mm," he responded. "After Mr. Lawson Senior's birthday banquet, I'll announce my separation from the Lawson family and departure from Lawson Global."

Angeline turned to face Sean. Their eyes met, and her mind was in turmoil.

"So, are you leaving Krontos?" Angeline asked, feeling somewhat uncomfortable.

Sean gently touched Angeline's cheek. "I need to leave for a while. I have to return to my original home to sort out some things."

"What about Lawson Global then?"

Sean's eyes softened with a gentle,

indulgent smile. "I'll make

arrangements. Given that you've

made Vitality Biotech Group a company that even Marvon

hesitates to sanction in less than four years, I believe you can manage Lawson Group just fine." Content

After seeing Angeline fall quiet again, he softly touched the corner of her mouth. "As for us, I need a clear answer before Mr. Lawson Senior's birthday celebration." "If I want a divorce, does that mean you won't return?"

For some reason, Angeline had a strong intuition about this matter. Since it had infuriated Robert and made Seah keep asking her for a definite answer, Angeline always felt it was connected to Sean's future plans.

Sean fixed his intense and possessive gaze on her without blinking. His presence felt so overwhelming that it made Angeline's spine tingle. .

Without his glasses, he seemed like a broken seal, ready to hunt her down like a predator at any moment.

His fingers brushed through

Angeline's hair as he gently gripped

her arm with one hand. He then pulled Angeline, who was initially kneeling on the carpet, into his embrace.

Angeline placed her hands on the strong legs on either side of her body. She looked up at Sean, her heart pounding.

"Do you want me to return, or do you prefer Mr. Lawson Senior's suggestion that I leave and never return your life?" Sean's voice was deep.

He was usually stoic, but he revealed a unique vulnerability only in Angeline's presence.

A beast lived inside him, twisted with an obsession for Angeline. It had an intense desire to claim her as if bewitched.

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Sean's obsessive desire peaked after he had spent that night with Angeline four years ago. He felt the urge to keep Angeline by his side all the time, spending every moment with her. However, Sean knew that Angeline's feelings for him were far from affectionate at the time.

His concern grew because, before getting involved with Angeline four years earlier, he had encountered a former subordinate of his biological father, and he was worried that he would put Angeline at risk. After Robert had taken Angeline away four years ago, Sean held back his emotions with his calmness and sanity and kept all his feelings to himself. He vowed not to inquire about Angeline in the slightest. Everything seemed to

have changed since the previous night when Angeline had wrapped her arms around his neck. Her simple plea had nearly made Sean lose his sanity. He had become relentless. Sean refused to let go of her, no matter how she cried or pleaded. He was like a fierce python, consuming her completely. He couldn't bear to let her go.

It was the final chance for him and Angeline. He knew the dangers of returning to the Kingston family.

If Angeline were to ask for a divorce during Robert's birthday celebration, Sean would suppress the desire that surged within him. He would ensure that everything would be well arranged for Angeline and their children. Then, he would cut ties with them and return to where he belonged, disappearing from their lives forever.

If Angeline were to stay with him, he would never let her go. He would make sure she never had a chance to leave him, even if it meant dragging her into the abyss with him.

"I'm scared..." Angeline admitted as her voice trembled under Sean's intense gaze. "I fear I might hurt Mr. Lawson Senior and her."

Sean gulped as he listened. He slowly leaned in.

Angeline held her breath, sensing what was coming.

"Do you like me, then?" Sean asked. He brushed his lips against Angeline's, sending shivers down her spine. She tried to push him away, but Sean held her hand and guided her hand to his back. Angeline tried to lean back to escape, but Sean pulled her closer into his embrace. He then pressed his lips firmly against hers. "Do you like it when I kiss you like this?" he asked in a husky voice. Before Angeline could answer, Sean deepened the kiss. The intensity of the kiss made Angeline feel overwhelmed. It was as if Sean was devouring every bit of her soul.

Sean's desire to devour Angeline was overwhelming. He wanted to cover her innocent eyes with a tie. He didn't want her to see his madness for her. He wanted to bind her hands with a belt, leaving her unable to resist.

Sean looked at Angeline. Her eyes were tightly shut, forced to endure his intense gaze. His fantasies became more outrageous and shameful. He pressed her firmly against him. His veins bulged, and his eyes darkened. It was a sign of his impending madness.

Just as Angeline felt she might suffocate from the lack of oxygen, Sean finally moved away from her lips. She clung to his broad, sturdy shoulders. She was enveloped in his embrace, gasping for air. Angeline's eyelashes fluttered as she was surrounded by Sean's heavy breathing. She realized Sean, who was before her, vastly differed from the polite, well-dressed gentleman she knew.

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Sean's gaze was intense. It felt as if he wanted to devour Angeline. With each passing moment, his desire grew more robust, filled with a predatory hunger. Angeline had no doubts that she might not survive the night if she admitted her feelings for Sean.

Her breathing steadied slightly. Then, Angeline said, "I'll consider it carefully and give you an answer at Mr. Lawson Senior's birthday banquet."

Sean's gaze was predatory as he looked at Angeline. He cradled the back of her head and initiated another kiss. Her head tilted back, causing her scalp to tingle. Yet, uncontrollably, her hands wrapped around his neck. She reciprocated his advances.

Suddenly, she found herself lifted off the ground. They didn't stop kissing. Sean held Angeline in his arms and allowed her to straddle him. He pressed her waist firmly against himself.

As Angeline noticed a subtle change in Sean, she clung to his shoulders. Her legs felt too weak to sit properly on his. She dodged his passionate kisses.

Her face turned thoroughly red while her heart raced uncontrollably. She avoided Sean's gaze.

Clearing her throat, she said, "I... I still have work to do."

Sean didn't reply. His Adam's apple bobbed slightly. He lifted his hand, then gathered her disheveled hair and tucked it behind her ear. The ear was red as if it would bleed. He kissed her ear as he tried to break through Angeline's resistance to his actions.

No one knew Sean was feeling uneasy deep down. He harbored a conviction, thinking that Angeline would ultimately choose to divorce him. If that were the case, he didn't want to miss any moment. He desired to fulfill his longing for Angeline now. Thus, he wanted nothing more than to be entwined with her until the end.

"Sean..." Angeline's fingers tightened on Sean's shirt. Her eyelashes were wet as her voice carried a sob. It was like the gentle scratch of a kitten's paw on one's heart.

"What are you afraid of?" Sean asked with a hoarse voice.

Angeline's heart raced. She spoke through a strong sense of shame. "You're too aggressive. I fear... I might not survive tonight."

Her words dismantled all of Sean's defenses. He kissed Angeline deeply once more. He held her tight in his arms. "I'll be gentle," he whispered against her lips.

With that, Sean carried Angeline toward the bedroom as they continued to kiss. The sound of the bedroom door closing heavily marked another sleepless night for Angeline and Sean.

The next day, Angeline woke only at

noon. Sean had wished to stay in bed with Angeline a bit longer. However, he had many tasks at Lawson Global after the birthday banquet. Thus, he had to leave early.

The previous night, Angeline had experienced a tenderness from Sean that was unlike any before. Yet, this gentleness was almost unbearable for her. It nearly tormented her to the brink.

She touched her sore lips. Then she stood up and noticed a note left by Sean by the bed. "I might return late tonight. Remember to eat and rest early." She grabbed her phone and checked Danny's messages.

"Ned had promised to buy back all the formulas. He aimed to minimize the losses from the formula leak, and he hoped for lesser compensation."

Angeline locked her phone screen.

She donned her robe, stood up

slowly, and adjusted to the soreness in her legs. Then, she headed to the open kitchen for water. Leaning against the counter, she messaged Heather and suggested changing all the experimental equipment after each experiment.

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Chapter 225

Angeline had watched the laboratory videos countless times. Heather's hands were steady. Each experiment nearly perfectly replicated the previous one. Yet, the experimental data still showed issues. Angeline suspected the experimental equipment might be the cause.

Today, Angeline had to go out no matter what. There was only a week left until Robert's birthday banquet. She needed to prepare a birthday gift for Robert.

Robert lacked nothing in terms of rare treasures, but it was the thought that mattered.

She knew Robert liked porcelain. A few days ago, she had spoken on the phone with Eddie. During the call, Eddie mentioned releasing some new products soon.

Therefore, she planned to visit Eddie's porcelain studio today. She hoped to see if his new works were available.

She had just changed her clothes when the doorbell rang. Angeline walked over to the monitor. To her surprise, it was Robert and Asher. Instinctively, she turned to check the living room. She worried about leaving behind any of Sean's belongings. After scanning the room and confirming nothing was amiss, she tidied her hair and opened the door.

"Mr. Lawson Senior," Angeline greeted as she stepped aside to invite him in.

However, Robert stood at the doorway, showing no intention of entering. He asked, "I didn't call ahead. I hope I'm not bothering you."

"Not at all," Angeline replied with a smile. "Please come in."

"I'd rather not enter," Asher said with a smile. "I'll wait here."

Angeline nodded. She bent down to fetch a new pair of men's slippers for Robert. Watching him sit on the couch, she asked, "What would you like to drink? I don't have your preferred Earl Grey tea. Would lemonade be okay?"

Robert seemed surprised that Angeline remembered his preference for tea. He smiled and nodded. "That's fine. Thank you."

As Angeline went to the open kitchen to boil water and find tea leaves, Robert's simmering anger toward Sean began to subside. He withdrew his gaze and took in Angeline's home in Krontos.

The apartment was over 2700 square feet. It wasn't very large but was clean and tidy, and the place was more than sufficient for Angeline.

Robert's eyes fell on a cufflink near a small corner table. He paused, then bent down with his cane to pick it up. He realized the cufflink belonged to a man. His gaze was shifted to Angeline, who was busy in the kitchen.

He wondered about Angeline's boyfriend as he placed the cufflink on the coffee table, his hands gripping the cane and his brow furrowing.

He had planned to discuss a potential arranged marriage candidate with Angeline during his visit. He wondered what if Angeline had a boyfriend.

Before Robert could ponder further, Angeline came over with the lemonade. She placed it in front of him. "Be careful. It's hot."

"Thank you," Robert said. He gestured for Angeline to look at the cufflink on the small table. "Do you have a boyfriend?"

Angeline's pupils contracted at the

sight of the cufflink. She was sure it hadn't been there during her earlier check. She felt like a teenager

l.n .

getting caught dating by her

Her instinct made her straighten her back nervously.

"You're an adult. It's normal to date. There's no need to be so nervous," Robert said to Angeline, showing a warm smile. "At the banquet, I'll announce to everyone that you've become Jessica's adopted daughter and will join Lawson Global..."

As he spoke, he thought of Sean and felt a tightness in his chest.

"Sean plans to leave the Lawson family and Lawson Global. Before you can take over Lawson Global with proven results, I'll take charge myself! Asher has been with me for years. I'm assigning him to help you for a few reasons. You may not have made your mark yet, which could

make it hard to lead. Asher's known reputation might keep the veterans in line. Also, running a big corporation like Lawson Global is a complex task. It's quite different from running a specialized firm like Vitality Biotech Group. Asher will be there to guide you."

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Although Angeline might not have made her mark at Lawson Global yet, Vitality Biotech alone was proof enough of her capabilities. This was why Robert felt confident in positioning Angeline at Lawson Global. Heather, the head of Vitality's European division, often mentioned the founder in her speeches after Vitality Biotech's Marvonia hearing. This sparked intense curiosity about Vitality Biotech's founder. People are drawn to strength. As long as Angeline was exceptional, she could command anywhere. It was the reason for Robert's insistence on providing Angeline resources to start her own venture for revenge.

Fortunately, Angeline exceeded his expectations. She performed even better than he had imagined. As a result, Robert wasn't caught off guard when he learned Sean planned to leave the family and Lawson Global. .

Angeline remained silent with her eyes downcast.

"My original goal of showing up today was to discuss the Hooper family's eldest son with you. I wanted you to meet him and consider the Stone family's second son from Oceanford, whom you know. But since you already have a boyfriend, let's not discuss this now. Do you and your boyfriend have any long-term plans?" Robert asked with concern and warmth in his voice.

"Does he know about your two children? What's his family background? What's his character like?"

Angeline recalled the second son of the Stone family was Zachary.

She didn't know how to tell Robert she was in a relationship with Sean.

So, she said, "I haven't thought that far ahead yet."

"So, you don't have any plans for a long-term future together."

Robert nodded.

"In that case, let's skip the matchmaking. The eldest son of the Hooper family will be at the birthday banquet, as will the Stone family. I'll have Asher give you the information about the Hooper family's son later. You can talk during the banquet and see if there's a connection."

"Will Sean's sudden departure cause turmoil at Lawson Global?" Angeline asked.

Robert felt a headache coming on at the mention of this. He picked up his teacup and blew on it gently.

"It's inevitable."

Fortunately, Lawson Global was not publicly traded, so it wouldn't affect the stock price.

"This is why I'll take charge of Lawson Global until you make your mark there."

Robert put down his glass. He shared his concerns with Angeline.

"It wasn't easy for Sean to establish himself at Lawson Global. Although he wasn't officially engaged with Monica, the social standing as the Scott family's son-in-law indeed added to his weight. If you get along well with the eldest son of the Hooper family, it could similarly add to your weight.

"Of course I'm not trying to push you into marriage or anything. We must consider your feelings and how y

children feel about it." Contour

If not for Angeline's feelings, Robert wouldn't have regarded the Stone family as a potential match despite their Content

relatively minor status

Angeline was used to obeying Robert and found it difficult to refuse, even though she was unwilling.

"Sean and I registered our marriage in Ravonia, and we haven't divorced yet," Angeline said.

"Let's find a time to take care of that," Robert suggested as he frowned at the thought of Sean. "Even if we can't find time, it's not a big deal."

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In any case, domestic records wouldn't reveal anything about her marriage to Sean.

"I came today specifically to discuss this matter with you. I didn't want you to be caught off guard. It's good for you to be prepared," Robert said as he stood up and leaned on his cane. Angeline quickly reached out to assist him.

Even though Robert appeared spry for his age, signs of weariness were evident.

"I'm fine!" Robert insisted while patting Angeline's hand.

He walked towards the door while supporting himself with his cane.

As Angeline escorted Robert to the door, Asher immediately pulled out a stack of documents from his briefcase and handed them to Angeline.

"These include information about the eldest Hooper son and the company's current board of directors and executives. Ms. Emmerson, you must familiarize yourself with these board members and executives during this time."

"Understood." .

Angeline took the documents.

"I'll be leaving then. Jessica has been in good spirits lately with the two children around. You don't need to worry about Jessica... or the children. Your main focus should be Lawson Global," Robert advised Angeline.

"After the birthday banquet, you can move back to the old Lawson residence if you wish. It's slightly further from the company. It'll depend on your preference."

Angeline nodded.

Robert and Asher entered the elevator. After a moment of thought, Robert spoke up.

"If I remember correctly, didn't Sean gift Jessica a flat in Grand Court Residences in Krontos for her birthday the year before last? It's over 400 square feet and closer to the company building." "Yes," Asher confirmed.

"It's on the top floor. The eldest Hooper son also lives in Grand Court Residences."

"Then have someone renovate that place. If Angeline finds the old Lawson residence too far from the company, she can move there," Robert suggested, still finding Angeline's current place too small.

"This place is too cramped."

"Alright. I'll arrange for someone to handle it once we return," Asher said as he noticed Robert's displeasure.

"Actually, Angeline's achievements are no less impressive than Sean's. She managed to establish Vitality Biotech in just three years and earned Marvonia's apprehension.

"If it weren't for Ned holding her

back, she could have pursued a direct PhD at Krontos University at 13 and been even more

outstanding," Robert remarked, still irritated by the thought. S

This was also why Robert grew to dislike Angeline even more. Fortunately, Angeline had since come to her senses.

Robert pondered momentarily, still worried about Angeline being deceived by a man.

"Have someone look into Angeline's boyfriend's identity! I don't want her to be fooled again!"

"Will do!" Asher responded.

After seeing Robert off, Angeline knelt by the coffee table with the documents Asher had given her. She set aside the information about the eldest Hooper son and briefly

reviewed the materials about el. n

Lawson Global's board and O executives. Angeline had already met some of the executives while with Sean.

Her phone vibrated. It was a call from Danny.

She answered, "What's up?"

"Simon's in the country. He's invited me to dinner tonight. Do you want to join us?" Danny asked Angeline.

Angeline later learned that Danny and Simon, the second son of the Norwalk family, had been schoolmates and remained on good terms. "What's he doing here?" Angeline asked as she flipped through the documents.

"He's here for their company's brand ambassador, the celebrity who saved his life in Ica," Danny said with a hint of mischief.

"Your ex's fiancée!"

Angeline raised an eyebrow and paused her review of the documents. She wondered if Ingrid had sought Simon's help to get Ned out of a tight spot.

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"I think Ingrid might be trying to get Simon to help Fletcher Corporation through its troubles!" Danny said.

"I plan to stir things up tonight. Do you want to come and add to the fun? Simon admires you even without knowing you're the founder of Vitality Biotech. If he finds out, who knows, he might pursue you. It could be a chance for Xavier and Yasmine to obtain a stepdad!"

"Do you want me to file a complaint to Heather?" Angeline asked.

"My bad, my bad! I was wrong!"

Danny quickly backed down.

"So, are you coming tonight?"

"I might," Angeline said.

"But let's not mention the founder thing to anyone."

"Got it! Simon will be thrilled to know you're joining us tonight."

After hanging up, Angeline checked her watch. She needed to hurry to Eddie's studio.

She changed her clothes and drove to the suburban location of Eddie's studio. As she parked, she unexpectedly encountered Ingrid and her agent, Linda.

"Angeline!"

Ingrid was surprised to see Angeline here. She found her palms sweating as she remembered what Tommy had said about Angeline gambling with him at the casino.

Ingrid clenched her fists, turned to Linda, and said, "Wait for me here, Linda."

Ingrid quickly approached Angeline. She blocked Angeline's path, her eyes red.

"Angeline, did you gamble with Tommy at the casino because of what happened to your sister in the past?"

Angeline looked at Ingrid, who was obstructing her way, and smiled faintly.

"Yes, but what does it matter if Tommy loses? Ned enjoys cleaning up after him."

Ingrid bit her lip and asked, "Does the issue regarding the formula have anything to do with you?"

"The formula?"

Angeline feigned confusion.

Ingrid felt uncertain after seeing Angeline's puzzled look.

She wondered if she was overthinking things, as Ned suggested. She knew Angeline's biggest support was just Sean, the Lawson's adopted son. But even Sean wouldn't dare help Angeline

too overtly.

Moreover, Sean was preoccupied with Lawson Global, so he likely wouldn't have had the time to avenge such a trivial matter.

Angeline couldn't possibly collude with the underworld to set up Tommy either.

"I'm sorry, Angeline. Both Fletcher Corporation and Tommy are facing big troubles now. I've become paranoid," Ingrid apologized to Angeline.

"If there's nothing else, please excuse me," Angeline politely requested.

"Angeline, there's one more thing!"

Ingrid clutched the hem of her dress tightly. .

"Can you tell me the truth? If your children are truly Ned's, you have to tell me. I've been without parents since I was little, and if..." Ingrid's voice choked up.

"How interesting. All of you seem so eager for my children to be Ned's. You can't stop asking me this," Angeline chuckled softly.

"My children's biological father is not Ned. I've explained this many times. If you're still worried after marrying Ned, Lean give you a strand of hair from my child for a paternity test then. Will you let me pass now?"

Jean

Ingrid stepped aside, watching Angeline enter the compound.

Linda stood next to Ingrid with her arms crossed. She glanced at

Angeline's car and then at Angeline's retreating figure and the bag in her hand.

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"What's Angeline doing at Mr. Reynold's studio? Could she also be buying porcelain? Can she even afford his work?"

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"Ms. Davis, how could you say things like that? You don't know how amazing Angeline is," Ingrid said earnestly. Ingrid, who once emulated and followed Angeline's footsteps, knew all too well just how formidable Angeline was.

"You're always so naive. You boost others' morale at your own expense! Aren't you impressive too? You're now an international superstar!" Linda chided while tapping Ingrid's forehead lightly. "Let's go."

Eddie noticed Angeline immediately upon her entering the studio. He was sitting in a rocking chair, sipping his tea.

"Ah, Angeline!" he exclaimed.

Eddie stood up and greeted Angeline with a smile while still wearing his work apron.

"Mr. Reynolds, how are you?" Angeline asked smilingly.

She walked over and supported Eddie by the arm.

"I'm very well, thanks to you," Eddie replied cheerfully.

"You convinced me to participate in that medical trial. My old body wouldn't have lasted this long if you hadn't."

He chuckled and pulled Angeline to take a seat.

"Come, sit down!"

Angeline explained her visit's purpose.

"I remembered you talking about your new works. So I stopped by, hoping to be lucky enough to see them. My family is having a birthday, and they love your work. I wanted to do something special for them." She sat on a small chair and accepted the snacks Eddie offered.

"Ms. Angeline, you've come at the perfect time," Eddie's apprentice, Mark Goodman, said as he approached with a teacup.

He placed it on the small bamboo table.

"A new piece called 'Renewal' was finished this morning. Mr. Reynolds planned to gift it to you!"

"Forget about the tea for now," Eddie said excitedly.

He stood up and beckoned Angeline.

"Come, let me show you. I've kept it hidden away. It's not even in the gallery."

Eddie led Angeline away just as a studio staff member approached Mark.

"Mr. Goodman, that star Ingrid is here.

Re She's looking to buy Mr.

Reynolds' work in the gallet
don't you go check it out?" S

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"Alright. I'll head there now," Mark replied as he removed his apron.

Ingrid and Linda were in the .

the artworks for sale,

her arms and frowned

scanned the room, Content

"Didn't we just see Angeline enter? Where did she go?"

"Good day," Mark greeted politely as he entered.

"May I know what type of pieces you're looking for? I can give you recommendations for a gift or personal collection."

Linda glanced behind Mark and inquired with a smile, "Are there any other customers here today?"

"Right now, only both of you are in the exhibition hall," Mark replied.

Ingrid quickly intervened to stop Linda from prodding further.

"I have a foreign friend deeply interested in our culture. Mr. Reynolds works are invaluable. I came today in hopes of acquiring one of his pieces. However, it seems none of his works are in this exhibition hall."

"Mr. Reynolds has been in poor health for years and has retired," Mark explained apologetically.

He then introduced the other artworks in the hall.

"These pieces by my seniors are also excellent. They make great gifts for foreign friends."

"We are interested in Mr. Reynolds' brand," Linda stated outright.

"Please understand, the person before you is Ingrid, an international star. Money isn't an issue for her."

Mark remained calm.

"It's not about the money. Truly, he has stepped back due to health reasons."

"There are still some works left, then," Linda said with a smile.

Her tone became more assertive.

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Ingrid pulled Linda's arm and apologized to Mark.

"I'm sorry, my friend is a bit anxious. This porcelain is a gift for the second son of the Norwalk family. It's also a way to promote our national culture. So, we really hope to obtain a piece by Mr. Reynolds. Could you please speak to Mr. Reynolds and check if we could present an available piece? We'd be very grateful!"

Linda's attitude starkly contrasted with Ingrid's plea. Ingrid was the spokesperson for the Norwalk family, and intending the gift for Simon somewhat swayed Mark.

He nodded.

"Please wait here. I'll go ask him."

When Mark left, Linda turned to the young man who initially greeted them.

"Wasn't there a lady who came in before us? Why isn't she here?"

"Oh, that lady," the young man replied with a smile.

"She's a close friend of Mr. Reynolds and has gone to have tea with him."

Linda was taken aback and then looked at Ingrid, her brows furrowing slightly.

"What's the deal with Angeline? How is she connected to everyone?" .

First, she saved Simon. Now, she's a close friend of Eddie. Linda couldn't wrap her head around it.

Ingrid was also surprised by the information.

"Do you think Angeline and Mr. Reynolds... Could it be that kind of relationship?" Linda speculated, accustomed to the darker side of the entertainment industry. "Cut the bullshit!"

Ingrid frowned, lowering her voice.

"Mr. Reynolds is old enough to be Angeline's grandfather!"

"Isn't it always the older guys who go crazy for younger, pretty girls? They don't mind splurging!" Linda remarked as she casually draped an arm around Ingrid's shoulder. "You've been stressing over Mr. Fletcher's soft spot for Angeline lately. But imagine if we share this with him. Do you reckon he'd still be into a woman with some baggage?"

"Linda, stop! Stop looking at Angeline from an entertainment point of view. I owe her too much already," Ingrid protested with a deep frown.

Meanwhile, Angeline admired Eddie's new porcelain plate without daring to touch it. The plate was adorned with colorful enamel, and spring branches seemed as if they would bloom at any moment.

"Renewal..."

Angeline smiled at Eddie.

"It's very fitting."

"This is for you," Eddie said with a smile.

"How could I accept this? Your work is priceless. I can't just take it."

Angeline insisted on paying.

"If it weren't for you, I'd be dead, let alone creating new works."

Eddie laughed.

"Please accept it. Otherwise, I'll never be at peace."

Mark entered and mentioned Ingrid's request to purchase a piece by Eddie for Simon.

Angeline chuckled softly.

She wondered if Ingrid wanted to gift it on behalf of Ned or the Yates family.

"Based on your reaction, I assume you know her?" Eddie asked

Angeline's net

noticed Angeline's ex

"Yes."

Angeline nodded with a smile.

"She's my ex-husband's fiancée."

Eddie was taken aback. He then turned to Mark.

"Tell her I have nothing for her. She can leave now."

"Mr. Reynolds, you don't have to

miss out on a deal because of a belongs to wontent

Angeline said with a smile.

"It's not that. In recent years, I indeed

had the energy to create new

t belongs to swm new

I don't consider this

Eddie laughed as he patted Angeline's hand.

"Mark, help Angeline package the Renewal."