

Spoiled 1351

Chapter 1351 Such a Good Opportunity

Upon hearing this, Mr. Robbins frowned slightly, a trace of regret flickering in his eyes, but he quickly smiled and said to Justin Battleson:

"Not at all, Mr. Battleson. I was merely guessing, seeing that your arm hadn't moved much."

"Mr. Robbins truly has a keen eye."

Justin and George Robbins exchanged casual remarks as they made their way to the reception room.

When the door was pushed open, they saw three people seated inside. Upon seeing Justin, they immediately got up from the sofa.

"Greetings, Mr. Battleson. I am the representative for Worsen. My surname is Zhou."

The man in the center stepped forward and extended his hand toward Justin.

Seeing this, Justin politely shook his hand back: "Apologies, I had a meeting earlier at the company, and I kept you waiting."

After greeting George Robbins as well, Mr. Zhou then spoke: "It's no trouble; we came rather suddenly this time and did not inform your company in advance."

Following Justin's gesture, everyone returned to their seats on the sofa.

Looking at Mr. Zhou in front of him, Justin said softly, "I hadn't expected Worsen to contact our company for collaboration out of the blue."

"Actually, our brand has wanted to reach out to your company for cooperation for quite some time; it's just that we hadn't found the right opportunity."

As he spoke, Mr. Zhou took out a file from his bag and slid it over to Justin's side.

"May I ask why your brand suddenly decided to collaborate with us?" Justin inquired while flipping through the documents in his hands.

His eyes flickered subtly upon seeing the brand's parent company.

"Our brand is about to expand into Druarus, and naturally, we must collaborate with one of the top-tier groups in the country. Riley Group is unquestionably the best choice. Many of your subsidiary fashion brands enjoy renowned reputations both domestically and internationally."

"Mr. Battleson, I believe this collaboration is an excellent opportunity," George Robbins interjected at this moment from beside Justin.

"Even if the profit gains from this partnership aren't significant, given our current company situation, this is already quite advantageous. Moreover, if this cooperation succeeds, there may be more opportunities for collaboration down the line."

"George is absolutely correct. In fact, our brand also hopes to establish a long-term partnership with Riley Group. What do you think about it, Mr. Battleson?"

"Of course, I wouldn't miss such a great opportunity to collaborate," Justin said as he closed the file in his hand and spoke to the Worsen representative in front of him.

"Excellent! In that case, Mr. Battleson, let's discuss the specific details of the cooperation," Mr. Zhou said with a smile.

...

After parting ways with Annie Anne on the film set, Charlotte Thompson headed over to XTZ Corporation to meet with their Mr. Carter.

Meanwhile, upon learning about Melissa Tanner's studio, the design director, Mr. Carter, developed a keen interest in Zara Ward.

Thanks to Charlotte's assistance, Zara eventually had a formal meeting with Mr. Carter. The three of them enthusiastically conversed about design all afternoon, with everyone leaving the discussion greatly enriched.

"Thank you, Mr. Carter. If there's an opportunity, I would be honored to collaborate with XTZ,"

Zara nodded toward Mr. Carter before her. Though her tone remained calm, the barely contained joy that danced on her eyebrows was undeniable.

Chapter 1352: Effort Pays Off

"I should be the one feeling honored. If it weren't for Miss Ward, I probably wouldn't have had the chance to witness such stunning designs."

Mr. Carter smiled as he looked at Zara Ward, then shifted his gaze to Charlotte Thompson.

"I never expected this trip to Druarus would allow me to meet two such remarkable designers."

"Compared to you, Mr. Carter, we still have so much to learn," Charlotte said, feeling a little self-conscious.

Mr. Carter was a renowned international designer who had won numerous awards. Though Charlotte had gained some recognition abroad, she was undeniably overshadowed by someone of Mr. Carter's caliber.

Thus, receiving a compliment from someone like her was an immense honor for Charlotte.

After Mr. Carter left, Zara couldn't hold back anymore and reached out to embrace Charlotte.

"Oh my god, am I dreaming? I actually got the chance to meet Designer Carter, and my Melissa Studio even has the opportunity to collaborate exclusively with XTZ."

Zara exclaimed emotionally; these were things she had never dared to imagine before.

In fact, just months ago, she thought successfully hosting a fashion show was already an incredible feat.

But now, she had achieved something that she used to think was entirely beyond her reach.

Finally, Zara looked at Charlotte, her face filled with gratitude, and even her eyes started to well up.

"Honestly, Charlotte, thank you. If it weren't for you, I might never have gotten such a great opportunity."

If Charlotte hadn't chosen her brand to participate in the fashion show back then, Zara might have already found herself on the brink of shutting down Melissa Studio.

Zara could say without hesitation that everything she had now was thanks to Charlotte.

"You're saying thank you again? I've told you before—you deserve this. Even without me, sooner or later, someone would discover your outstanding work."

Charlotte reached out and hugged Zara back for a moment, then lightly patted her arm.

"But without you, how could I ever have achieved all this?" Zara sniffed and then spoke to Charlotte.

"No way—I have to treat you to a meal."

As she said this, Zara immediately started to take out her phone, but Charlotte quickly stopped her.

"Not today. I promised the kids I'd head home early tonight."

Upon hearing Charlotte's explanation, Zara let out a sigh.

"Charlotte, sometimes I don't just envy you—I even feel a little jealous of you."

"Why?" Charlotte frowned slightly, puzzled.

"In both career and love, you've become the person I admire most," Zara said earnestly. "And, you have so many beautiful and adorable kids. Honestly, I don't think there's anyone else in the world like you."

Yazlyn had also met Charlotte's kids before—they were breathtakingly charming and instantly lovable. Especially Grace Thompson, the little girl's sweet personality made everyone adore her whenever they saw her.

Upon hearing this, Charlotte simply smiled and shook her head.

"Hard work always leads to corresponding rewards. Just like you—how much effort and energy did you pour into Melissa Studio? And now, the studio has gained fame, hasn't it?"

Here, Charlotte paused for a moment and reached up to smooth her long hair, slightly tousled by the evening breeze.

"And before all this, I went through a lot too."

Chapter 1353: He's Back

Charlotte Thompson's voice was so soft, it seemed like a gentle breeze could whisk it away.

However, Zara Ward could hear an unshakable determination in it.

"Mm, Charlotte, you're absolutely right. I'll keep working hard toward the direction I want." Zara nodded seriously with conviction.

"I believe you can do it," Charlotte beamed a radiant smile at her.

After parting ways with Zara, Charlotte headed to Stardust Garden, where the children were currently accompanying Jasmine Clarkson.

Charlotte arrived just as it was time for dinner. The moment the children sitting at the dining table saw Charlotte return, they jumped off their chairs and hurried to surround her.

"Mommy, Mommy, you're back!"

"Perfect timing, Mommy, you can have dinner with us!"

"Mommy, you've worked hard today too."

The children crowded around Charlotte, speaking one after the other.

Looking at these obedient and adorable little ones, Charlotte felt her heart melt completely.

"Mommy, how's Daddy doing? Is his injury better? What did the doctor say?"

The children were most concerned about Justin Battleson's condition.

As soon as the children mentioned it, Charlotte's expression turned a little heavy.

But before she could say anything, footsteps sounded from outside the door.

Everyone turned to look, and there stood Justin Battleson, walking in.

"Daddy, aren't you supposed to be in the hospital? Why did you suddenly come back?"

When Grace Thompson saw him, she immediately walked over. However, unlike usual, this time she didn't hold out her hands for Justin to carry her.

She knew very well that Justin's shoulder was still injured.

"It's fine. These injuries are just minor. If it weren't for your mommy, Daddy would've been discharged long ago."

Justin reached out and gently ruffled Grace's hair, speaking softly.

"But that's not okay!"

Grace quickly grabbed Justin's hand, her little pout showing she didn't agree.

"Daddy's injury isn't fully healed yet. You should still be in the hospital receiving care from the doctors."

"Daddy didn't want to leave either, but there are some issues at the company that require immediate attention, so I had to check on things and process my discharge early."

Justin explained patiently. Meanwhile, Charlotte had already walked up to him, her brows furrowed as she looked him over.

"I didn't go to the company this afternoon. How are things looking there?"

"There are some follow-up issues that need addressing. It's had some impact on the company, but nothing major," Justin responded briefly to Charlotte.

Now that he was home, Justin didn't want to continue discussing work-related matters in front of the children.

Jasmine, upon seeing Justin return, appeared surprised. She asked him a few simple questions about his condition and, after confirming his injuries weren't serious, finally felt relieved.

By now, dinner was ready. Charlotte led the children to wash their hands before they all sat down at the table.

Just as Charlotte was about to pick up her chopsticks, a thought seemed to cross her mind. She turned to Justin beside her and asked worriedly, "With your shoulder and arm injured, will it be difficult for you to eat?"

Hearing Charlotte's comment, the other children also set down their bowls and chopsticks, looking at Justin with concern.

Chapter 1354: Feeding Each Other

Looking at Charlotte's deeply worried expression, Justin initially opened his mouth intending to comfort her, but the words transformed as they reached his lips.

Justin wore an exaggeratedly strained expression and said slowly, "It does hurt a little, but... it shouldn't affect eating."

Justin moved his right hand slightly, though the movements appeared a bit labored.

Of course, Justin was well aware that his left shoulder and arm were injured, which had no bearing on using his right hand to eat.

On the other hand, Charlotte seemed to have forgotten this due to her concern for Justin and quickly offered, "How about I feed you?"

"Wouldn't that be too much trouble for you?" Justin responded, engaging in some polite back-and-forth with Charlotte, though the corner of his mouth had already curved upward in amusement.

"What's the trouble? You got hurt because of me, so taking care of you is the least I can do."

Saying this, Charlotte picked up the bowl and chopsticks and started feeding Justin on her own initiative.

The children witnessing this scene gradually shifted their expressions from initial tension to something different altogether.

"I seem to remember dad's injury... wasn't it on his left hand?" Hank leaned over to Chad and whispered quietly.

"Also, don't you think dad's earlier attempt at struggling to hold chopsticks looked totally fake?" Jack nodded repeatedly in agreement with Hank.

"Yeah, you could say the acting was pretty unconvincing."

"Dad is just too sneaky."

"I even saw the corner of dad's mouth rise—he's definitely enjoying this!"

Eventually, the kids stopped whispering and began openly discussing, which, unsurprisingly, was overheard by Charlotte.

Charlotte, as her gaze met Justin's amused eyes, realized something was amiss.

Of course—it was Justin's left hand that was injured! It shouldn't impair his ability to eat at all!

Throwing Justin a glare, Charlotte was just about to set down the spoon when Justin suddenly raised his hand, clasped her wrist, and guided the spoonful of soup into his mouth.

"Justin!" Charlotte exclaimed, glaring at him.

But Justin promptly took the spoon from Charlotte's hand, blew on the soup to cool it down, and held it to Charlotte's lips instead.

"Try it. It tastes really good."

Whatever words Charlotte had in mind were effectively stifled by Justin's gesture.

"Hurry up and eat properly. I know you're worried about me."

"You're deliberately teasing me to cheer me up." Charlotte gave Justin a slightly dissatisfied look, frustrated that she had been so concerned over his arm injury earlier.

"Worried about me, yet forgetting which arm I was actually injured on?"

Justin let out a helpless chuckle, looking at Charlotte, "I've already told you, my injury isn't a big deal anymore—you don't need to be so anxious."

Charlotte pursed her lips, saying nothing in reply.

Right now, she was truly experiencing what it meant to be blinded by over-concern.

Noticing Charlotte's expression, Justin reached out and clasped her palm in his.

"Charlotte, I'm really fine. If you stay like this, you're going to make my heart ache."

Justin hadn't expected that getting hurt shielding Charlotte would have such a significant impact on her.

Charlotte looked at Justin in front of her, then suddenly shifted her gaze and opened her mouth toward him.

"Ah..."

Seeing this, Justin's face lit up with a fond smile. He then picked out her favorite dish with his chopsticks and brought it to her mouth.

Chapter 1355: Help Him Take a Bath

"I think I'm full now." At this moment, Hank Thompson gently spoke up from the side.

"Indeed, today's dinner was really plentiful." Grace Thompson nodded in agreement.

The remaining children exchanged glances and then lowered their heads to stifle their laughter.

Seeing their parents so in love, they didn't mind witnessing some public displays of affection.

After dinner, Justin Battleson and Charlotte Thompson returned to their room.

"You said Worsen wants to collaborate with you?"

After Justin Battleson shared what had happened at the company today, Charlotte Thompson appeared somewhat surprised.

"Isn't that..."

Justin nodded and said, "That's right, it's the brand under Leon Battleson's company."

Previously, Leon Battleson had voluntarily approached Justin and Charlotte at Riley Group, and the initial collaboration he proposed was also through the Worsen brand.

Therefore, when Justin heard that Worsen's representative came to discuss a collaboration, he almost immediately thought of Leon Battleson.

"Bringing up collaboration with you at this time probably isn't so simple."

Having met Leon Battleson, from the first glance, Charlotte knew very well that this person's intentions were undoubtedly profound.

"Could the issue with the company collaboration this time be related to him?"

As she spoke, Charlotte helped Justin remove his coat.

"That's what I think too, but if he can directly pressure those other companies to cancel their collaborations with Riley Group, if it was really Leon's doing, then I've underestimated him."

Thinking about how Oliver Battleson valued Leon, it wasn't impossible for him to have developed such a powerful company over the years.

"And Worsen specifically named you as the person in charge of this design project."

Hearing Justin's words, Charlotte wasn't surprised and even nodded as if it was natural.

"Since Worsen came prepared and their target isn't just you alone."

As Charlotte spoke, she reached up to untie Justin's necktie.

"Moreover, with Worsen appointing me as the chief designer, I don't have a reason to refuse. Besides, we're pretty much ready with our matters, and I've already talked to Chief Carter over at XTZ. There definitely won't be any problems."

The net has been cast, and it's uncertain how many fish are eager to swim right in.

"As expected, with Charlotte here, solving problems becomes much easier."

Justin said, though a trace of difficulty appeared on his face afterward.

"However, there's still one more important thing that might need Charlotte's help."

"What is it?" Charlotte looked at Justin in front of her.

"Charlotte, my arm and shoulder are injured. It'll be really inconvenient for me to shower in the bathroom later."

Although Justin said this, his underlying meaning was already very clear.

Hearing this, Charlotte's fingers, which were resting on Justin's tie, paused slightly.

Then she gripped the end of Justin's tie and pulled his body a bit closer to her.

"Mr. Battleson, don't push your luck. I've already helped you take off your coat and tie." Charlotte raised an eyebrow at Justin.

Hearing these words, Justin reached out to embrace Charlotte's waist and then lowered his head to plant a kiss on her lips.

Chapter 1356: So Ruthless

"Help me out, Miss Thompson."

Charlotte Thompson had not expected such a sudden move from Justin Battleson, causing her cheeks to flush. She reached up and removed Justin's tie from around his neck.

Then, without hesitation, Charlotte pushed Justin into the bathroom and shut the door firmly behind him.

"In your dreams!"

She directed the words toward the bathroom.

Moments later, a voice tinged with mock grievance drifted from inside. "Miss Thompson, why have you suddenly become so ruthless?"

This time, Charlotte couldn't be bothered to respond to Justin's well-rehearsed pitiful tactics. Instead, she headed straight to the desk and began reviewing the partnership documents Justin had brought back.

worsen was a trendy fashion brand that had gained immense popularity among young people in recent years. Typically, Charlotte's designs were tailored for high-end luxury runway shows, so this particular style was new territory for her.

Still, as a designer, Charlotte relished challenges like this.

Streetwear, in particular, was an area Charlotte hadn't explored much, so it would require a great deal of preparation on her part.

When Justin finally emerged from the bathroom, he saw Charlotte organizing the documents at the desk. His expression softened as he walked over to her.

By the time Charlotte realized someone was approaching, she was already wrapped in a damp embrace.

"Is it difficult?" Justin asked softly by her ear.

"Though I haven't dealt with this type much before, it's nothing too challenging," Charlotte responded,

"Besides, this isn't just about adhering to worsen's style—many of the pieces are actually meant for future runway showcases."

"You've worked hard," Justin murmured, tilting his head to press a kiss against her temple.

Charlotte's body instinctively leaned back, as if to rest her head on Justin's shoulder, but then she remembered his injuries and stopped herself.

After glancing at Justin beside her, she stood up. "What's your plan regarding the company?"

"At the shareholders' meeting today, I discovered George Robbins has already contacted a number of board members. They were all speaking in his favor."

Justin paused here, leaning partially against the edge of the desk while resting his arm around Charlotte's waist.

"If this collaboration with worsen has any hiccups, I can guarantee they'll seize the opportunity to target me."

"How dare they be so brazen? The Riley Group was built entirely by you. Are they planning to push you out of the board?"

Charlotte blinked at him in shock.

"If that wasn't his goal, then why else would he have hung around my company for so many years?"

Justin let out a low chuckle at the mere thought, his tone cool. "Really, every shareholder just wants more shares in their own hands."

"Planning is one thing, but executing it properly is a whole different story."

"So, in your opinion, Leon Battleson will definitely interfere with our collaboration this time?"

"This isn't just my opinion," Justin said, resting his chin on Charlotte's shoulder and speaking lazily.
"Knowing Leon as I do, he's bound to make a move."

"Perfect. We can use this chance to weed out some of those lingering problems in the company."

"I understand," Charlotte replied softly.

Chapter 1357 Company Goes Bankrupt

Early the next morning, only Charlotte Thompson headed to the office.

Soon, news of Justin Battleson's injury spread throughout the company.

On her way to the office, Charlotte overheard several employees quietly discussing the current state of the company.

"Have you heard? A lot of brands collaborating with our company have already refused to renew contracts."

"How did something like this happen all of a sudden?"

"I heard it might have to do with some problems at the higher levels of the company."

"What's going on these days? Even Mr. Battleson is injured and hospitalized."

"No way, is the company really down to relying solely on the deal with Worsen? If things keep up like this, won't we be heading for bankruptcy?"

Listening to the murmured speculations, Charlotte curled her lips into a faint, chilly smile and stepped into the elevator.

Just as the elevator doors were about to close, a hurried voice called out, prompting Charlotte to extend a hand and press the door-open button.

The next second, Teddy Carter and Florienna Ellis walked in side by side.

"Thanks."

When Teddy looked up, his gaze met Charlotte's, and he gave a slight, amused smile.

Florienna, however, didn't seem to notice Charlotte nearby and instead opened her mouth to grumble at Teddy.

"Why are you rushing? We could've just waited for the next elevator."

While speaking, Florienna smoothed her previously styled long hair, while Teddy had already nodded in acknowledgment toward Charlotte.

"What a coincidence, Miss Thompson."

When Teddy spoke, Florienna turned around in surprise, and Charlotte returned a polite smile toward the two of them.

Florienna's expression, however, turned somewhat odd. She didn't greet Charlotte, instead silently standing beside Teddy.

But Charlotte noticed that the hands the two had been holding were now released, with Florienna flinging hers away.

This left Charlotte mildly surprised. She'd heard bits and pieces about the relationship between Florienna and Teddy, but when did they even start seeing each other?

Of course, Charlotte held little interest in workplace gossip. Soon enough, the elevator reached the floor where Teddy and Florienna were getting off.

Just as the elevator doors were about to open, Charlotte called out to Teddy:

"By the way, Group Leader Teddy, please inform the design department's entire team to meet on the hour. There are a few projects I need to assign."

"Understood, Miss Thompson." Teddy nodded at Charlotte and replied before stepping out of the elevator.

But before the elevator doors fully closed, Charlotte overheard Florienna's voice.

"What luck, running into Charlotte this early in the morning."

Withdrawing her hand from the close door button, Charlotte couldn't help but curl her lips into a smile.

Your luck is only just beginning.

When Charlotte arrived at her office, Coco immediately stood up from her desk outside and walked over to her.

"Why are you here so early today?"

Charlotte glanced at the files on Coco's desk. It was clear she'd been organizing them for quite a while already.

"Woke up early this morning, and since I had some unfinished matters from yesterday, I decided to come in and sort through everything ahead of time." Noticing Charlotte's gaze, Coco answered somewhat sheepishly.

"Sister Charlotte, I heard Mr. Battleson suddenly fell ill and was hospitalized. What happened?"

"Even you've heard? The news sure spreads fast, doesn't it?" Charlotte replied knowingly.

Chapter 1358: The Main Event Has Yet to Begin

"I thought it was just some idle gossip, but I didn't expect it to be true!"

Coco hurriedly asked, "What happened to Mr. Battleson? Didn't he attend the board meeting yesterday?"

"It's nothing too serious, just a minor injury to his arm. But because he left the hospital directly yesterday, it aggravated his condition a little. The doctor advised him to rest properly in the hospital for the next few days."

Even though Coco was standing right in front of her, Charlotte Thompson stuck to the story she and Justin Battleson had agreed upon yesterday.

The circulating rumors within the company now were intentionally spread by Charlotte and Justin themselves.

"Why does it feel like everything bad is piling up at once for the company recently?" Coco muttered as she followed behind Charlotte.

Charlotte chuckled softly at her remark, "Oh, this is just the beginning. The real show hasn't even started yet."

Upon hearing those words, Coco seemed to grasp something, blinking at Charlotte with a knowing look. But Charlotte quickly changed the subject.

"By the way, have you finished organizing those drafts I mentioned before?"

"I finished them long ago," Coco responded with a firm nod and ran back to her desk to grab a stack of documents for Charlotte.

After putting down her coat and bag, Charlotte gestured for Coco to follow her.

"Let's go, to the conference room."

Coco followed closely behind Charlotte, and soon, the two of them arrived at the conference room.

Having already instructed Teddy Carter in advance, Charlotte found that most of the designers were already present as she entered the room.

Glancing at her watch, it was precisely on the hour, but Charlotte still chose to sit down and waited a few more minutes. Gradually, a few more designers hurried into the room.

However, the designers exchanged puzzled glances as they looked toward Charlotte.

Typically, design tasks were delegated directly to the group leaders, and while Charlotte was the company's Design Director, she technically didn't handle any day-to-day affairs of the Design Department. Charlotte's role within the company was entirely independent.

As such, her hosting a meeting—let alone a design department meeting—was something quite peculiar for everyone.

Though curious, none of them openly discussed their thoughts.

Once everyone quietly took their seats, Charlotte scanned the room before speaking up. "Is anyone else missing?"

The group looked around, but no one said a word.

Seeing this, Charlotte pressed her fingertips to the edge of the desk and repeated her question, but this time her tone was decidedly colder.

"Is anyone else missing?"

At that moment, a designer sitting in the corner hesitantly raised her hand and murmured, "Miss Thompson, Florienna isn't feeling well, so she didn't come."

Charlotte raised her eyes to look in that direction. The designer speaking up was someone who was normally close to Florienna. As Charlotte's gaze landed on her, the woman's expression grew visibly nervous.

"Is that so?"

As she spoke, Charlotte's lips curled ever so slightly. "But I crossed paths with Florienna in the elevator this morning, and she didn't seem unwell to me. Isn't that right, Group Leader Carter?"

Teddy Carter, suddenly called out by name, froze slightly.

In the past, designer meetings were typically handled by Teddy and the other two group leaders jointly. And everyone knew about Teddy's relationship with Florienna. For meetings that weren't too critical, Florienna often didn't bother to show up.

Chapter 1359: Putting on a Show

Now faced with Charlotte Thompson's questioning, Teddy Carter found himself unsure of how to respond.

After hesitating for a moment, Teddy slowly spoke: "After coming to the company, Florienna started feeling unwell and asked me for leave, so she didn't attend the meeting."

As he spoke, Teddy quickly changed the topic: "Miss Thompson, is there a new task being assigned during this meeting?"

"Indeed, there are new tasks that need to be distributed to the teams, but those aren't the most important matter."

At this point, Charlotte paused for a moment, then stood up and seriously asked, "Where is Florienna now?"

Teddy hadn't expected Charlotte to bring the subject back to Florienna again, which made his expression slightly awkward.

Following Charlotte's movements, Teddy quickly got up and replied, "Florienna... she should be resting in the office right now."

"How is that acceptable?" Seeing Charlotte furrow her brows, she spoke up, "If she's already sick, she should take sick leave and go home to rest. If she stays in the company, what if her condition suddenly worsens? Everyone is working; who has the spare time to care for her?"

"No, I need to go check on her."

Seeing Charlotte stepping toward the office door, Teddy hurriedly followed her.

"Miss Thompson, there's no need for such trouble. I'll talk to her later—it'll be fine."

"How could that be sufficient? No matter the illness, it's never a trivial matter." Charlotte shook her head adamantly, refusing to heed Teddy's words and headed straight for the design department workspace.

The design department's workspace was close to the conference room, so it didn't take Charlotte much time to reach it.

When Charlotte arrived, she discovered Florienna sitting at her workstation, leisurely snacking and watching a drama—where was the hint of anyone being sick?

Moreover, her phone next to her was vibrating faintly, as if she'd just received a message.

Seeing this, Charlotte's gaze swept over the other designers nearby. She noticed the female designer who had earlier helped request leave for Florienna looking visibly flustered, hurriedly stuffing her phone into her pocket.

Charlotte let out a cold snort, then raised her eyes to look at Teddy beside her.

"Designer Carter, is this the sick person you were just telling me about?"

Teddy's face turned an alarming shade of pale as he quickly walked over to Florienna's desk and directly pulled her headphones off.

The abrupt action startled Florienna, making her crush the chips in her hand.

She turned angrily but when she saw Teddy standing next to her, her furrowed brows softened slightly as she prepared to complain.

But her peripheral vision caught sight of the group standing near her desk, including Charlotte herself.

Florienna tried to say something, but Teddy cut her off fiercely:

"Didn't you tell me you were sick and unwell, so you couldn't attend today's meeting? I took the trouble to request leave for you, and here you are watching dramas and eating snacks? Do you even care about the company's rules?"

Teddy scolded loudly, subtly signaling to Florienna with his eyes in places where Charlotte couldn't see. This allowed Florienna to finally notice Charlotte standing nearby.

Florienna's face froze, panicking as she tried to get up from her chair, only to clutch her knee and let out a cry of pain.

"Team Leader Carter, didn't I tell you that I injured my knee and walking is difficult for me?" Florienna said with an overly pitiful tone.

Chapter 1360: Teaching a Lesson

Teddy Carter closed his eyes in frustration.

"Oh? How did Miss Ellis hurt her knee too?"

Charlotte Thompson's voice rang out at this moment.

This made Florienna Ellis suddenly recall that she had encountered Charlotte in the elevator earlier this morning. Back then, Teddy had dragged her along to catch the elevator. Yet now she was claiming her knee was injured.

She said she wasn't lying—who would believe that?

"Miss Thompson."

Florienna pressed her lips together and stared at Charlotte in front of her, puzzled as to why Charlotte had suddenly come here and why no one had informed her about this in advance.

She then shifted her gaze and spoke to Charlotte: "I didn't expect my knee to start feeling uncomfortable all of a sudden. Earlier, I couldn't even stand, so I took leave and missed the meeting..."

But before Florienna could finish speaking, Charlotte ruthlessly interrupted her:

"At this point, are you still putting on a show with me? This is a design company, not a film studio. If you want to be an actress, then don't stay here—is that clear?"

This comment left not only Florienna but also the other designers around them shocked.

When had Charlotte ever spoken to them like this before?

This stirred speculation among the group. Had Charlotte been through something? Otherwise, how could her personality suddenly change so dramatically?

"I..." Florienna was suddenly tongue-tied and couldn't speak.

But clearly, Charlotte had no intention of letting Florienna off the hook so easily. She folded her arms, her gaze icy as she stared coldly at Florienna, and said:

"I never imagined there would be someone so lazy and undisciplined in this company. The company is a place to work—not somewhere that gives you time, a desk, and a computer so you can casually snack and watch TV. If you want a leisurely life, why don't you just resign and stay home?"

Charlotte's voice was sharp and cutting, each word striking a chord in the ears of everyone present.

The hand hanging at Florienna's side clenched tightly, her fingernails digging deeply into her palm. Yet at this moment, Florienna couldn't muster a single word to refute her.

"How long have you been at this company? Do you have any achievements you can show? I honestly don't understand how some clueless manager could have decided to hire you in the first place."

At this, many people's gazes shifted toward Teddy Carter.

But Teddy, at this point, deliberately turned his head away, refusing to look in the direction of Charlotte and Florienna.

Florienna had never been reprimanded like this during her entire time at the company. Her body trembled uncontrollably as she bit her lower lip hard.

Finally, unable to bear it any longer, Florienna raised her head and directly confronted Charlotte, saying:

"Miss Thompson, I just slacked off a little and made a small mistake—is that really worth such harsh words?"

Charlotte's expression grew even colder, yet internally, she was quite satisfied with Florienna's reaction.

"Slacked off a little, made a small mistake? Do you think you own the company? Do you think you can do whatever you want? Now you claim it's just a small mistake to make excuses for skipping the meeting. Tomorrow, are you going to steal someone else's design work and call it a careless mishap?"

The moment Charlotte mentioned "design work," Florienna's face abruptly changed.

"Charlotte... Miss Thompson, don't go making baseless accusations here!"

"Accusations? What am I accusing you of? Weren't you the one who came up with an excuse for skipping the meeting? Am I saying anything untrue?"

Charlotte retorted bluntly, leaving Florienna speechless in response.