

## Chapter 181 Core Seat

The auction was about to commence.

Aloys waited at the bar counter for a long time, but Melissa didn't return. He sensed something was wrong.

Just as Aloys was about to look for her, he saw Melissa walking out of the lounge, wearing a red dress, followed by Everett.

His brows furrowed as he walked up to her.

"Mr. Mayfield, Melissa is my date tonight."

"Well..." Everett glared at Aloys. "She is my date now!"

The two men were the focus of the banquet. Now, when they stood face to face, confronting each other, everyone was eager to witness the outcome.

Most of the women cast a malicious look at Melissa. Melissa, standing between the two men, had an impulse to rush out.

She tried wriggling her wrist from Everett's hold. "Let go of me, Everett!" she hissed through her teeth.

"No!" Everett growled childishly. "You have changed into the clothes I've arranged for you. You're my date now."

"Mr. Mayfield, I've also arranged a spare dress for Melissa. She doesn't have to wear the dress you've prepared," Aloys retorted.

But Everett ignored him and tightened his grip on Melissa's hand.

The three looked at each other awkwardly.

Just then, the banquet's organizer walked over to them.

"Mr. Mayfield, Mr. Brustin, you two are the most affluent people we've invited for the auction. We can't start the auction until you two address everyone."

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Seeing the two men ignore him, he turned to Melissa and smiled awkwardly.

"How about we arrange three seats for you and this lady in the middle of the front row so that you can have a better view of the auction items?"

It was an excuse to persuade the two big shots to attend the auction.

As expected, Everett's face softened.

"Okay." He nodded.

The organizer turned to look at Aloys. He breathed a sigh of relief when Aloys also nodded.

He took a step aside and exaggeratedly waved his hand, welcoming them. "This way, please."

Not just the organizer, but Melissa was also equally relieved.

If she let these two men argue and confront each other, she would garner the anger and jealousy of all the women in the city.

Almost all the women present burned with jealousy.

Arielle was standing in the corner. She was so angry that she broke her bag.

Before she could follow them, there was uproar nearby.

A woman wearing nothing but her underwear fell on the floor of the hall. Many people watched her. Some took their phone and began clicking pictures of her.

Arielle was about to laugh at the woman to vent her anger, but as she got a clear look at her, Arielle grabbed her bag and left.

It was Ophelia.

She knew Everett must have done it. She couldn't get involved.

Finally, Ophelia hid in a corner. She seemed to have mental problems. Therefore, the security guards dragged her out.



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At the auction, everyone was surprised to see Melissa sitting between Everett and Aloys.

That was the core of the entire venue, and everyone's eyes were on Melissa.

Melissa felt awkward and upset.

She already regretted coming here today. She didn't get to do anything important but had already caused a lot of trouble.

Aloys leaned closer to her and whispered, "If you feel sore in your waist, you can just lean against me."

He remembered Melissa going through a tough time when she was pregnant abroad and suffered from some aftermath on her waist.

Melissa pursed her lips. She was moved.

"Thank you." She smiled gratefully.

## Chapter 182 Jade Bracelet

The light on the stage turned its focus on the host as he commanded everyone's attention.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we have reached the final event of tonight's banquet. The money accumulated in the auction will be donated to the city's charity foundation to help support the education of children living in remote, mountainous areas. If you could all direct your eyes to the first item on our catalog..."

Most of the items put on the block were pieces of jewelry and antiques that had been donated by the guests themselves.

Melissa got bored quite quickly, as she had no interest in these things.

She looked around tentatively, and then caught sight of a figure darting across the corner of the stage.

A small gasp escaped her lips, but when she tried to look more closely, the person was gone.

"Everyone, the next item is a very special one. It was donated by an anonymous person at the last minute. I present to you, a gold-gilded, green jade bracelet. After a careful assessment by our onsite expert, we have identified it as a very precious emerald. We will begin the bid with the starting price of one hundred dollars," the host said.

"One hundred dollars?" came an exclamation from the crowd.

Prior to the jade bracelet, everything that had been put up for auction was at least two hundred thousand dollars. Wasn't it ridiculous to mix in an item that barely fetched a couple hundred?

The commotion grabbed Melissa's attention, and for the first time that night, she bothered checking out the piece on the stage.

She took one glance at the bracelet, squinted, and then frowned. Goosebumps rose in her arms.



## Chapter 182 Jade Bracelet

That bracelet had once belonged to her mother!

She had been wearing it for as long as Melissa could remember. Then, after a certain altercation, Howell had grabbed it from her mother's wrist and smashed it into pieces. Melissa could still envision her mother crouching on the floor and collecting every single piece. Later, her mother had the bracelet reconstructed, the pieces held together by gold.

Her mother had always cherished that bracelet. What was it doing here?

Melissa felt her breath catch. She bolted to her feet and looked around, trying to find the person who might have brought the bracelet to the auction.

But the only people who could have done this were Howell and Emily.

Was it Emily, after all?

Aloys anxiously turned to Melissa. He could tell that something was wrong. "Are you familiar with this bracelet, Melissa?"

"It was my mother's." Melissa's eyes welled up as her emotions took over. "I have no idea who brought it here. I didn't even know someone else had it. I must get it, Aloys."

"All right, I understand. Come on, calm down first." He pulled her back to her seat and tried to soothe her.

"One hundred thousand dollars!"

"Two hundred thousand dollars!"

Although the jade bracelet had obviously been broken once, the cracks of gold lent it an ethereal quality. Not to mention the fact that the jade itself was already a treasure in its own right. It was no surprise that many patrons were interested in acquiring it.

"Three million dollars!"

After some back and forth, the bracelet's price reached three million.

## Chapter 182 Jade Bracelet

Just then, before someone could top it off further, a cold and domineering voice rang out in the hall, shocking everyone.

"One hundred million dollars."

There was a single beat of silence, and then pandemonium erupted.

The audience clamored among themselves, not even bothering to hide their discussions in whispers.

Despite the jade bracelet's beauty, everyone agreed that it was certainly not worth one hundred million dollars.

However, the man himself who had placed the bid ignored the conversations around him and merely looked on nonchalantly, as if the amount was nothing but a trifle.

"Everett!" Melissa burst out in indignation. "What are you trying to do now? I need to get that bracelet."

"Well." Nonplussed, Everett raised an eyebrow and cocked his head to the side.

He had heard the exchange between Melissa and Aloys very clearly. Needless to say, he was jealous and incensed that she opened up to Aloys about something so sentimental, and not to him.

Everett leaned close to Melissa and spoke in a voice that only the two of them could hear.

"What's the problem? Since you've said so, I'm naturally getting it for my wife."



## Chapter 183 Stayed Away From The Hospital For A Whi...

The next day, the entertainment news in Andeport was sensational.

Media stories claimed that the CEO of the Mayfield Group and the heir of the Brustin Group were competing for a woman. Furthermore, it said that Everett had spent a lot of money on the woman and had bought her a jade bracelet worth one hundred million dollars in an attempt to win her affection.

Melissa had become the focus of public opinion.

As she entered the hospital, she attracted everyone's attention. Doctors, nurses, and even patients gossiped behind her back.

She was exhausted both physically and mentally after a morning's work.

"Mommy," a child's voice called. The two children rushed into her arms, surrounding her with their love.

Melissa's tiredness disappeared. She smiled and asked, "Why are you here?"

"Mrs. Mayfield brought us. We ate delicious braised pork, and she wanted to give some of it to you."

Lindsey was so excited that her words merged together, but Melissa understood what she meant. The braids framing Lindsey's pretty face swung from side to side.

"It's true." Vivienne followed the two children into Melissa's office and put a lunch box on the table. Her eyes revealed deep sympathy. "You should eat. I included some tonics. It's very nutritious."

"Thank you."

After spending so much time together, Melissa did not need to be formal with Vivienne. She opened the lunch box, and the

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aroma of food floated in the air.

"It smells wonderful." Leilany poked her head around the door and smiled brightly. "Oh, Dr. Sherman, your family are here. Your children are adorable."

Leilany was outgoing, and she squatted next to the children and pinched their faces. "You two are so cute."

"Hello." Lindsey was clever and well-mannered. She tilted her head and greeted Leilany with a smile. "You are beautiful."

Leilany smiled happily at the compliment. The atmosphere in the office brightened.

"Leilany, have you eaten already? Would you care to join me?" Melissa asked.

Melissa liked Leilany very much, so she was happy to eat with her.

"Yes, please eat with Melissa. I brought plenty," Vivienne said, smiling.

"Okay, if you're sure that's okay."

Leilany's graciousness made them like her even more.

Before Melissa and Leilany finished eating their lunch, Vivienne took the two children to kindergarten.

The office seemed very quiet after they left.

Checking the door to the office was closed, Leilany said, "Dr. Sherman, I really admire your strength. The gossip is crazy about you in the hospital, but you always rise above it."

"Really?" Melissa asked, unsurprised.

Last night, Aloys and Everett had sat beside her. The two of them were powerful young men in the business circle of Andeport, so it was only natural that the reporters were hungry for news.

Leilany chewed her fork. She looked very concerned. "But Dr. Sherman, it might be better if you stayed away from the hospital, just for a short while. Reporters have been gathering



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outside, and it's affecting our work. I'm really sorry. I'm worried  
about the safety of you and the patients. That's the most  
important thing."

Melissa's face darkened.

As a doctor, it was not acceptable for her private life to harm  
the hospital and the patients.

Before she could ask Leilany for more details, there was a  
knock on the door.

"Dr. Sherman, Mr. Cooper wants to see you," a nurse said.

## Chapter 184 Medical Assistance Team

Hearing the nurse's words, Melissa arched her brows and put the cutlery down.

If she hadn't heard the news from Leilany, she wouldn't have known why Peter, the hospital director, wanted to see her. She could make a close guess now.

It was likely because the media was blocking the hospital door.

She stood up and was about to leave.

"Dr. Sherman, are you full?" asked Leilany.

"You eat first." Melissa continued walking toward the door. "Just leave some soup for me."

The issue was neither too big nor too small to handle. She thought Peter had done the right thing by taking the initiative to meet her. She, too, wanted to solve the problem.

As expected, Melissa attracted many people's attention along the way. Some took their phones and began clicking pictures of her.

She hid her face with her mobile phone and darted to the door of the hospital director's office.

Just as she was about to knock on the door, she heard a voice from inside.

"Come in."

Melissa pushed the door open and saw Peter sitting behind his desk, smiling at her.

Melissa's skin broke into goosebumps.

She was surprised to see him look calm and gentle.



## Chapter 184 Medical Assistance Team

But even so, she was aware of the brewing storm.

Melissa took a deep breath and asked, "What can I do for you, sir?"

"Well, it looks like you know why I asked you to come. Please have a seat first." Peter raised his hand. "I know that you are not only an exceptional doctor but also have a wide range of connections. But we are in the hospital, after all. Patients are our priority. If someone affects the patients and the hospital, we have to take immediate action."

Even the most capable doctor's reputation would be shaken if they affected the hospital's interests.

"I know what you mean," Melissa said, taking a deep breath. She went straight to the point. "So what do you want me to do?"

Since he brought up the topic, Melissa believed he must have a solution as well.

Peter rubbed his hands together and took out a stack of documents.

"I understand the situation. The issue isn't trivial. I suggest you not stay in Andeport for the time being. It might cause trouble for you and your family. Our hospital is going to send a medical assistance team to Malorcia in two days. Dr. Sherman, you can lead our team and take them there for a week."

It seemed like a good idea.

But what about the two kids? What would they do without her?

Melissa thought about it for a moment. She stood up and took the documents, her brows knitting together.

"Give me some time to think about it. I'll get back to you tomorrow. But I have a request."

"Sure, go ahead."

"If I go there, I don't want to lead the team. I have worked in this hospital for only a short time and don't have any experience in this regard, so please assign a better leader."

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Peter thought for a moment and nodded.

"Okay, Dr. Sherman. Think this through and give me your response as soon as possible."

Melissa nodded and walked out of the office with the documents.

Leaving Andeport and joining the medical assistance team seemed like a good idea.

It could keep her two children away from the limelight. That way, she could protect the lives of her two children. However, she was still worried.

Melissa took a deep breath and was about to return to her office. Just then, she overheard the nurses' discussion.

"Hey, did you hear about the latest gossip? A woman was admitted to the psychiatry department of our hospital last night."

"I heard she came here wearing nothing but underwear. She was yelling and cursing."

"She also cursed Dr. Sherman. Who would have expected that?"