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“It’s like this... I’m actually married, but I don’t know what my husband looks like or what he does. I only know that his name is Stanley Batton. The specifics are very complicated, so I don’t know how to explain it to you, but I only promised to marry this man back then to get something done,” explained Xyla solemnly.

“And then?” asked Stanley.

Xyla began to tell him about how she had been exposed by Emily a few days ago, and how her pre-planned replacement had then passed away. She spoke solemnly while he listened intently, nodding a little in between.

After hearing her story, he said without hesitation, “Sure.”

His nonchalance was beyond Xyla’s expectations, so it shocked her a little.

“Really?”

“Yeah.”

“I won’t make you work for free. I’ll pay you. I’ll pay you way more than what you normally earn.”

Stanley faintly raised an eyebrow and looked at her. “And how much would that be?”

“How is two hundred thousand a month?”

“Two hundred thousand?” repeated an amused Stanley. He earned more than that in a minute. 1

“How about it?” asked Xyla confidently.

“Sure, but I have one condition.”

“Spill,” Xyla replied easily.

“Stop nagging about wanting to pay me back.”

“But I really think I should return that money to you.”

“I never take back what I’ve given away.”

“Okay. If that’s what you want then, fine.”

Xyla nodded helplessly, completely perplexed by this man’s train of thought. Why did he insist on shouldering those mistakes? If he wouldn’t accept repayment, fine. She would just have to find some other way to compensate him.

“If that’s the case, I’ll transfer you one month’s amount later, and we’ll set up a monthly payment system. Is that okay?”

“Yeah.”

“Here are two books that cover the basic knowledge for traditional medicine. Take it home and have a look. It’s best if you memorize them, that way you won’t be easily exposed,” said Xyla.

She took two books on traditional medicine from the LV bag behind her and set them in front of him. One was 'Foundation in Medicine' while the other was 'Medical Diagnosis'. 1

"Sure," said Stanley, glancing coldly at the two books. Upon seeing the word 'Foundation' on the topmost book, he instinctively raised his eyebrows.

"Take a look at these two books first. If there's anything you don't understand, you can ask me through WeChat. Once you've read them, I'll teach you some other things."

"Sure."

"You have to study them seriously, do you understand?"

"Okay," he said before casually pushing the two books aside.

After dinner, Xyla and Stanley exited the restaurant together. Feather-like snow fell quietly under the bright lights, covering the entire city in a layer of white.

A cool breeze swept past and Xyla could not resist shuddering. The tip of her nose was turning red from the cold, and she rubbed her hands together as she looked at Stanley. "Did you drive? If you didn't, I can

send you back.”

“No need. My friend will pick me up.” As he spoke, Stanley quietly took off his trench coat and draped it over her shoulders. “Put this on.”

The coat was still warm from his body heat, instantly dispelling the chill on her body. A faint scent of mint perfume mingled with the smell of tobacco wafted across her nose.

“I’m okay. I won’t be cold once I get into the car,” said Xyla. She raised her hands, wanting to remove the coat.

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“Okay, hurry on home.”

Having said that, Stanley braced the snow and walked swiftly to the roadside. The streetlights elongated his shadow. Watching him go, Xyla immediately felt a surge of warmth in her heart.

Taking off the coat, she quickly chased after him and stuffed it into his hands. “Put this on. I’m not cold. Why don’t I send you back? There’s no need to trouble your friend.”

“My friend will be here soon,” he said as he prepared to drape the coat over her shoulders again.

Xyla nimbly dodged away before quickly running to her red Maserati, not giving him any chances. Staring at that slender silhouette, Stanley’s cold lips gradually curved upward slightly. After Xyla got into her car, she disappeared into the night.

A little while after she left, a row of black Rolls Royces stopped steadily in front of Stanley. Zack could immediately be seen leading a group of black-clothed men as they stood respectfully in front of Stanley, bowing.

Zack opened a car door for Stanley, who gave him an indifferent glance before gracefully getting in. Leaning against the soft genuine black leather

backrest, he folded his legs and flipped through 'Foundation in Medicine'.

Zack quickly got in. Upon seeing the book in Stanley's hands, Zack's gaze was filled with confusion. "Fifth Master, why are you reading that?"

"Someone told me to read it properly," replied Stanley. His expression remained indifferent.

Zack looked curious. "Was it the Young Mistress?"

"Yeah."

"But uhm..."

"Shut up."

Zack kept quiet. Daring to say no more, he silently started the car and mused to himself, 'Since when did our Fifth Master become so obedient? To the point that he's actually reading what someone told him to read.'

When Xyla returned to Quest Manor, her phone started vibrating. After stopping the car at the entrance, she glanced at her phone.

'Shocking news! According to an insider, there are quality issues with Imperial Prime, the real estate development by Quest Property. Corners were cut during construction!'

Xyla's pupils immediately dilated at this headline. Properties by the Quest family never had such a problem. The construction sites were always supervised by professional workers. Her father had brought people to Imperial Prime's construction site countless times, and there had been no problems.

Xyla had great confidence in their family's real estate developments. Now that something this vulgar broke out so suddenly, she could only think of two possibilities.

One, the Quest family competitors were trying to attack them by stirring things up. Two, someone was trying to mess with her, preventing her from completing the task her father had assigned her. It was a no-brainer as to who this person would be.

She immediately went on Weibo to look at the latest searches. Sure enough, 'Imperial Prime quality issue' was number two on the list. That scandalous issue about Emily was still at number one.

As soon as Xyla clicked into the news report, a slew of reproaches entered her view.

'Is what the Quest family doing humane? How could they cut corners in something like this, are they mad? How can Josh Batton endorse such a thing? Are they crazy?'

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'If this wasn't exposed and someone moved in, will you take responsibility when something happens? Boycott Quest Properties! Boycott Imperial Prime!'

'Imperial Prime? I think it should be Scamming Prime instead! Bunch of dog sh*ts, how dare they cut corners in such things! The immoral Quest family should go bankrupt now!'

'Josh Batton must be mental to endorse them! If something really happens when residents move in, will you f*cking take responsibility? Is this what you call good quality? Bullsh*t!'

Now, not only was the Quest family under fire, even their ambassador, Josh Batton, was being dragged into this.

All of this made Xyla furious. Figuring that the family must have found out by now, she quickly got out of her car and rushed into the living room.

The atmosphere at home was dark. At that moment, Jeremy, Emily, and May were all seated in a row on the long sofa. Jeremy's expression was dark, while the faces of Emily and her mother looked equally terrible too.

Xyla hurried over and sat down beside Jeremy. "I saw the news. Dad, did you make any calls to have the

searches removed? We need to suppress this news immediately. After that, we'll get evidence and catch the rumormonger to prove that this is all just a lie. Only with this can we reduce the damage."

"I've already instructed them, but it won't be an easy task to remove this from the list of hottest searches. Now that this issue has blown up, we can't contain it anymore," said Jeremy, frowning hard.

"I think Xyla's horoscope clashes with our property, that's why something like this happened. The property has been fine all this while, but the moment she took over, something happened. If it isn't because of her incompatible horoscope, what else could it be?" said Emily, rolling her eyes at Xyla.

Their father had always been a superstitious person. Emily believed that putting it this way would make him think twice about Xyla.

Jeremy snapped, "Keep quiet. Don't you think our family is in enough trouble?"

Xyla blatantly ignored Emily as she gazed softly at Jeremy. "Why don't you let me take care of this? I'm in charge of the property, so now that it's in trouble, I should be the one to put in the effort to save it."

"You?" Jeremy's eyes were filled with disbelief.

"Yeah. Don't worry about it, I'll give you a satisfying result," said Xyla confidently.

Jeremy shook his head. "Stop fooling around. It's such a huge issue, I'll take care of it personally."

"Dad, believe me. I can do it," said Xyla.

Whether this issue was caused by Emily or one of their competitors, she wasn't about to let the other party walk away laughing. Not only that, but she would also use this chance to prove herself.

This was a crisis, but it was also an opportunity.

"I think we can let Xyla try since she's so keen on it," said May as she glanced coldly at Xyla.

Since the girl was eager to try, let her do it. May wanted to see just how Xyla would take care of this disaster. If she screwed up instead, it would deal a huge blow to the Quest family. When that happened, Xyla would have annoyed Jeremy, and would suffer great consequences.

Emily crossed her arms and shot a mocking glance at Xyla. "Yeah. Young people should be given a chance. Since she wants to prove herself so much, let her do it, Dad."

Emily couldn't help but wonder, was Xyla mad? To think she would proactively trouble herself! Since she was asking for trouble, Emily would give her a hand. She would watch Xyla fall into a pit so deep that she could never climb back out!

Naturally, Xyla knew what the mother-daughter pair was thinking, but she ignored them. She merely stared at Jeremy quietly, waiting for his answer.

Jeremy's eyes were still filled with doubt. "Xyla, are you sure?"

"I'm sure. Dad, I hope you'll believe that I can succeed." Xyla was resolute.

"Okay." Jeremy nodded.

Although he was doubtful of her doing a good job, he wanted to let her try nonetheless. With that, he would be able to see whether or not she was as capable as he thought she was.

"If there's any need, you can look for me."

Having said that, Jeremy got up and went upstairs. Upon hearing this, May and Emily exchanged satisfied looks, seeming to enjoy Xyla's misfortune.

"Oh dear, some people just don't know their strengths," scoffed Emily.

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Xyla went upstairs without giving Emily so much as a sideways glance.

This feeling of being ignored annoyed Emily a lot. She abruptly stood up and called loudly after Xyla, “No matter how calm you try to act, you’re still panicking on the inside!”

She continued to mock Xyla, saying, “For the sake of gaining merit, you’re willing to take on everything by yourself, aren’t you? Aren’t you afraid of not being able to handle this mess and finally end up destroying yourself in the process? What an idiot! Is there really something wrong with your horoscope? Are you born with a constitution that brings calamities? Why did something like this happen the moment you took over the project?”

Emily’s words were like needles, pricking at Xyla’s ears. However, Xyla didn’t want to waste time with her. She would rather utilize her energy to solve the issue that was now bothering her.

Just like that, Emily stood where she was as Xyla’s silhouette slowly disappeared from her sight. Xyla’s indifference and disregard for her made Emily furious!

She stomped her foot hard while clenching her fists

and saying through gritted teeth, "Xyla Quest, you b*tch! You'll be going down soon!"

"Alright, Emily, come and sit." May gently pulled Emily to her side and held her hand firmly. "You should stop being angry and be happy instead."

In an instant, Emily's fury turned into delight. A cheeky grin appeared on her lips as she looked at May and said, "That's true. I should be happy. After all, Xyla might soon be ruined because of her decision today."

"Not just that, the sold units of Imperial Prime might also be returned. Even if the crisis is resolved, a building that was once involved in such a scandal won't sell well. The property will be ruined by Xyla. With both of these failures put together, it's enough to make Dad lose all confidence in her. When that time comes, I'll just have to put in a little bit of effort, and everything in the Quest family will be mine," said Emily confidently, plotting and scheming behind her vicious gaze.

"But, of course. We'll return to the starting point, and this time, with the Sullivan family's support, you'll naturally have the upper hand. You have to do your best, okay? In the future, you also have to contain yourself a little in front of your father and be sweeter to him, do you understand?" May urged solemnly.

"Oh Mom, of course, I know." Emily's smile was getting more cheerful.

“If there really is an investigation on this matter, they won’t be able to trace it back to you, right?” asked May in a quiet voice, her eyes filled with worry. “If your father finds out that you spread a rumor that our property has defects just to take Xyla down, you’ll be dead.”

“Relax, the info was put out there by a hacker I’m familiar with. He’s a top-class expert. The IP address he forged can’t be traced by anyone.” Emily was confident about this.

May let out a sigh of relief. “That’s good then.”

Emily was getting more excited. “Mom, I believe that we’ll soon be able to see the dejected look of failure on Xyla’s face.”

Upon returning to her room, Xyla quickly sat on her bed. After sending Five Batton two hundred thousand dollars via WeChat message, she opened up Weibo’s search engine to take a look at the hottest searches.

By now, the topic of Imperial Prime having issues had gone down on the hot search ranking. Looks like it would blow over soon. However, she knew that this was temporary. Like her father had said, news like this could not be covered completely. ¹

Netizens today would never let go of such huge news easily. But before evidence was found, the only thing

they could do now was to suppress this news and prevent it from growing.

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This incident would cause a butterfly effect. Once it got out of control, the entire Quest Group would go down with it. 1

Xyla called Georgie immediately and the call was answered in no time.

“President Xyla, I was just about to call you but you called me first. I saw the news,” said Georgie, sounding anxious.

“Georgie, I’ve taken responsibility for this and said that I would handle it myself.”

“I knew you would do such a thing. Although this looks like a huge crisis, a great opportunity is hidden in it. If you can handle this situation well, Uncle Quest will definitely have more confidence in you. It’s like the saying, wealth comes from taking risks,” replied Georgie.

Georgie had always been this way. Xyla did not need to explain too much for Georgie to understand her, and Xyla felt herself fortunate to have such a capable right-hand woman.

“President Xyla, I think our priority now is to suppress this incident. Before we have evidence, we can’t let it cause more damage to the Quest Group. As for Josh Batton, once this issue is settled, everything

will get better on its own. He only has to stay quiet for the time being,” added Georgie.

“Georgie, I wanted to tell you the same things as well. To effectively deal with this crisis, I need you and our public relations department in X Entertainment to help. First, release all of the scandals we have about our competitors’ most famous artistes. Divert the netizens’ attention,” Xyla instructed gravely as her expression became serious.

“Yeah, I planned to do that as well. Don’t worry and leave the rest to me.” Georgie sounded confident.

“Okay. Thanks for your hard work,” Xyla replied gently.

“Not at all. Compared to the disastrous public relation incidents before, this is nothing,” exclaimed Georgie.

“Yeah. You just have to take care of this part and I’ll deal with everything else.”

Having said that, Xyla hung up. Turning on her laptop, she searched through the news about Imperial Prime cutting corners during construction and found the source of the rumor.

A person with the username ‘Crazy’ had started it all by posting on Horizon Forum, County Z’s largest online forum. As soon as that post went up, it immediately induced a huge reaction, which resulted in the topic ranking on the hottest searches.

Xyla quickly accessed the forum, found the post, and started tracing the poster's IP address. In just a few seconds, she had found the poster's IP location—somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. It was easy to tell that this location was fake. Obtaining the poster's true IP would require layers of decryption.

Xyla's fingers speedily tapped away on the keyboard in an attempt to decrypt the poster's cover-up, trying to find the true IP address. Ten minutes later, she still had no results.

Needless to say that the poster must be an elite and professional hacker, otherwise, they could not have hidden their tracks so thoroughly. However, Xyla did not lose heart. Her fingers continued to tap on the keyboard as she tried other methods to crack this mystery.