

Submitting 111

Chapter 111

Anthony had entirely forgotten about Genevieve leaving him stranded. He had chosen to forgive her.

His presence today ensured her safety.

"Anthony, your fiancée is inside. Is it really the right time to delve into such matters with me?" Genevieve remarked with a stoic expression.

Anthony furrowed his brow.

"What are you talking about? Fiancée?" he asked.

He had no idea that he was supposedly engaged.

Genevieve tilted her head. Her eyes crinkled into a smile.

"Interesting, Anthony. You're quite adept at putting on a show. No need to play dumb," she quipped.

Having said that, she turned on her heel and slid into the car.

Anthony remained rooted in place.

After a brief pause, he turned and retraced his steps.

He listened to the voices of the others comforting Andrea, who appeared disheveled.

"Ms. Thomson, Genevieve is simply too arrogant. Don't let it bother you. Once you become Mrs. Hoffman, you can teach her a lesson!"

"Yeah, I've never encountered such an arrogant vixen. Mr. Hoffman is just temporarily enchanted. You should try to brush it off!"

"When's the big engagement happening? I've got my gift all set and ready to go!"

The moment the person finished her words, Anthony emerged from behind the partition.

"Engagement? What on earth are you talking about?" His voice was frosty.

Puzzled looks were shared all around, and a hush descended upon the room.

A noblewoman within the group, known for her close connection with Quincey, couldn't help but break the silence. "Well, naturally, it's about your engagement to Ms. Thomson. Your mom spilled the beans. Post-fall, you'll be officially engaged, with a wedding slated for next spring. Our gifts are all ready and waiting!"

Andrea glanced up at Anthony and her eyes betrayed a flicker of unease.

Anthony's expression instantly darkened and grew distinctly unpleasant.

His voice retained its icy edge, and his tone remained indifferent as he declared, "There's no such thing. I only have one wife, and that's Genevieve. There can't be anyone else."

His words hung in the air and left everyone in stunned silence. Their faces froze in disbelief.

Andrea's complexion grew pale and her face assumed an expression of innocence and vulnerability as she sat there. She appeared as though all her strength had been drained away.

All of her pretense crumbled at this moment.

Wearing an icy expression, Anthony shot a stern glance at Andrea and said, "Ms. Thomson, you should be well aware of my stance, shouldn't you?"

Everyone fixed their eyes on Andrea, who gradually blushed. She found herself at a loss for words.

Anthony lifted his head and mumbled, "You guys go ahead."

His only concern was ensuring Genevieve didn't feel abandoned.

He would never give up on Genevieve.

Soon, Anthony left the scene.

He thought Genevieve had already left.

To his surprise, he found her standing at the entrance and engaged in conversation with a familiar face. It was Sullivan's wife, Hailey. Genevieve's eyes crinkled in a warm smile.

Hailey cast a warm gaze at Genevieve and passed her a recently bought bag.

"With your hectic work schedule, there's never time for shopping. I stumbled upon something ideal for someone as youthful as you. It suits you perfectly!" Hailey said.

Genevieve couldn't help but break into a smile.

"Aunt Hailey, I appreciate the thought, but I honestly don't need it," Genevieve said.

"I get it, but those online comments about you bother me. You should flaunt the best and let everyone see you're a prosperous young lady. Why should you suppress your pride?" Hailey responded.

Genevieve grinned and said, "Thanks, Aunt Hailey. But next time, feel free to send some cash straight to me!"

"You..." Hailey couldn't help but burst into laughter. She found herself at a loss for words.

Anthony drew near to them and his demeanor became more gentle.

"Mrs. Shelton..." he began.

Hailey glanced at Anthony. Her smile eased into a more subdued expression. She nodded at him before turning to Genevieve and said, "I'm leaving now. Let's plan a card game for next time!"

Genevieve nodded and watched as Hailey got into a car and left.

Anthony focused his gaze on Genevieve and declared, "I don't have a fiancée."

Genevieve met his gaze. Her expression was indifferent as if addressing a stranger. "It's none of my concern."

"Genevieve, where is Rosalie?" Anthony asked.

As Anthony continued to show concern for Rosalie, Genevieve's heart momentarily sank. However, she swiftly plastered on a smile and said, "Why don't you take a guess?"

"Don't go doing something foolish. She's not worth it," Anthony said.

"Whether she's worth it or not is for me to decide, Mr. Hoffman. You don't need to worry about it," Genevieve replied coldly.

Anthony pressed on, "So where is she?"

Genevieve's driver pulled up to the entrance.

He held the rear door open with a polite gesture for her to step in.

"She's gone. I tossed her into the ocean, Anthony. Happy now?" Genevieve quipped with a mix of humor and seriousness before shifting her focus.

As she sank into the car's seat, her face returned to its usual calm and emotionless state.

Despite Rosalie's actions causing harm to Frank and Margaret and being responsible for the death of his own child, Anthony seemed to care about her genuinely!

Genevieve finally witnessed the potent influence of a first crush.

Genevieve's eyes grew cold like an icy abyss.

Anthony watched her car drive away and called Quincey.

However, the line was busy.

Quincey was currently dealing with the Thomson family's call. She was offering apologies on behalf of Anthony.

The contract between Eagle Entertainment and the Thomson family remained unsigned, and there was a prolonged silence from the Thomson family.

Genevieve wasted no time in sharing the news with Sullivan.

Sullivan took in the situation without revealing any heightened emotions.

"Well, the market is flooded with competitors. Honestly, I had been considering replacing Kylelong before this revelation. His pricing strategy offered no edge for quite some time. Now, this just makes things easier," Sullivan remarked.

Genevieve agreed with his viewpoint.

It took a full week before Kyler, having been discharged, made his way to the site for supervision.

It was only at that moment that he discovered Eagle Entertainment had changed their business partners.

Feeling bewildered, he called Genevieve.

"Ms. Lawrence, what's going on here?" Kyler asked.

Surprised by his lack of awareness, Genevieve replied, "Mr. Thomson, you better ask your wife and daughter about that!"

She hung up the phone after she finished speaking.

Kyler was bewildered.

He sought answers from Abigail when he got home.

The contract with Eagle Entertainment didn't get signed?" he asked.

Abigail, who had silently borne the situation, suddenly began expressing her dissatisfaction with the events of that day.

In the end, she defiantly declared, "Anyway, I won't forgive Genevieve unless she apologizes to me and Andrea publicly. Forget about signing the contract. We're the clients. So, what do we have to fear?"

Kyler's anger flared up. He clutched his chest as the blood drained from his face.

Pointing an accusing finger at Abigail, he felt a surge of helplessness as he roared, "You fool!"

Abigail was shocked. She rose to her feet and asked, "Did you just insult me?"

"Do you have any idea how many favors I had to call in with Eagle Entertainment to keep things going on the previous terms? I requested a price higher than the market rate, and Ms. Lawrence agreed without hesitation, all because of our long-standing history. And now, they've started working without informing me. This not only wrecks the current contract but jeopardizes any potential future collaborations!" Kyler exclaimed.

Abigail felt flustered. Her expression turned bewildered as she stammered, "I-I didn't know. Aren't we the clients?"

"Why does being the client even matter? I'm a client only because of my reputation. Most other companies wouldn't even give me a second glance. The fact that Eagle Entertainment is still willing to stick to our previous terms is good enough. Otherwise, where do you think the money for your card games and luxury comes from?" Kyler shot back.

It was the first time Abigail had witnessed Kyler so infuriated, and it threw her off balance.

"W-Well, in that case, go straight to Eagle Entertainment's Chairman. Genevieve, that bitch won't agree. She's just jealous that Andrea could marry into the Hoffman family!" Abigail said.

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Kyler was so furious that he could barely speak. He sat there, pointing his finger at Abigail before bursting out, "You....When you set them up for a blind date, I informed Ms. Lawrence about it. But she remained silent and composed. It must be you who angered her! Why are you so short-sighted? How can we continue being part of the Hoffman family without the contract?"

After Kyler pointed it out, Abigail seemed to pick up on something.

"What should we do, then?" she asked.

In a panic, she cast a worried glance at Kyler.

"Andrea is our daughter. If she can't marry Anthony, we'll become a laughingstock!" Abigail exclaimed.

"I've mentioned it before. It was just a blind date. Why did you feel the need to share the news? Who told you to be so impatient?" Kyler scolded.

Feeling rather aggrieved, Abigail retorted, "Mrs. Hoffman mentioned that Andrea is the most suitable person..."

Kyler's face flushed crimson.

It became increasingly unpleasant to behold.

Summoning his courage, Kyler made his way to Eagle Entertainment with a gift in hand.

Genevieve had just finished a meeting and was casually sipping on her coffee.

Kyler greeted her with a polite smile, saying, "Ms. Lawrence."

Genevieve smiled in return and said, "Mr. Thomson, long time no see. How are you holding up?"

"Not bad. Just getting old, you know, with all the health issues that come along," Kyler replied..

Kyler followed Genevieve into the office.

Kyler knew Sullivan trusted Genevieve with both important and minor tasks.

Instead of talking to Sullivan first, Kyler thought it was smarter to talk to Genevieve. Upsetting her could make working together in the future much harder.

He pulled a gift box from his bag. Its size and shape suggested it might hold jewelry.

"Last time, my wife and daughter unknowingly caused you trouble. Please think of this as compensation, Ms. Lawrence, and kindly accept it," Kyler said.

It was only at that moment that Genevieve realized Kyler was already informed about the situation.

Genevieve glanced at the box but handed it back without opening it.

"Mr. Thomson, we've secured a partner for that project. I'm afraid it might be too late. Breaking the contract would result in compensation much greater than the value of any jewelry," Genevieve explained.

Kyler's smile altered, but he quickly regained his composure and nodded understandingly. "I understand. A lot happened during my time in the hospital. I apologize for any inconvenience, Ms. Lawrence. I've already spoken with my wife. She can be a bit careless with her words. Consider this a small gesture. Please don't let it bother you."

Genevieve grinned and replied, "You don't have to be so formal. I stayed quiet earlier out of respect.

my back. I for Mrs. Thomson, but I've given M Thomson a little lesson about gossiping behind. hope you don't mind, Mr. Thomson."

Kyler was taken aback, but he managed to crack a smile and responded, "No, I won't mind! Well, she's been a bit too pampered by her mother's indulgence!" Genevieve arched an eyebrow in response. She casually took a sip of her coffee and maintained an impassive gaze at the emails displayed on her computer.

Sensing a hint of awkwardness, Kyler nervously rubbed his hands together and chose to break the silence. "Ms. Lawrence, let's put this contract aside. For the next one, could we-"

Genevieve interrupted with a smile, saying, "Mr. Thomson, following Mr. Shelton's instructions, we've sealed a five-year contract with the new partner. Unfortunately, it appears we won't be able to continue working together."

Kyler's face turned pale. "Ms. Lawrence..."

"Sorry, Mr. Thomson, Genevieve apologized with a slight smile.

While she didn't harbor much animosity toward Kyler, she couldn't overlook Abigail and Andrea's presumptuous actions.

Genevieve couldn't dismiss things so easily.

Moreover, Kyler had maintained high prices with Eagle Entertainment for quite some time. It was time for a change.

Kyler hesitated briefly, then rose from his seat. "I understand, Ms. Lawrence. I'll take my leave now."

Maintaining her smile, Genevieve nodded and rose from her seat as well. She instructed Jasper, "See Mr. Thomson off."

She passed Kyler's gift to Jasper, who swiftly grasped the situation and responded, "Certainly."

Jasper followed Kyler to the exit and handed back the gift.

"Ms. Lawrence has a policy of not-accepting gifts from clients. Besides, she didn't assist you with

anything. There's no need to be too formal, Mr. Thomson. If you ever need anything in the future, feel free to drop by," Jasper said.

Kyler responded with a forced smile.

Feeling dejected, he returned home and downed a bottle of liquor in one go.

Abigail had just returned from her card games, and she was startled at the sight of him.

Upon learning about the situation, Andrea became anxious as well.

"W-What if I go talk to Mrs. Hoffman and see if we can collaborate with the Hoffman family?" Andrea suggested.

She thought that if they teamed up with the Hoffman family, they wouldn't have to stress about finding partnerships.

The Hoffmans connection seemed way more promising than Eagle Entertainment.

Kyler rubbed his forehead and snorted.

"You might as well go apologize to Genevieve. That would be more practical," he mumbled. Without waiting for a response, he went upstairs to rest.

Abigail and Andrea exchanged a glance.

There was no way they were going to apologize!

A few days later, when Andrea visited Quincey, she casually brought up the matter.

However, Quincey seemed to brush it off entirely and showed no concern.

Despite Quincey generally having a positive opinion of Andrea, when it came to their interests, the dynamic shifted.

Quincey offered Andrea a gentle piece of advice, saying, "It's better to stay out of your family's affairs once you're married. Once you tie the knot, you become an outsider. Do you really want to stay involved with your family forever? You're fortunate to marry into the Hoffman family. If you were to marry into an ordinary family, what say would you have in your family's matters? Your bias toward your family is too obvious. Even though your brother just started university, the future of the Thomson family belongs to him. What does it have to do with you? People generally don't appreciate daughters-in-law who favor their own families like you do!"

Andrea's face turned as red as a beet as she listened to Quincey's words.

She didn't dare to continue pleading after understanding Quincey's implied message.

Describing the Thomson family as being on par in social status with the Hoffman family was already an exaggeration. Andrea's background was only slightly better than Genevieve's, and when compared to the Hoffman family, it wasn't even worth mentioning. Before the engagement was

even confirmed, Andrea had no right to seek support from the Hoffman family.

Forcing a smile, Andrea continued to accompany Quincey as they enjoyed their coffees, but her mind was elsewhere.

An auction quietly approached, and Samantha eagerly anticipated it.

She had Genevieve arrange her schedule in advance so that she could have her company during the event.

Genevieve wore a modest black gown, which was a stark contrast to om Samantha, who effortlessly grabbed everyone's attention. It made Genevieve nearly inconspicuous by her side.

Samantha eyed her attire with a hint of disdain.

"My assistant is dressed more flamboyantly than you!" Samantha remarked.

Genevieve smiled and replied, "Simplicity is in vogue these days!"

"Who are you trying to fool?" Samantha asked.

Samantha glared at Genevieve, then confidently entered the venue with squared shoulders.

As Samantha entered, all eyes naturally gravitated toward her.

People flocked to exchange greetings and inadvertently left Genevieve in the shadows.

Only when everyone settled into their seats did Genevieve join Samantha.

"What if I get you a pink diamond and have a designer create a piece in a style you love?" Samantha whispered.

Genevieve raised an eyebrow and then smiled, saying, "Sure!"

She wouldn't turn down her mother's generous offer. Samantha sat at her place. She felt excited as she engrossed herself in examining the 3D models on her iPad.

The very first item on display was the pink diamond named "Spring." The pink diamond sparkled brightly in the lights. Its dazzling brilliance was so captivating that nobody could look away.

Even though Genevieve had possessed numerous diamonds throughout her life, there was an indescribable affection that women held for shiny things.

She still felt a bit thrilled.

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The host in the middle said. "The first item, Spring, is a treasure handed down by the royal family of Anddasland. I urge everyone to seize this opportunity. The starting bid is 1 million dollars."

That wasn't a low price, but people started bidding one after another until the price reached all the way up to 2 million dollars.

The woman in front seemed to want it more and kept raising her card.

Gradually, no one dared to compete against her.

2.4 million dollars." Samantha raised her card and gestured with a smile.

The person in front said, "2.8 million dollars."

"3.2 million dollars," Samantha was unfazed.

"3.6 million dollars. The other party hesitated.

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Samantha raised her card again. "4.8 million dollars."

That price prompted everyone to look at her.

The woman who was competing against Samantha in the bid finally couldn't help but look behind her with a cold expression.

Only when that person turned around did Genevieve realize the person was Quincey.

The person sitting next to her was none other than Lauraine.

Quincey was also slightly stunned when she saw Samantha.

The host announced, "4.8 million dollars going once!"

The host continued, "4.8 million dollars going twice!"

The host finally concluded, "4.8 million dollars going thrice. Sold! This pink diamond belongs to Ms. Underwood!"

The host congratulated Samantha happily. Samantha smiled. Her mood wasn't ruined by the sight of Quincey.

Genevieve was not surprised that Quincey would give up.

The financial power of the Hoffman family was in Presley's hands, and Quincey was only given enough pocket money every month.

She couldn't spend without reserve during auctions to bid on collectibles or luxury goods.

4 million dollars was her limit.

However, that wasn't Samantha's limit.

Subsequently, Quincey bought a pair of earrings worth 1.8 million dollars to salvage her reputation.

Samantha then bid a pair of men's diamond cuffs and pigeon blood ruby. She was very happy with her fruitful purchases.

After the auction ended, she went straight to sign the bill and pay the money, then asked for the items to be delivered to her house.

Wearing a smile, Quincey approached Samantha with Lauraine at her side.

After learning that Samantha was Darrell's wife, Quincey was both envious and unwilling to accept the fact.

However, in the end, she hid her jealousy and walked over to greet Samantha with a smile.

"Mrs. Lawrence, it's been a long time since we met each other. You should come to these occasions more often. Look at how well you managed to be in the limelight today!" Quincey said.

Samantha smiled and said, "I'm an actress, so I'm always in the limelight. There isn't a need for me to attend such occasions. What's more, I have my own career, so I am too busy to come here often. I'm not as free as you, Mrs. Hoffman."

Quincey's expression stiffened slightly.

She thought, 'Isn't it obvious that she's looking down on me for not having a career and having too much free time on hand? Perhaps she's still harboring resentment because the previous incident implicated her!

Quincey paused. In the past, she would've fallen out with Samantha and walked away.

However, things were different now. Samantha was Darrell's wife, and her status couldn't be compared to the other noblewomen standing behind Quincey.

Quincey pretended not to hear it and said with a smile, "I know you've always been excellent. I like the shows you acted in very much. Your son, Mr. Lawrence, is also obedient. I heard that he is still single?"

She grabbed Lauraine and urged the latter to come forward. "My daughter is single, too!"

Lauraine frowned in reluctance. She only cared about Louis.

Samantha glanced at them and smiled, "He is single, but we don't care about having the convenience of marriage. He has someone he likes and will get married when the time comes."

Quincey was disappointed. "I see!"

After a pause, she suddenly remembered something. "By the way, I heard that you also have a daughter? How old is she? She's not married, is she?"

Samantha's face darkened. She looked at Quincey coldly and answered, "I heard that Mr. Hoffman has a fiancée! When will the wedding be held?"

A trace of embarrassment flashed across Quincey's face. "That's not the case. He's still getting to know the girl. My son is single!"

Quincey thought, 'Andrea is nothing compared to Darrell and Samantha's daughter!'

Samantha smiled meaningfully and summoned Genevieve, who was eating snacks not far away. "Sweetheart, come and say hello to Mrs. Hoffman and Ms.

Hoffman."

Genevieve paused and walked over. She merely nodded courteously while maintaining a reserved demeanor. "Mrs. Hoffman, Ms. Hoffman."

Quincey's face darkened when she saw Genevieve. "I didn't expect Mrs.

Lawrence to be quite familiar with this person. Don't be fooled by her innocent appearance!"

Samantha looked at Quincey with a faint smile. "Mrs. Hoffman, don't worry too much. Genevieve is my precious sweetheart!"

As she spoke, a man in a suit walked over from not far away. Mrs. Lawrence you would come with Gen, I would have picked you up!"

Louis smiled gently and looked at Genevieve.

Genevieve smiled and nodded, considering the gesture a form of greeting.

Lauraine's expression changed instantly.

if I had known that However, Louis didn't look at her. He walked up to Genevieve. "I happened to meet a friend who works in industry. May I introduce him to you?"

Genevieve arched her eyebrows and said, "Sure!"

Samantha nodded, and the duo left one after the other.

Quincey couldn't help rolling her eyes behind them. "Louis seems to know you?"

Samantha smiled. "Of course. I consider him my son-in-law!"

Lauraine's body trembled, and colors drained from her face.

Her eyes instantly turned red, and she ran out while covering her face.

Quincey watched her daughter with a frown, then turned to look at om Samantha with a smile. "If something good happens, don't forget to invite us to the wedding banquet."

"Of course," Samantha said.

Then, Samantha went home with the items she bought during the auction.

However, she left Genevieve behind.

After Genevieve and Louis had exchanged pleasantries with others, they went to the swing in the garden. Genevieve sat down and exercised her ankles.

She was a little tired after stepping on high heels all day.

Louis pushed her gently from behind, and the warmth of his palm seeped into the skin on her shoulder through the cloth.

However, before she could overthink, she found herself being pushed to midair.

Louis stood at one side. His gentle and handsome features were laced with hints of tiredness.

He looked at her with a smile on his face.

Under the dim lights, Genevieve gazed at his profile in a momentary trance.

The dim surroundings blurred her vision. His eyes seemed to sparkle,

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and he seemed to be at ease and appeared tired as if he had suddenly relaxed from the tense and serious occasion inside.

Genevieve allowed the swing to swing a few times before slowly stopping the motion with the tip of her toes. Then, she looked up at him. "Mr. Fallon, are you unhappy?"

Louis paused for a few seconds and said, "I suddenly want to go back to Atharia."

"You can go back, then," she said.

"But you won't be at Atharia," Louis said casually.

However, his words left Genevieve slightly dazed, as if her heart was clenched by someone. An inexplicable feeling filled her chest as if watching a butterfly landing on her palm.

They looked at each other for a second. His narrow and long eyes were pensive.

Staring into his eyes caused her to feel flustered.

Genevieve couldn't help but look away.

Louis smiled. His shirt collar was slightly opened. Looking elegant, he uttered gently, "Why don't you go to Atharia with me?" Genevieve frowned slightly. "Louis, we are just friends."

Louis smiled. "Forget it. I should just stay."

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The atmosphere in the evening was always somewhat romantic, especially when the two of them were alone. However, such an atmosphere was suddenly interrupted.

Someone upstairs poured a basin of water down.

Louis ran over swiftly to protect Genevieve in his arms.

Louis was soaked all over, while Genevieve only got a bit wet on her arm.

Soon, Louis let go of her and looked at her solemnly. "Are you okay?"

Genevieve shook her head. She stood up immediately and looked up. There was no one upstairs. It was unknown as to who did it.

She then looked at the wet Louis and said, "Go get a room and wash up. I'll contact your assistant and ask him to send you a set of clothes."

Louis nodded and said with a smile, "I've saved a damsel in distress after all."

That basin of water was aiming at Genevieve.

Genevieve smiled. "I'll check the surveillance."

Louis nodded. They two went in.

The organizer's expression changed when he saw Louis' state. "Mr. Fallon..."

"I'm okay. Let Ms. Lawrence check the surveillance to see who has been so careless." Louis' expression was vague in the dim light, and his emotions couldn't be seen.

"Sure, sure," the organizer said.

Louis went to the room. Genevieve called his assistant and then headed straight for the surveillance.

Louis took a shower and changed his clothes. He came out in less than half an hour.

The corridor was paved with black ceramic tiles, looking particularly cold and solemn. The lights above were dazzlingly white.

Genevieve leaned against the wall in a black dress. The emotions on her face were unreadable, but the light shrouded her gently, adding a touch of indifference and melancholy to her cold skin.

She wore high heels and an obsidian anklet, which looked sexy against her tanned skin.

Louis walked over, stopped, and lowered his head to look at her. "Did you see who it was?"

Genevieve leaned against the wall with her delicate collarbone revealed. Her face was calm, seemingly emotionless. "Forget it. I don't know the person. Maybe it wasn't on purpose."

Louis narrowed his eyes..

She lifted her foot and turned to walk out.

Louis looked at her back for a few seconds before he followed her.

Genevieve got in the car while Louis bid farewell to the organizer.

The organizer nodded respectfully at the end. Genevieve suddenly thought that power and influence knew no national boundaries.

Even though Louis did not have much of a foundation there, he could still control everything.

Finally, Louis got in the car, but the driver didn't hurry to drive away.

The car stopped at a barbecue joint not far away.

Louis got out of the car. He loosened his collar and said casually, "I saw you didn't eat much. Would you like to have some more?"

Genevieve looked at the barbecue joint and asked, "Eat this?"

Louis smiled. "This is the first delicious food I have discovered after being here for so long!"

Genevieve became interested and got out of the car with a smile. "I don't eat snacks at night, but I can accompany you to eat before leaving."

After all, he had been poured a basin of water in order to protect her earlier.

Maybe it was getting late. There was no one at the barbecue joint. When the owner saw them sit down, he delivered the menu again.

Genevieve had her back to him and could see the direction of the hotel.

Louis had a great appetite and ordered a few side dishes and a vegetarian barbecue.

The owner went back to prepare the food.

Genevieve watched with great interest as Louis leisurely tasted the side dishes as if he were savoring expensive Epean food. That was a huge contrast.

After talking for a while, Genevieve suddenly saw people coming out of the hotel one after another.

When everyone was almost gone, Quincey and Lauraine were finally escorted out. Their driver opened the door and waited..

When the organizer waved goodbye, cold water suddenly poured over Lauraine's head before she I got in the car. She jumped up with a scream. Quincey was also implicated. The two were in a mess.

Lauraine stood there in shock, her face pale. She looked around and saw two people talking and laughing at the corner of the street. In an instant, her body trembled slightly with fear in her eyes.

Quincey was angry and scolded, "What's going on? What the hell is that?"

The organizer repeatedly apologized and said he didn't know what happened.

Soon, the person in charge rushed out from inside and chimed in to apologize, "Mrs. Hoffman, Ms. Hoffman, I'm really sorry. The water pipe upstairs burst, and the window was left open, so the water suddenly spurted out of the window. We will compensate you for all the losses caused. I am terribly sorry!"

Quincey was so angry that she couldn't feel satisfied even after cursing them.

The organizer asked her to go inside to wash up and change clothes, but she didn't bother to go in. Finally, she got into the car and called out to Lauraine, who was in a daze outside. "What are you waiting for? Hurry up! Get in the car and go home. What bad luck!"

Her dress was the latest haute couture from a famous brand, and it couldn't be worn again once it got wet.

Lauraine's body swayed. She withdrew her gaze from the street corner and got in the car with a pale face, her whole body tense.

'Did he find out? Otherwise, how could retribution come so timely?' she thought.

An hour ago, Lauraine had gone up to the balcony upstairs when no one was around and had poured the basin of water down while no one was paying attention.

She could not forget how affectionately and deeply Louis had looked at GenevieveX Nor could she forget Louis asking Genevieve in forget Love such a gentle tone if she wanted to go to Atharia with him.

Lauraine thought Genevieve had everything even though she was born humble. She agreed with Andrea that if Genevieve hadn't donated the bone marrow back then, she wouldn't have lived such a good life now.

'Genevieve has stepped on me to climb up the social ladder. How can she even have the nerve to fight with me for a man?' she thought.

But Lauraine dared not go up and yell before them, for she could not forget or stand the coldness. with which Louis had looked at her.

Still, she wanted to teach Genevieve a lesson by soaking her wet and forcing her out of that occasion she didn't belong to.

Lauraine had then gone and done that on an impulse. But she hadn't expected that Louis would protect Genevieve.

Lauraine's panicked look made Quincey feel strange. "What's wrong with you?"

Lauraine was stunned and shook her head. "Nothing"

Quincey snorted coldly, "Damn the organizer! I have to make them pay for our dresses and mental damages!"

Lauraine kept quiet and dared not speak.

At the barbecue joint at the street corner, Genevieve looked at the scene earlier in shock and then shifted her gaze to Louis. Her heartbeat suddenly quickened. After a long time, she said, "Did you know all about it?"

Louis' eyes were deep. He said meaningfully with a smile, "Did you let her go because of Mr.

Hoffman?"

Genevieve lowered her eyes and shook her head with a smile. "Lauraine has been treating her m

illness abroad for too long. In fact, she is very simple-minded. I don't want to have too much contact with her. I also know that she has been instigated."

Otherwise, Lauraine wouldn't have earnestly wanted to get close to her back then but turned hostile toward her now. After all, young ladies were always fickle.

"So you let her go? Genevieve, you're always soft-hearted at the wrong time." Louis' voice was indifferent.

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It was quiet for a few seconds. Genevieve then chuckled softly. Her eyes seemed misty in the darkness of the night, somewhat tender and playful. She said, "It's not that I'm soft-hearted. She treated me like this because of you. It's your fault, after all!"

Louis took a deep look at her and smiled helplessly as if he was condoning her unreasonable behavior. He asked, "How can it be my fault?"

The two smiled at each other. Genevieve casually brushed her hair around her ear.

Louis stood up. He retrieved two green bills from his wallet and put them on the table. His voice was gentle as he said, "Sir, it's okay. Stop working. I'll leave the money here. It's time to close the stall!"

He was well-educated and cultured and did not want to be calculative after wasting other people's time.

The owner was startled and reminded, "Hey, the food is not ready yet. Don't you want to eat it?" "No, just take it back. I'm sorry to keep you from getting off work," Louis said and smiled before taking the bag for Genevieve. Then, he walked to the car with her.

Louis then sent Genevieve back to the Lawrence residence and left.

After Genevieve went in. Dennis was relieved to see that she had not drunk alcohol. He inquired, "Ms. Lawrence, are you hungry? Shall I get someone to make some food for you?"

Genevieve shook her head and said with a smile, "No, I'm not hungry. You should rest earlier!"

"Okay," Dennis replied.

Genevieve returned to her room and saw the pink diamond Samantha had put on her desk.

She picked it up and scrutinized it in the light. It was dazzling. 'No wonder everyone diamonds!' Genevieve thought.

likes She took a picture of it and sent it to Samantha. She texted: [Thank you, Mom!]

Samantha replied: [Sweetheart, go to bed early!]

Genevieve put the diamond in the safe and planned to take it out again once she found a designer.

Louis had approached Genevieve more frequently these days. However, there was always something important, so Genevieve could not refuse.

Every day, roses would be delivered when they were at their most beautiful.

Everyone in Eagle Entertainment knew that Louis was pursuing Genevieve.

1/4

Genevieve had talked to him about that several times, but Louis just smiled and said, "I don't mean anything. It's just that you will feel good to see flowers every day. I hope you will be in a good mood every day!"

Genevieve could not even refuse.

A few days later, Sidus Entertainment finally agreed to terminate Ian's contract.

Lawyers on both sides breathed a sigh of relief.

Ian was also surprised that the people in Sidus Entertainment changed their attitudes fast. Soon, he understood why.

Anthony's secretary, Daniel, had once asked him casually, "Are you close with Ms. Lawrence?"

Ian spoke the truth. He said, "Not really. I've only met her twice."

Ian had met Genevieve once at the bar and once in her office. After that, he happily joined Eagle Entertainment.

One day, when Ian met Genevieve downstairs coincidentally, he deliberately approached her and said, "Ms. Lawrence, I found out a secret!"

Genevieve raised her eyebrows and said with a smile, "Can it still be called a secret if you've found out about it?"

Han turned around the corner and smiled. He asked, "Do you know why Sidus Entertainment previously won't let me go?"

Genevieve frowned and shook her head. She did not care about it at all and had left everything to the lawyer.

Ian raised his eyebrows and said, "When we danced in the bar together, Mr. Hoffman misunderstood our relationship. So, he didn't want me to come near you. But Daniel came to me a few days ago, and then they let me go. It shows that Mr. Hoffman cares about you in his heart!"

Genevieve paused and glanced at him, expressionless. She drawled, "You have such a rich imagination. Why don't you become a scriptwriter?"

"Wouldn't the entertainment industry lose a talent then?" Ian said.

"It's not a big deal without you," Genevieve replied.

Ian grinned. His handsome appearance was tinged with a casual and unruly demeanor. He was a maverick idol in the industry.

He would not dress and speak according to the requirements of his fans, and he even had a rebellious mentality.

Genevieve suspected his family was well off but did not investigate because she was uninterested.

Ian followed Genevieve to the elevator. When he saw a huge bunch of roses in her office, he narrowed his eyes and said, "Mr. Fallon is also not bad. But I think neither of them suits you!"

Genevieve raised her eyebrows and asked, "Oh?"

"I'm the most suitable for you. May to December romance is the most trending nowadays," Ian said, patting his chest with a smile as he recommended himself.

Genevieve glanced at him speechlessly. Finally, she ordered, "Get out and close the door."

"Okay," he replied easily and left directly.

The scent of roses wafted in the air and could indeed put people in a good mood.

Not long after, Jasper knocked on the door and came in. He said, "Andrea is here to see you!"

Genevieve pursed her lips and chuckled, her coffee in her hand. "I'm busy. I'm not seeing her," she responded.

Obviously, only the Hoffman family could help the Thomson family now. However, Anthony would not care. As for Quincey, she would not let anyone take advantage of the Hoffman family. Thus, Andrea had probably been rejected by Quincey.

Soon, Jasper came in again and said, "She won't leave and insists on waiting for you Genevieve would not waste her time on Andrea, so she did not answer.

Seeing that, Jasper understood what she meant and left her office.

Genevieve had two videoconferences in the morning and read several emails from Jeffrey, which were all to prepare her for joining Lawrence Group.

At noon, Genevieve had a lunch appointment with Jacinta Sanders, the CEO of Cosmo Group.

It was not appropriate for her to go alone. Unfortunately, Jasper had something else to do at noon.

At that time, when Genevieve saw Ian, who had yet to join the team, she paused and waved at him. She invited, "There's a business lunch at noon. Would you like to come with me? We're only eating. No drinking!"

There were always women at a men's party, so there should also be men at a women's was the famous saying of Cosmo Group's Jacinta.

Ian frowned reluctantly and said, "I don't want to..."

"100 thousand dollars for a meal," Genevieve said.

"I don't want to miss this opportunity!" Ian said with a smile.

party. That There were many artists in Eagle Entertainment. Ian had just joined the company, so he naturally

would not receive any special privileges.

His manager told him to wait patiently for the opportunity, and he would choose suitable scripts for him.

That did not mean he should just sit idly and squander his wealth.

Ian walked over and carried Genevieve's bag with a smile. He said, "Gen, let's go!"

Genevieve could not help smiling. She found him annoying yet amusing.

When the two of them arrived downstairs, somebody stopped them before they even walked out of the building.

Genevieve raised her eyes and looked at Andrea, who was in front of her, indifferently.

Andrea looked pale, weak, and quite haggard. She said, "Genevieve, I need to talk to you."

Ian looked at Genevieve and then at Andrea. He suddenly understood something. "Sorry Ms Dawrence is very busy. Every minute is precious. Please make an appointment in advance. She won't just talk to anyone!" Ian said.

Andrea's face turned pale. She bit her lower lip and glared at Ian. She muttered,

"I'll just say a few words."

After she was rejected by Quincey, the noblewomen and socialites around her instantly backed away and avoided her.

Since even the Hoffman family would not help her, they would not meddle in her affairs. People in the social circle acted according to the situation.

m Andrea was an artist who had been pampered since childhood, and playing the piano was only her hobby to improve her status. However, now, she found that her hobbies were of to no help.

She was not famous enough, and her abilities were not good enough. Right then, with her income from playing the piano once at the theater, she could not even afford a bag she used to buy in the

past.

Her status fell drastically.

Chapter 116

Andrea had to come to Genevieve, albeit reluctantly.

Genevieve glanced at the time and said with no emotion, "I'm in a hurry. Maybe next time." With that, she walked out. Tan took a step forward sensibly and blocked Andrea for her.

Andrea's face changed, and she was a little angry. How dare Genevieve ignore me like this?' she thought.

She pushed Jan away in a poor manner.

Ian staggered forward and almost bumped into Genevieve. He turned around with his eyes widened in shock.

Genevieve gave Ian a hand. She glanced at Andrea calmly and then said to Ian, "Get in the car first."

Ian almost couldn't help cursing, but he clenched his fists and swallowed his words. He then got in the car. Forget it. For the sake of Ms. Lawrence, I'll bear with it!" he thought.

Genevieve turned her head and said indifferently, "Ms. Thomson, I've heard a little about your family. But I'm sorry that we can't continue our cooperation. I think this is also the wish of you and your mother. What else is there to talk about?"

Andrea's face turned pale and then ashen, looking awful. But when she thought that she couldn't hold on anymore with her current situation, she took a deep breath and tried to calm herself down.

Andrea stood coldly and elegantly in front of Genevieve, maintaining her aura and dignity. "What my mother said at the salon last time was not her original intention. I don't think you're so petty-minded, Ms. Lawrence. We have been cooperating for so long. If we fell out with each other because of such a trivial matter, it would be embarrassing for both families once the words got out!"

Looking at Genevieve's indifferent expression, Andrea was slightly panicked and nervous. "Ms. Lawrence, you can't be still upset over such a trifle, can you?"

Genevieve looked at her with an indifferent smile and said coldly, "I'm afraid you haven't figured out the situation yet, Ms. Thomson. It's useless for you to guilt-trip me here. In the business world, only benefits matter. It doesn't matter if it's embarrassing or not."

Andrea's face stiffened little by little, and her lips turned pale slightly. She hadn't expected Genevieve to be so blunt and stubborn.

He took a deep breath and said, "Ms. Lawrence, just tell me, how can we resume cooperation?"

Genevieve smirked and thought, "It's a done deal to give up the Thomson family. Andrea is so naive. Does she think she can turn the tables just by saying a few words here?"

D Rejected by her first mate, she was blessed by a second one. But what if he regretted it?

Ian was getting impatient waiting in the car. He pushed the door open and got out of the car, urging. "Ms. Lawrence, we're running out of time."

Genevieve looked at the time and then glanced indifferently at Andrea. "Ms. Thomson, let your father come to negotiate about the company matters. You're not qualified."

After saying that, Genevieve walked past Andrea and left.

Andrea finally lost her composure. Her face stiffened and looked wretched. She couldn't help but shout behind Genevieve. "Don't you just hate me for being engaged to Anthony? Even if it were not me, it could have been someone else. Genevieve, you'd better recognize the reality!"

That was the only thing she could ever defeat Genevieve with. Just because the Hoffman family favored her as their daughter-in-law and not Genevieve, she was sure to win.

Genevieve paused slightly when she was about to get in the car. She tilted her head gently. Her face was gorgeous and delicate yet indifferent, and she smiled nonchalantly. "It's you who should realize the reality. If the Thomson family goes bankrupt, will Quincey let you in their family?"

There was a hint of teasing in her words, Seeing Andrea's face turn pale instantly, Genevieve couldn't help but shake her head.

Even though Andrea had come to ask for her help, she was still acting all high and mighty.

She wondered why Andrea couldn't see that the Thomson family couldn't withstand any more lows with their current situation. Once her family went bankrupt, she would no longer be qualified to join the Hoffman family in the future. 'Did she really think that she can piss me off with that? Haha... Genevieve thought.

Genevieve bent over to get in the car and ignored Andrea outside. The driver directly started the car and left.

He snorted coldly inside the car. "So this is the woman your ex-husband likes?" Genevieve raised her eyebrows and glanced at him without saying anything.

Andrea looked understanding and couldn't help but say, "Who doesn't know about those things between you guys? But I've always supported you. That woman just now is incomparable to you. How blind does someone have to be to fancy her?"

Genevieve sat in the back seat. Her voice was calm, without any emotions. "You can keep your sweet kisses for Ms. Sanders when we meet her in a while."

Andrea

Andrea was speechless. 'Well, that's pretty sober, he thought.

Jacinta, the CEO of Cosmo Group, was also a legendary figure in the business world. Although she is only in her early 30s, she had already dominated half the entertainment industry and had even one in other fields,"

Andrea said that Jacinta had a big shot behind her, but nobody had ever seen her backer. Her business talents were far more impressive than her love life.

When Genevieve and Ian reached the reserved private room, Jacinta had also just arrived.

Genevieve apologized first thing, but Jacinta was easygoing. She just smiled and waved her hand nonchalantly.

Jacinta had a sharp and decisive temperament that could not be ignored. Without deliberate concealment, it could put overwhelming pressure on the other party during negotiations.

However, Ian's presence eased the awkwardness between Genevieve and Jacinta and lightened the atmosphere.

After the greetings, Genevieve immediately took out the proposal for cooperation. Jacinta read it for more than ten minutes before she slowly closed it and said, "In fact, there are other companies competing with Eagle Entertainment at present. I can't make a decision right now. I have to weigh

it."

Genevieve was not surprised. She smiled and said, "Of course, we also hope to cooperate steadily. But I think Eagle Entertainment is sincere enough. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact me any time."

Jacinta nodded. Then, the two said goodbye.

Once Genevieve left, Jacinta withdrew her admiring eyes and looked at the proposal in a daze.

She didn't even know when a man had come in. The mature and calm man stood behind her for a while! He didn't get angry even though he was ignored. He just smiled. "If you really want to work with her, just say yes. Why are you hesitating?"

Jacinta paused and raised her eyebrows slightly as she looked at him. "When did you come?"

"This is my clubhouse. I knew it as soon as you came." The man's voice was deep and gentle. He looked at her and smiled. "Well, I didn't lie to you, right? Gen is my favorite niece. If she hadn't been a hopeless romantic, she would have achieved much more in her career."

acinta nodded and agreed, "Genevieve is indeed a good young lady, but the proposal of Hoffman Group has been on my desk for a while. I need to think about who to cooperate with."

Okay, you think about it. I won't influence you," the man said. Caspian, you just returned from abroad. Don't you want to say hello to Genevieve and the others?"

acinta looked at him.

Caspian Lawrence, who was Genevieve's uncle, paused for a moment. His eyes narrowed slightly and then darkened. He said, "It's not the time yet."

On the way back, Genevieve received an apology message from Kyler. He apologized for Andrea's abrupt offense and wished to apologize to her in person.

Genevieve rubbed her eyebrows and didn't reply. There was no room for negotiation regarding their cooperation. It was useless to talk more.

Chapter 117

Andrea was desperate and went to Quincey several times but was turned away. She had been upset since the last time Quincey had rejected her when she asked for her help. It seemed she had been abandoned.

Andrea couldn't accept her defeat and headed straight to Hoffman Group, but Anthony's assistant stopped her outside. She waited all morning without even seeing Anthony.

Meanwhile, Lauraine had nothing to do and went to the company to practice and kill time. She was shocked to see Andrea outside and inquired, "Ms. Thomson?"

Andrea smiled happily when she saw Lauraine and responded, "Lauraine, I heard that you began to work in the company. I knew you could do it."

Lauraine smiled and said, "I just want to prove that I'm no worse than anyone." 'Doesn't Louis like Genevieve for her independence? I can do it too!' she thought. Andrea lowered her eyes and sighed. "I really envy you. You can do whatever you want. My family is almost doomed for offending Genevieve..."

Lauraine's eyes widened in shock. After hearing what Andrea said, she took her to Anthony's office without hesitation.

Anthony and the executives were still having a video conference in the office when someone suddenly broke in. He glanced at the door with cold and gloomy eyes.

Lauraine paused for a moment and hurriedly said, "Tony, Ms. Thomson has something to talk to you about. She has been waiting for you for a long time!"

Andrea looked at Anthony cautiously with some expectation before greeting him, "Mr. Hoffman." "Get out!" Anthony snapped unceremoniously with a cold voice.

The two young ladies froze. Lauraine was especially displeased and said, "Tony..."

Anthony's expression was extremely indifferent. He spat, "I don't want to repeat myself."

At that moment, Anthony's assistant, Daniel, quickly ran over. His expression changed slightly as he said, "Ms. Hoffman, Mr. Hoffman is in a video conference and can't be disturbed. If you need anything, please wait outside!"

With the identity of Anthony's sister, Lauraine had always gone in and out of the company freely, and no one dared to stop her.

However, since she started working there, that kind of special treatment had ceased. Everything had to be in accordance with the company rules. Her status was not even comparable to Daniel's now.

Lauraine lost her dignity in front of outsiders and ran out in anger, leaving Andrea there alone.

Daniel also advised Andrea to wait outside first. Andrea naturally wouldn't brazenly stay in the office.

She apologized again outside the door. "I'm sorry to cause trouble to Mr. Hoffman. Ms. Hoffman is very outgoing and just wants to help. I'm really sorry."

Daniel smiled and said in a perfectly polite manner, "Don't worry, Ms. Thomson. It's just that Mr. Hoffman hates to be disturbed when he is having a meeting.

Andrea stood there with a pale face and forced a smile.

About an hour later, Anthony came out with his subordinates.

While he was waiting for the elevator, Andrea eagerly ran over and said, "Mr. Hoffman, I have a favor to ask of you!"

Anthony raised his eyes with a cold and indifferent face but didn't say anything. He didn't want to have anything to do with Andrea.

"Ms. Lawrence misunderstood our relationship, so she unilaterally canceled the cooperation with my father. Can you help my father get through the difficulty?" Andrea said.

Anthony was emotionless and only raised his eyebrows slightly. 'Did Genevieve misunderstand our relationship? Is she angry, envious, and jealous? I can't ask for more!' he thought.

Seeing that Anthony was indifferent, Andrea bit her lower lip and couldn't help but say, "I know you don't want to be engaged to me. As long as you can help me, I can make it clear to Mrs. Hoffman or put on an act with you..."

Anthony's eyes darkened a little. He chuckled and said in a deep voice, "Ms. Thomson, remember what you said." After saying that, he went straight into the elevator.

Andrea stood there blankly and couldn't react. It was not until the elevator slowly closed before her eyes that Andrea realized Anthony had agreed. She was overjoyed.

Inside the elevator, Daniel looked at Anthony's face and couldn't help asking, "Mr. Hoffman, do you really want to help her?"

Anthony pursed his lips and smiled. "Didn't you hear that? Genevieve is jealous. It's because she loves me so much!" That was why he planned to use Andrea to win Genevieve's heart back.

Daniel's expression changed several times, and he began to doubt his hearing. He didn't hear those words at all, especially the last sentence.

Genevieve's side had been following up on the cooperation progress with Cosmo Group.

The people around Jacinta finally revealed some information. Eagle Entertainment's competitor turned out to be Hoffman Group.

But surprisingly, the representative sent by Hoffman Group was Lauraine, who had just joined the company.

Lauraine had gotten that opportunity by herself. She was angry with Anthony last time and insisted on proving herself, so she took the initiative to apply for the project with the head of the project department.

This was a big project of great importance. Originally, Lauraine was not supposed to be in charge of it. However, given Lauraine's identity and status and Jacinta's relation to the Hoffman family, it seemed that this cooperation was a done deal. Hence, it was directly handed to Lauraine.

Anthony didn't say anything when he learned about this matter. He just told the project department to follow closely.

Later, Jacinta invited Genevieve to Cosmo Group to discuss the details of the project. The two of them had a pleasant conversation. Nevertheless, before the deal was finalized, any changes could happen.

It was almost noon. Jacinta looked at the time and said with a smile, "It's getting late. Let me treat you to lunch. How about trying the food of our company?"

Genevieve smiled and said, "I can't wait to try them."

As soon as they stood up, there was a noise at the door.

Jacinta's face darkened slightly. "What's going on?"

"It's Ms. Hoffman. She doesn't have an appointment..." The secretary spoke with a troubled look.

As a competitor of Eagle Entertainment, Lauraine shouldn't meet the people from Eagle Entertainment. That would embarrass all three parties.

Besides, she didn't have an appointment. It was impolite for her to show up uninvited.

Lauraine pushed the door open and went in directly, asking, "Aunt Jacinta, I'm Lauraine. I've come to talk to you about the project cooperation. When shall we sign the contract?"

As soon as she went in, she saw Genevieve sitting across from Jacinta. Her face suddenly darkened.

Lauraine thought of how she had left the dinner banquet soaking wet last time. She also thought of Louis' disregard and indifference to her. She was getting annoyed.

"Why are you here?" she questioned bluntly.

Genevieve remained calm and glanced at Jacinta, who smiled apologetically.

fun and looked at Lauraine

with a grim face. Lauraine, I'm busy now. Can we talk about it after you make an appointment with my secretary?"

Lauraine took a deep breath in discontentment and held Jacinta's arm endearingly "An Jacinta, it won't take long to sign the contract. Wasn't it delivered long ago? Just sign it

"It's not that simple..." When Jacinta wanted to say something else, Lauraine was somewhat unhappy and pouted her lips.

Aunt Jacinta, you are not thinking of giving this project to an outsider, are you?"

Lauraine said.

Chapter 118

Jacinta's face had turned rather gloomy as she quirked her lips. "Escort Ms. Hoffman out.

"Aunt Jacinta, how will our families continue collaborating once Tony learns of this? You shouldn't bear such a huge risk for so little returns. After all, this project isn't for everyone!" Lauraine eyed Genevieve begrudgingly.

A faint smile was visible at the corner of Genevieve's lips, and her expression remained indifferent as she barely spared her a glance.

Alas, there were cracks in the veneer Jacinta struggled to maintain as her smile collapsed. "Lauraine, I have repeatedly brought up questions about the project. Are the details altered? Since the Hoffman family stayed silent, I sense no sincerity on your part. Thus, I've decided to hand the project over to Eagle Entertainment. Anthony will be informed about it sooner or later."

With that, she gestured to her secretary and ordered, "Please escort her out. Don't freely allow her entry next time without an appointment."

Jacinta's stern tone startled Lauraine at once, whose expression underwent a series of rapid transformations.

She implored. "Aunt Jacinta..."

The secretary drew near and extended her hand courteously. "This way, please, Ms. Hoffman."

Lauraine bit her lower lip, glaring at Genevieve fumingly before turning to depart.

Silence reigned over the office in her absence.

Jacinta paused momentarily, and she turned around composedly with a smile. "Apologies for the interruption, Ms. Lawrence. I hope you don't mind."

Genevieve returned the smile and inquired confusedly, "Are you still related to the Hoffman Family?"

The fact had caught her off guard.

Jacinta's gaze darted toward her. "Presley and I are cousins, but we aren't close and barely interact with one another. However, Hoffman Group delivered their proposal earlier than you. Besides, their plans are exceptionally stable, Ms. Lawrence, do you know why I chose you?"

Genevieve's brows furrowed lightly. "Is it because... of my charming personality?"

Her question broke the tension in the atmosphere instantly.

Jacinta chuckled uncontrollably while her fingers brushed past her wavy hair. "Indeed, it's because of how opinionated you are. A little bird told me that you're one hell of a genius!"

Genevieve frowned and asked. "Whoever has such a good eye?"

Jacinta grinned and replied, "You know who they are. Well, then, the contract is settled for the time being. We'll discuss it further once the lawyer has gone through it.

Her statement alluded to how their contract was more or less established.

Genevieve beamed and stretched out her hand, saying. "Thank you for deciding to collaborate with us, Ms. Sanders. I promise you won't regret it!"

Genevieve and Jacinta had their meals at the company cafeteria before leaving.

After getting to know Jacinta, Genevieve realized that she had a rather easygoing personality and was pleasant to be around with.

Shortly after Genevieve left, Jacinta received a call from Anthony.

Jacinta hesitated before answering the call. "Enough. I have told Lauraine everything necessary. Let's not talk about the collaboration anymore."

Anthony uttered in a low voice after staying silent for several seconds, "Aunt Jacinta, let's meet up to talk about it."

He hung up at that.

Anthony glanced at Lauraine and the head of the project department before him gloomily.

The look on the head of the project department's face reflected his.

He had not foreseen forfeiting their chance at collaborating with it so close at hand.

Lauraine stood there aggrievedly and curled her lips. "Tony, Genevieve is victimizing us! She sure is unscrupulous. How could she intentionally sabotage our collaboration despite being aware of our relationship with Aunt Jacinta?"

Anthony's eyes turned frosty while he deadpanned, "Why didn't you follow up with the modifications to the contract details based on Ms. Sanders' feedback?"

Lauraine halted. "... I thought there was still time to do so after signing the contract. Besides, I rarely have time to go through the emails she sends me every time. It's too much of a hassle..."

Little did she notice the look on Anthony and the head of the project department's faces while complaining.

They deserved what was being meted out to them, after all.

Anthony's face was extremely grim, his sharp side profile that seemed carved by a knife apathetic.. That's enough, Lauraine. There is no need for you to be involved in this project anymore. As a matter of fact, you're banned from any of our company's future projects!"

"Why? It's not even my fault this time around. Genevieve's the one who robbed the opportunity from us. Why are you casting the blame on me!" Lauraine froze briefly, her expression swiftly morphing. Anthony rose with an air of coldness. "Are you still refusing to own up? Genevieve is simply better than you, and you can't compare to her. Do you truly think that sending a proposal would solve all your problems? How foolish!"

Lauraine began tearing up at his harsh admonishment.

She mused. I can't even compare to Genevieve?

"Why does the entire world believe that Genevieve is better than me? Her mind raced with thoughts as she covered her face and dashed out.

The head of the project department was drenched in cold sweat while being rooted to the spot. "I'm deeply sorry, Mr. Hoffman. This is all due to my negligence. I'll apologize to Ms. Sanders right away and explain to her in hopes that she'll give us another chance!"

The tone of Anthony's voice was wintry. "Are you as much of a fool as she is?"

"Get out!" His features were stormy.

Anthony was understandably ticked off at losing his chance at a project that was almost a done deal.

While he didn't mind competing with Genevieve in the market, losing in such a juvenile way smarted his pride.

Genevieve called Louis in the evening, but no one answered.

This had never occurred in the past.

Thus, she switched to dialing Louis assistant, Fabio.

"Ms. Lawrence?" Fabio's environment sounded noisy from his end of the line.

"Mr. Atkinson, I can't get through to Mr. Fallon. Is something wrong?" she questioned.

Fabio paused and moved to someplace quiet before answering, "Ms. Lawrence, Mr. Fallon has fallen ill. I'm currently dealing with his affairs abroad and may not be able to return for some time. Would it be possible for you to visit him if it isn't too much trouble?"

Genevieve was astonished by the news, as he seemed fine when she met him a few days ago.

She'd assumed Louis was as fit as a fiddle, as she'd received flowers from him continually for the past few days.

She replied, "Understood. Leave it to me."

Genevieve felt rather upset. She pitied Louis as he barely had any friends locally, and no one knew he was sick.

She was about to speak when a familiar child's voice rang out. "How about Daddy? Is he back yet

Unfortunately, Fabio ended the call before she could make out who it belonged to, Genevieve couldn't recall where she'd heard it from, although it felt mildly familiar. Nonetheless, she wasn't too hung up on it and went straight to Louis' hotel.

Genevieve knocked on the door of the presidential suite he booked but was met with silence.

As such, she called the hotel staff and requested their help to unlock the door.

A child's voice reached Genevieve's ears when she rushed in. "How about Daddy? Is he back yet?"

She paused for a second, her mind short-circuiting.

Subsequently, Louis violent coughs rang out m within the room

The hotel staff didn't think too much about it; their sole concern being preventing danger from befalling their bigshot customer. Hence, they immediately knocked on the door.

"Mr. Fallon, do

ou require any assistance?"

I'm fine." Louis moved to open the door after a series of coughs, his voice hoarse.

He was greeted by the sight of Genevieve standing by the door when he finished speaking.

It's you." The ice within his eyes was melted by the smile which graced his pallid countenance.

The corners of Genevieve's lips lifted. She said, "I decided to visit since I heard you were sick and couldn't answer my call."

Louis shielded his mouth as a string of coughs wracked his being. He then turned back to face her before saying, "Apologies, I just woke up and must have missed my phone ringing. I was calling

you just now, and he-"

"How about Daddy? Is he back yet?" His sentence was cut off by a child-like voice.

Chapter 119

Before Louis could finish his words, his coughing fit began again.

Genevieve frowned slightly, but her thoughts were not interrupted.

"Didn't you go to the doctor" she asked

"It's okay I'll be all right soon, Louis answered.

Genevieve sighed. She summoned his personal physician with a phone call and then asked the hotel staff to leave. Next, she went to pour him a glass of water.

However, she heard a child's voice from the bedroom, calling for his daddy again.

She couldn't help but feel confused.

With a smile, Louis entered his bedroom and took out his phone. He played the video sent by Fabio.

"Fabio bought a talking parrot, but his former owner only taught him these two sentences, 'How about Daddy? Is he back yet?'" he explained.

Genevieve understood him instantly. She couldn't help smiling when she saw the green parrot in the video chattered these two sentences repeatedly

"No wonder... she muttered.

This cleared her doubts completely.

He's so cute, she thought.

Louis' personal physician arrived not long after.

He gave Louis a checkup and breathed a sigh of relief.

"Mr. Fallon has a fever. He just needs to take a pill for that and have a rest," the physician told them.

"Thank you." Louis nodded politely.

After seeing the doctor off, Genevieve turned and saw Louis in another coughing fit. His face was pale.

She gave him the medicine and joked, "I didn't expect you to be afraid of the doctor."

"I'm also involved in the medical field. I know the recovery cycle of a viral cold takes about seven days at most, so I'm not worried," Louis said while smiling.

"But why do you choose to suffer when you can have a more comfortable recovery?" Genevieve asked.

Rejected by her second one. But what

Louis smiled bitterly and shrugged. He raised his head and looked deep into her eyes.

"Anyhow, thank you for coming, Gen. If it weren't for you, I don't know how long I'd stay. unconscious," he said.

"Come on. Wealthy people like you cherish your lives the most," Genevieve said with a smile.

She didn't stay here for long. Since there were other things to deal with in the company, she left after having a word with Louis, However, she was surprised to encounter an unexpected person downstairs.

With sunglasses and a mask, Quincey was about to enter the elevator with a bald man, who put his arms around her shoulder.

Coincidentally, Genevieve was exiting the elevator.

The two women met head-on.

Genevieve recognized Quincey immediately as soon as the former looked up, even when the latter was disguised.

Quincey almost lost her balance the moment she saw Genevieve. Her expression changed immediately.

However, Genevieve pretended not to recognize her and walked past them. The former went to the door without a pause as if nothing had happened.

Quincey's legs lost their strength the next second. She had to lean against the man's chest.

The bald man hugged her tightly and thought she was eager to get intimate with him. He squeezed her while kissing her loudly.

Quincey pushed him away forcefully. She touched the mask and sunglasses on her face and found they were snugly in place. However, she panicked for a moment.

'Will Genevieve recognize me?' she asked herself internally.

"What's the matter? It's not an everyday occasion for your old fogey husband to go on a business trip, which provides us an opportunity to come out together. Don't ruin the occasion..." the bald man whispered in Quincey's ears while holding her in his arms.

Quincey paused and adjusted her expression.

Yeah, Genevieve won't recognize me.

I'm fully disguised, and even my eyes are covered. How is it possible for her to recognize me?' she thought.

Quincey was relieved. She held the man's arm and glanced at him flirtatiously.

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"Show me how good you are later!" she said.

The duo hugged and kissed each other as soon as they entered the elevator.

It's public knowledge that Presley is a womanizer. What's the big deal if I have fun with other men?

I birthed a son and a daughter, which secured my position as the lady of the Hoffman family. I'm not at all worried that Presley would divorce me, Quincey thought.

With that, Quincey let her worries go. I must have fun!' she told herself.

An hour had since passed.

Sitting in her car. Genevieve saw Quincey and the bald man exit the hotel with a loving look on their faces.

But as soon as they stepped out of the hotel door, they headed in different directions as if they didn't know each other.

Even Genevieve couldn't help shaking her head and praising them for their rapid changes in behavior.

Something flashed across her eyes as she smiled. Next, she slowly started the car and left.

The next day. Genevieve received a banquet invitation from Jacinta.

While a little confused, she went to the banquet as promised.

Many people attended the small, private banquet.

Genevieve's intuition told her the business deal might be announced during the banquet. Staying calm and collected, she went to greet the host with a smile.

Jacinta was talking to someone. When she saw Genevieve, she smiled and went to greet the latter.

"What a coincidence. Ms. Lawrence, I have good news for you," Jacinta said.

Genevieve raised her eyebrows and looked at Jacinta with a smile. "Go on, Ms.

Sanders," she said.

Jacinta glanced at the people around her and said without hesitation, "The contract for the cooperation is ready. We can sign it tonight, but..."

She paused and looked at Genevieve with a smile. "There's a pleasant surprise for you."

Genevieve couldn't understand her.

Jacinta turned around and glanced at someone. Soon, a tall and upright figure approached them. His presence was cold and distinctive, and his expression was cool and distant as usual.

"Mr. Hoffman put forward a better suggestion for this project, which I'm happy to accept. How

about the three of us cooperate to make it better?" Jacinta asked.

Genevieve glanced at Anthony and suppressed her displeasure.

The change happened too suddenly. She was surprised she never heard anything about it. beforehand.

She glanced at Jacinta and said nothing.

Jacinta understood what she meant. She stepped forward and said with a smile,

"Don't worry. look at the contract before you make a decision."

She pulled Genevieve to the lounge nearby and sat next to her.

Take a Anthony followed them and sat across from Genevieve. With warm eyes, he stared at her without blinking.

Lowering her head, Genevieve ignored his gaze and read the contract.

The addition of Hoffman Group didn't just bring abundant funds for the N

project. It also didn't dilute Eagle Entertainment's share in the deal, which made the latter the ultimate winner of the cooperation.

Anthony and Jacinta had a relatively even share of profits in the deal. However, Hoffman Group led in terms of capital composition.

From the contract, Genevieve found all three parties would benefit from this deal.

She had no reason to refuse the cooperation.

Furthermore, the addition of Hoffman Group improved the technical and financial foundation for the entire project.

Jacinta sipped her coffee and calmly waited for Genevieve's decision.

Genevieve wouldn't say no to financial benefits. Her earlier om displeasure was gone at this moment. She put down the contract and smiled. "Indeed, Mr. Hoffman's action is always impressive," she

said.

'However, the project's cost may be several times higher than expected.

'If Hoffman Group won this project in the first place, he wouldn't need to invest so much money.

'Now, he has to admit that he's unlucky,' Genevieve thought. Anthony's expression was calm and pleasant as he glanced at her.

"It seems Ms. Lawrence is fine with this. Let's sign the contract then, Ms. Sanders!" he suggested.

Coon subordinate retrieved the prepared contract for

"Ms. Lawrence. I didn't tell you beforehand because I made the decision just now, Jacinta told Genevieve.

She continued, "For the sake of the overall situation, you two should act kindly to each other later so no one will think there's something wrong with our cooperation."

Genevieve raised her eyebrows and answered, "I understand." The amusement in Anthony's eyes gradually deepened. After they signed the contract. Jacinta went to announce the good news.

Everyone applauded and celebrated the news. Jacinta looked at Anthony and Genevieve's direction. and announced, "Next, let's welcome Mr.

Hoffman and Ms. Lawrence to start the opening dance!"

Chapter 120

Everyone broke into applause, and Genevieve hesitated for a moment, looking at the hand Anthony extended toward her with a slight frown.

Anthony, the epitome of a gentleman, waited patiently with a slight bow.

Under the gaze of so many eyes, Genevieve forced a stiff smile and gently placed her hand on top of his. Anthony clenched her hand upon eyeing her delicate features.

He was filled with discontent the last time he saw her dancing with Ian. Now, it was his turn. He was determined to show her what the best dance partner truly looked like.

He led her to the center of the floor, and the room fell silent. Her exquisite features seemed like they could never be fully appreciated.

Anthony gently placed his hand on her slender waist, his gaze locked on her.

As focused on the two of them. It was as if a hazy glow enveloped the music started, the lights dimmed, leaving the rest of the world behind.

The music was melodious and slow. Genevieve's fine features were slightly downcast, devoid of emotion.

His heart, however, skipped a beat as he looked at her, throwing off his step momentarily, and he stepped on Genevieve's foot.

Genevieve glared up at him, irritation lacing her quiet voice, "Did you do that on purpose?"

Anthony pressed his lips together, his jawline tense and his response a bit awkward. "No."

Her tender lips were tempting, and he suddenly felt an urge to kiss them. His heart was a mess, and so were his steps. And it happened again—he stepped on her foot twice more. Genevieve's face turned gloomy. If they weren't in public, she would have slapped him right there!

Finally, the music ended.

The crowd erupted into heartfelt applause. Genevieve maintained her rigid smile, nodded politely, quickly dropped her hand, and walked away.

Anthony's face darkened. His performance had been terrible, and she was surely upset.

Genevieve was exchanging pleasantries with someone across the room, standing gracefully. Next to her, the tall and dazzling dewy roses made her look even more delicate and charming.

An acquaintance walked up to Anthony and smiled, pointing at his own phone. "Mr. Hoffman, I've recorded it all for you, and no need to thank me. A true power couple, both so capable and good-looking!"

ex Rejected by her first mate, she was blessed But what if he regretted it?

Anthony's mood seemed to improve slightly as he nodded with a smile. Thanks a lot.

It didn't take long for the short video to go viral on Twitter.

The couple, once seen as a perfect match, now became an almost comedic example of what not to do. Their dance moves were out of sync, their gazes never met, and there was no sign of emotional connection. Especially funny was the moment when Anthony stepped on Genevieve's feet several times and she gave him an amusing warning look with her eyes.

The scene from the last time when Genevieve and Ian had a sizzling dance at the bar was dug up again. Compared side by side, everyone on Twitter was thinking, 'Wow, it's no wonder they got divorced!'

Anthony was blissfully unaware, still thinking that his dance with Genevieve might become a lovely tale to tell.

Watching her laughing and chatting with someone else, he felt a pang of something bitter inside.

He approached, and immediately, the attention shifted. "Mr. Hoffman, we were just talking about your AI project. It's really ahead of the game. Congratulations, may I offer a toast to your success?" someone asked.

Anthony raised an eyebrow and glanced at Genevieve.

She smiled, giving a nod with her glass of red wine, about to drink it, but Anthony interjected, "Hold on. I'll drink this one for you."

Genevieve took a deep breath. 'Does this guy have a screw loose? I could hold my liquor like no one else. I don't need anyone drinking for me.'

But before she could refuse, Anthony had already downed the drink.

Seeing this, the other person quickly offered another glass.

Genevieve paused, and then several others approached to toast. She looked at them silently.

Soon after, Selene called her, laughing through the phone. "Your dance with Anthony is all over Twitter. Talk about a lack of chemistry!"

Genevieve's brow creased as she opened up her Twitter to a flood of shares for this video. Selene had posted it too, and the comments section below was popping with lively banter.

beneath her post, Brendan commented: [Just from the looks alone, they are a perfect match!]

Selene replied, [Are you blind?]

A friend commented: [Looks like Genevieve is ready to throw punches...]

Selene's retort was swift: [From what I know, she'd rather be throwing knives!]

Rejected by her first mate, she was blessed by a
Genevieve couldn't help but let a smirk play on her lips.

But thinking it was no big deal, she didn't mind it.

Selene called her again. "Did you hear? The Thomson family is in resurgence thanks to hitching their wagon to the Hoffman family. Andrea's got some real moves."

Genevieve thought of Andrea who loved to play the moral high ground and let out a light chuckle.
"That's what she can do."

The two chatted for a bit longer before Genevieve turned to head for the restroom.

There she unexpectedly ran into Lauraine. She had been almost invisible all night. Genevieve didn't even know she was around.

When Lauraine saw Genevieve, she remembered Anthony's accusations against her and felt even more
om unhappy. She gritted her teeth and said, 'Ms. Lawrence, Jacinta is our aunt. This partnership was
meant for Hoffman Group from the start. You snatched it away. If my brother hadn't been so lenient,
you wouldn't even be standing here today.'

Genevieve gave Lauraine a cool, detached look. She washed her hands, then casually dried them off with
a paper towel before tossing it in the trash can. Her lips curled into a faint sneer as she faced Lauraine,
saying, "You're not cut out for this business, just like you're not cut out for copying my hairstyle, my
clothes, and my makeup. People should highlight their own unique traits. Blindly imitating someone else
just leads you to lose your sense of self."

After saying that, Genevieve ignored Lauraine's pale face and left directly.

After all, there was no use in warming up to someone who was cold to her. Plus, she and Lauraine weren't exactly acquaintances. Genevieve had instantly seen through Lauraine's deliberate choice of a long hairstyle mimicking hers, the same style of clothes that didn't suit her, and a similar makeup look.

In a fight, you struck where it hurt the most.

Lauraine bit her lower lip so hard it might bleed, watching Genevieve's retreating figure with indignation. She hadn't wanted to come at all, but Anthony insisted, hoping she would apologize to Jacinta.

Just as Genevieve was about to leave, she spotted Anthony-possibly too many drinks in sin sitting on the eyes spfa, his eyes half-closed in deep thought. His arm, adorned with a watch, propped up his forehead, suggesting a casual disarray.

Genevieve was ready to leave but realized her purse was next to Anthony.

Grabbing her bag, she was about to head out when she recalled how smug he was earlier while stepping on her toes. Biting her lip, she plotted her revenge. She stepped on his foot as she passed by, and with a feigned look of surprise, she turned her head

back towards him saying, "My bad, Mr. Hoffman. Totally didn't mean to, Anthony frowned, seeming impervious to the pain, though his neck was now dotted with an outbreak of fine red spots-a probable allergic reaction. Genevieve didn't want to interfere and spun around to leave. But Anthony suddenly reached out and grabbed her bag. She tugged back reflexively, and somehow, he wound up on the floor....