

Sweet Wife 581

Chapter 581 Humiliation

Everyone was surprised at what she said.

Natalia realized how rude her daughter was so she quickly squatted down and cover Anne's mouth.

Then she gave Laura an embarrassed smile. "Sorry, children say what they like. She didn't mean that."

Judging from Laura's tone, she didn't seem to be happy when Natalia thought they were a couple. So it would be inappropriate to assume that they would have a baby together.

Although Natalia was Laura's boss, she did not ignore her child's rudeness.

Feeling her face reddening with embarrassment, Laura shook her head and said, "It's OK."

Max caught on to it too. He coughed awkwardly and tried to change the inappropriate subject,

"Well, we're going over there."

Natalia nodded.

"Sure, have fun!"

Then Max walked away with Laura in a hurry.

Natalia breathed a sigh of relief when they left.

On the other side.

Laura and Max went to the museum next to the art exhibition.

It was Max's decision to go to the children's art exhibition, and this time going to the museum was Laura's idea.

Her original plan was to go there alone after packing him off.

However, Max followed her here.

It seemed that he was going to hang out with her.

Although she felt embarrassed, she could not change his mind and she allowed him.

They walked around in this science museum.

Laura was interested in science at first, but she knew now that there was a lot about science that she didn't understand.

Luckily, Max was well versed in science and technology. So with his explanation, she took on a lot of uncharted territories.

She also asked him for some related knowledge that she didn't understand.

Max explained them all to her. They were a little complicated, but she understood most of them.

Just then, a middle-aged man in a suit followed by two staff members came, panting.

As soon as he came, he smiled obsequiously. "Mr. Nixon. Welcome! Why didn't you let me know before you came? I could have given you and your friend a much warmer welcome."

Max nodded, "I'm watching the exhibition with my girlfriend. We don't need your warm welcome."

Girlfriend?

The man was stunned for a moment before he noticed Laura.

Her mask and hat made it difficult for him to recognize. He asked uncertainly, "This is.....How should I call you, Miss?"

Laura looked around and found that there were few people there.

Even if she didn't wear a disguise, people could hardly tell who she was.

Then she put off her hat and mask and smiled politely at the man.

"Hello, I'm Laura Davis."

The man was shocked at the sight of her.

Then he said with an ingratiating smile. "Hello, Miss Davis. I'm Sam Hunt, the curator of this museum. Call me Sam."

Sam was about her father's age,

So she politely called him Curator Hunt.

Sam waved his and said, "Miss Davis, is this your first time here? Would you like me to show you around?"

Max frowned at the third wheel and grumbled, "Mind your own business. We don't need you here!"

Sam took a hint and smiled awkwardly, "Well, enjoy your time then. Feel free to let me know if you need any help."

Max ignored him. Laura gave him a friendly smile and said, "Thanks."

Max's phone rang midway through, and he walked away to answer it. So Laura walked around alone.

Before long, she saw several people walking toward her, one of whom she recognized.

It was Jasmyn Ronaldo, Lily's friend. They often picked on newcomers in the industry.

Laura felt unlucky to meet them here. It seemed that they followed her everywhere.

But Lily was absent this time. There were only Jasmyn and two other ladies from the upper class.

"Shoot! How can I run into them everywhere?"

Jasmyn said in a voice dripping with sarcasm. The two people next to her apparently saw Laura, too. Then they started laughing.

“Hey, what’s your name? Why didn’t you say hello to Miss Ronaldo? Should you be nicer to her?”

“Well, the Ronaldo family is the most prestigious family outside the Big Four. Aren’t you an actress? So is Miss Ronaldo. If you bow down before her, maybe she’ll take you under her wing.”

Then they burst into laughter again.

Laura managed to hold her head high and ignored what they said.

Laura’s attitude provoked an angry response. A woman stepped forward to grab her, “Hey! How dare you! You just ignored my friendly warning!”

Laura turned to look at her.

If she remembered correctly, she was Jasmyn’s cousin, Lotus Ronaldo. She had a bad reputation among Equin’s young ladies. She was a two-faced hypocrite.

Laura sneered and pushed her hand away, “Thank you so much! But I’m just a nobody in the circle. Who am I to not be nice to Lily Thomson.”

“It turns out that you have no ambitions! I guess I overestimated you.”

Jasmyn jibed, “Hey, can you afford anything here?”

Laura wrinkled her brows.

Lotus came forward and said, “I doubt you don’t know it’s a charity exhibition. Everything on display here is for sale and the money will go to the science and technology Institute for research. You didn’t buy anything all this time?”

Laura looked at her empty hands. She really didn’t buy anything.❓

Chapter 582 His Girlfriend

“Bah! Poor wretch! She can’t afford anything!”

The woman next to Lotus said with heaving irony, “Don’t embarrass yourself if you can’t afford them. You are a real eyesore!”

Laura frowned, “Does this museum... belong to your family?”

The woman sneered, “No, but my family donated 10 million dollars. Bumpkin, it’s astronomical to you, right?”

“I say you should get out of here before Jasmyn gets angry and kick your butt out. That will be a pure shame!”

Laura gave a mocking smile. It turned out that they liked to intimidate people under the guise of others' power.

Of course, Laura knew about the donation. Moreover, she knew it was Max who pressed them to do so.

She found it ironic to see their nasty mugs.

“Hey! I’m talking to you. Are you listening?”

Before she could react, one of the women gave her a push angrily.

Laura was still recovering from her foot injury she got on the set before. So she lost her balance and fell flat on her back.

She did not expect her to do so. Just as she was feeling unlucky and talking it all in, she suddenly felt someone’s arms around her waist.

Everyone was shocked. When they saw what he was, they all gulped nervously.

Who was he? He was fantastically handsome!

A rich man? What kind of person could have such charming temperament and appearance? Was he a new star?

Lotus went red in the face. Before she could speak again, she heard the man blurt out in a sulk. “What’s going on? You can’t even protect yourself around these people if I’m not here for you?”

Max’s appearance stunned Laura for a moment. Then she said, “Of course I can.”

“So what’s going on here?”

He looked at those women.

His eyes were as sharp as a sword, which made them tremble uncontrollably.

Lotus frowned, “who are you? Mind your own business!”

Jasmyn and Lotus, who had been studying abroad, returned to the country recently.

For the past six months, he fell in love with Laura, and he had no time to think about anyone but Laura. Tidbits were unlikely to happen to him.

For a long time, he had kept a low profile. So it’s not surprising that they didn’t know him.

Max obviously disdained to answer and just stared at Laura.

Laura said with her mouth twitched. “They called me a bumpkin. They said I couldn’t afford the stuff here and I should leave.”

Max’s face turned cooler, “So you’re just gonna walk away?”

“No!” Laura argued, “They said this museum was financed by the Ronaldo family, and I accidentally offend Miss Ronaldo, so I’m afraid I’ll get kicked out if I don’t leave voluntarily.”

“Coward!” Max sneered. “Jim!”

Suddenly Jim sprung out of nowhere. Then he came over to Max and said respectfully, “yes, sir.”

“Get these women out of here! And tell whoever’s in charge that I own this place now. I’m gonna buy it.”

Laura was speechless.

Buy it?

Buy it?

Buy it?

“Mr. Nixon, this is not a house. This is a museum. And you just bought it without hesitation!”

Laura thought to herself in shock. However, Jim took it seriously and nodded. When he was about to make it happen, Laura stopped him immediately, “Max Nixon, what are you doing?”

“Don’t you love it here? You can come here every day! You will be the only visitor allowed in here if I own it!”

Laura thought he tended to go to extremes. Then she forced a smile and said, “No, no. That will be boring! What I said just now was flippant and off-the-cuff. Don’t take it seriously!”

Those women turned pale at his words. They looked at each other in terror.

Max Nixon?

Was he Max Nixon?

Was he the famous playboy who owned a billion dollars? Was he the favorite grandson of Mrs. Nixon?

Why was he with this poor woman? Why was he so protective of her?

There was fear in those women’s eyes. It didn’t matter if they offend Laura. They were more afraid of Max. They didn’t want to find themselves a dead way!

Lotus caught on and said eagerly, “Mr. Nixon? I’m so sorry! We were just kidding. We know you are a bigger man, and you won’t blame us.

“Yeah! We just wanted to give her a friendly reminder. The person who targets her is Lily, not us.”

“Yes, yes! We meant no harm. We are afraid that she will be bullied.”

Laura looked at these hypocrites and thought that fortunately, she had the foresight not to make friends with them. It would definitely do her no good.

Max was distant and indifferent. He ignored them from the beginning to the end. On hearing the argument Sam rushed over here. His nostrils flared with fear. “What’s happening?”

Jasmyn and Sam were relatives, so they knew each other. She stepped forward to explain. “Sam, there was a misunderstanding. Help us out here.”

Sam’s face darkened suddenly. Then he gave her a glare and snapped, “Don’t be so rude. She’s Mr. Nixon’s girlfriend!”

Laura could clearly see the shock registered on their face when they heard Sam’s words.

She touched her nose and said inwardly, “Oh, ‘Max Nixon’ is a great deterrent!”

If she had known then she would not argue with them.

Jasmyn and the other women were shocked that Laura was Max's girlfriend.

Though they had not met Max before, they had heard of his name.

They knew Max was a playboy, but he didn't like women calling themselves his girlfriend.

He never admitted to having a girlfriend.

After all, for a man of his stature, once he did make it public, it would be a sign of the importance he attached to the woman he loved.

He might even marry her and make her part of the Nixon family.

So even if there was a lot of gossip about him, he never really admitted it.

Chapter 583 Do It Right Now

However, Max actually admitted that this woman was his girlfriend.

This news came as a bombshell, which astonished them.

"Didn't you hear what I said? Kick them out right now!" Max shouted at the curator. Sam's face was ashen and wet with sweat. He snapped, "Are you deaf? Mr. Nixon just bought the place. Get away from here!"

Jasmyn and the other women looked at each other, ashen-faced and they left in despair.

Hunt smiled obsequiously, "Mr. Nixon. The procedure of purchasing..."

"Do it right now!"

"Of course! Consider it done."

Hunt took out his cell phone and wiped the cold sweat from his forehead. Laura felt ashamed, then she pulled at Max's sleeve and whispered, "Max, forget it."

Max looked down at Laura with his lips tight shut.

"Max Nixon....." Laura called him again.

Max remained silent.

Laura had to play her trump card and said in a gentle tone, "Max..."

Sure enough, the corner of his lips twisted, and he began to soften. He said in a low voice, "I told you, you are my woman. It will be a shame for me if you get bullied. I should do something to warn these people, you understand?"

To warn them?

Laura paused, lost in thought.

As Max Nixon's girlfriend, she would probably be a regular presence at some upper-class events. So he did it to save her from being picked on in the future. So he was trying to build her some personal prestige.

Laura ducked her head, tight-lipped. Her mind was filled with a myriad of thoughts.

He didn't always seem to be a pain in the neck.

The museum staff quickly brought some documents over. Hunt asked Max to sign, but Max handed it to Laura.

"Sign them!"

Laura compressed her lips and did what he said.

After she signed, Hunt also signed his name. Then he brought over the letter of assignment.

"Miss Davis, you're gonna own this place from now on. Do you have anything particular in mind to change about this place?"

Laura looked up at Max.

However, he was expressionless, putting an air of being at her disposal.

She thought about it for a while and smiled, "I heard that your original intention of setting up the museum was to encourage young people to pay attention to science and technology and to support the development of it. So why don't we keep it as it is?"

"I'm gonna keep this letter of assignment, but you should keep running this place and donate all profits to the research foundation. Anyway, do it the way you did it before."

Sam was obviously surprised. Then he looked at Laura gratefully.

"Got it, Miss Davies."

She threw Sam a faint smile, then she turned to Max, "Is that OK?"

Max's eyes softened considerably. He petted her head and said, "You are the boss."

Hunt personally saw them out of the museum.

By this time, it was evening. No sooner had they got in the car that Max's phone rang.

Max picked it up and looked at it. However, Laura was in a position where she couldn't see who was calling.

But she saw his forehead was bunched in a frown.

Then he hung up impatiently.

Laura was surprised.

She could not help asking, because she wanted to know, "Who was it?"

Max turned to her and narrowed his eyes with a smirk.

"You wanna know?"

Laura paused for a moment, then she caught on at once. He wouldn't tell her easily.

She turned away quickly and put on a long face and said, "Whatever."

Seeing her attitude, Max's smile vanished and his face darkened.

He sat in the driver's seat, holding the steering wheel in silence for a long time, "I'll pick you up at my place this weekend."

Laura was taken aback when she understood what he meant.

"What do you mean? To your place?"

Max responded with a sneer, "Do you think I'm kidding?"

Laura was in a state of shock. She never thought he would make such a request.

Did he have any idea what it meant to bring her home?

A family like the Nixon family would never allow women in lightly.

They all fell silent, and there was a frigid atmosphere in the car.

It was a long time before Laura spoke.

"Max, I don't think it should be taken lightly. You know I'm an actress. We are not a... good match."

She called up all her courage to tell him.

Max frowned as he listened.

He turned to look at her with mixed feelings.

"I'll have the final say."

Laura also frowned at his words.

"But it bears on my future, and I have a vote."

"Hum! A vote?"

He sneered and leaned over her suddenly.

There wasn't much space in the car with a downbeat vibe inside. His proximity made her feel even more oppressed.

She looked at Max's face and moved back subconsciously until she was cornered.

He leaned over her, one hand against the car door and the other tightly wrapped around her, and looked down at her.

The air of superiority (no doubt fostered from his wealthy upbringing) that he exuded in spades took her breath away.

Her heart beat faster, and her muscles got tense. She looked away, too afraid to make eye contact with him.

Then she stammered, "You.....What are you doing?"

Max reached out and played with a lock of her hair in his palm. Then he said to her in a relaxing tone,

"Nothing. But look at the beautiful moon tonight, don't you think we should do something under the moonlight? Well, since we're a couple, maybe we should do something couples do? So that we could live up to the right place and right time.

Laura stiffened at what he said.

Then she looked at him in disbelief.

Chapter 584 The Right Place and the Right Time

What the hell was he talking about!

Did he want to have sex in the car?

Her previous nervousness gave way to anger.

She pushed him away and shouted, "Max Nixon. You've gone too far!"

Max narrowed his eyes and laughed. But he didn't seem happy. A certain coolness emanated from him.

He did not mind her resistance, but pretended to dust himself. He said, "I just want to remind you that since you have agreed to be my girlfriend, there is no chance of bargaining now. You must do what I ask unconditionally."

Laura was annoyed by his insolence. Then she said through gritted teeth, "You..."

Suddenly he came close to her with a smile and whispered, "You know, I like it when you're mad at me. You make it more challenging for me to conquest. I'm so in love with the aggressive Laura. So don't expect me to give up on you because of this. You're just turning me on."

Then he let out a big laugh and pressed his foot down on the pedal suddenly.

He drove so fast that Laura didn't have time to react.

Instinctively, she clenched the door handle and screamed, "Max, are you crazy?"

However, he paid no attention to her.

He always seemed to be a man who showed a total disregard for other people's feelings.

Laura felt her stomach knot with fear, with tears welling up in her eyes.

Thinking of her mother still lying in the hospital, she could only humble herself and beg him.

"Slow down! This is dangerous!"

However, he didn't do it.

He even did a smooth technical drift around the corner ahead.

Then Max responded with insolent words.

"Unless you're willing to go home with me, I won't slow down."

Laura was speechless.

He was not negotiating with her at all. He was forcing her to say yes.

Even if she agreed to it, it was not her original intention.

She couldn't be bothered arguing with this unreasonable man. Maybe she was influenced by him - the more aggressive he was, the less she wanted to compromise, as if giving in to him was a betrayal of herself.

She resolutely refused to compromise.

So Laura gripped the door handle and ground her teeth in a fit of pique. No matter how fast he drove, she remained silent.

Max knew she would be afraid, so he was waiting for her to beg for mercy.

After a long time, however, she still said nothing.

He couldn't help but look at her curiously.

He saw that she held the handle tightly. Though her face turned pale with fright, she closed her eyes and gritted her teeth.

She didn't even look at him, let alone beg for mercy.

She had some fearlessness in her.

Max didn't understand why she was so stubborn.

Did she really hate him?

Rage consumed him, and his smile vanished from his handsome face. Suddenly he became cold and indifferent.

His expression grew solemn. Instead of slowing down, he slammed down the pedal and the car picked up speed again.

For a moment, Laura thought she was not in a car, but in a plane, or a rocket.

Especially after the acceleration, she felt faint, and her heart began to palpitate.

She was only a girl after all, and how could she endure such torture.

After a while, tears burst out her eyes. She finally broke down and cried out.

So such a strange scene happened on the road at night.

A black Ferrari was speeding along the road. A girl in the passenger seat screamed at the top of her lungs, but the driver showed no emotion.

And the speed remained fast.

Laura really thought he was a lunatic.

She thought that he was bluffing.

She thought he would slow down.

After all, it was too dangerous.

For the sake of his safety, he shouldn't have been so reckless.

She did not know that Max had lost his mind when he realized her rejection of him and her unwillingness to marry him.

He treated her sincerely and never minded that she was engaged to Isaac Morgan before. All he wanted to do was take her home and protect her. Why didn't she get it?

He wanted to be responsible for her.

Why did she reject him time and again?

Was she not interested in him at all?

Did she not like him at all?

His pride was shattered at the thought.

He didn't want to admit that his passion for her made him blind to everything else.

He would rather die with her than lose her.

This idea shocked him when it suddenly floated into his mind.

The car jerked to a halt on the side of the road, which overwhelmed Laura a lot.

Then she hurriedly opened the door and discomfited from the car.

To be honest, she was about to get carsick and throw up.

Her stomach felt weird.

She rushed to the side of the road and threw up in the grass.

Max, who was sitting in the car, looked at the vomiting woman with a fierce look and held the steering wheel tightly.

Even the joints of his fingers were pale.

It was a long time before she felt better. Then she took out a bottle of water in her bag and rinsed her mouth before turning to look at him in the car in disappointment.

"Max Nixon, if you wanna die, kill yourself, and leave me alone! I wanna live!"

After a pause, she said angrily, "I'm telling you, I regret this! Our deal doesn't hold anymore. I'm breaking up with you now! Don't ever talk to me again!"

"Stop threatening me with my mother's life. I won't suck it up anymore!"

Chapter 585 A Happy Ending

"If you don't give up, I will fight to the very end, but we're so OVER!"

Then she strode on without looking back.

This time Laura was terribly frightened.

She was not stupid. She could see that Max was tempted to die with her.

He lost his mind!

It didn't matter if she was dead, but what about her mother?

He was so selfish! He did this to her just because she refused to go home with him.

Laura was pretty cut up, wiping her eyes as she walked.

All the grievances and sadness had turned into tears.

She didn't know how long she had been walking, but she knew her legs went numb.

So she found a place by the roadside and sat down.

In a place she did not notice, a black Ferrari was following her quietly.

Max's heart ached when he saw she wept bitter tears and curled up in a tight ball, with her knees tucked up at her chin.

In fact, he didn't know what was wrong with him, like a man possessed.

He was desperate for her to say yes.

Even if it was wrong.

He was tormented by feelings of insecurity.

As if a nod from her would prove that she cared about him,

and she didn't seem to hate him that much.

He didn't mean to hurt her!

He loved her so much that he would die for her. How could he let her die with him?

Max closed his eyes in agony.

After a long time, he lit a cigarette with trembling fingers.

It was eleven at night.

There wasn't a soul in sight on this lonely road.

Laura sat quietly with her head between her laps. He wondered if she was still crying.

He sat in the car smoking. Until he had finished his last cigarette, he got out of the car.

Laura was actually tired of crying.

She didn't say any of those words out of anger, but that was not how she really felt, either.

She was too tired to walk. And the coldness of the night made her even weaker.

So she sat there cuddling her legs to stay warm.

At that moment, she felt a little warm.

Looking up, she beheld Max's handsome face.

His face was overcast with coolness. His features stood out boldly against the dim street light.

The smile in his amorous eyes was replaced by indifference.

He took off his coat and put it over her, leaving only a white shirt. The smell of smoke still clung to his clothes.

A mood of melancholy descended on her. Then her nose twitched.

Just as she was about to question him, she did not expect him to bend down and pick her up in his arms.

His arms were strong and seemed more reliable than usual.

At the moment, he looked mature like a real man who was upright and responsible, shouldering all the burdens of hers.

Max didn't say a word the whole time.

He helped her into the car and carefully fastened her seat belt. Then he got in the driver's seat and started the car.

They drove along the quiet road. For a long time, they didn't say anything.

There was dead silence in the car, but the silence seemed to be louder than any words.

Half an hour later, the car arrived at Laura's apartment.

Somehow, Laura was disappointed at the moment.

She knew very well that she was safe now.

And she would not be hurt by him anymore. However, there was nothing left inside – no words, no anger, no tears. Yet for all that, she felt wretched.

She finally got out of the car without uttering a word.

As soon as she got out of the car, she remembered that she still had his coat on her, so she gave it back to him.

Max stared at her out of those washed-out eyes.

His eyes barely moved until he saw her put the coat on the passenger seat.

Instead of looking at him, she walked toward her apartment slowly.

She wondered why she walked so slowly, as if her feet were tied.

Her every step was heavy.

'It's all over,' a tiny inner voice said.

It was all over!

No matter how regretful and reluctant she felt, it was OVER.

From now on, they had nothing to do with each other - no one would give her a hard time anymore; no one would ever make her angry.

But at the same time, no one would stand up for her in her darkest hour.

Her life would get back to stillness and vapidness.

But was that what she wanted?

She lost her heart a long time ago, didn't she?

She would never forget the sunny afternoon when she went to the Nixon house to look for her friend, Max.

But Max was not at home. The servants liked her so much that they let her wait for him in the living room while playing with some toys.

She waited for him happily.

But the person she saw, in the end, was Max's mother -

Christine Nixon

She was a supercilious lady.

A maid followed her that day. Seeing that Laura was here, she joked, "Miss Davies was Max's good friend. They are like peas and carrots. They might be a cute couple in the future."????

Chapter 586 Painful Memories

It was just a mindless joke that the grown-ups made.

However, Christine's expression changed drastically upon hearing that.

She abruptly looked over her shoulder at her maid with a stern face and snarled, "Don't talk nonsense! Don't you know how distinguished we Nixons are? Max's wife will either be a princess or the daughter of an equally prestigious family. How could it be that no-name chick?"

"She's just the daughter of an adjutant. My husband only allowed her to come over because he thought highly of her father. But you should be noted that we Nixons are no longer in the military system. Thus, that adjutant is of little use to us. Can he provide any kind of help to Max in the business world?"

"From now on, I don't wanna hear anything like that ever again. We Nixons will never allow our son to marry such a low-born woman, understand?"

Her maid never thought Christine would be so serious about this. Her face paled with fright.

She answered, "Yes, Mrs. Nixon. I understand."

Christine then nodded with satisfaction and continued to walk to the living room.

Yet, just as they stepped into the living room, they saw a little girl standing there, looking at them with an innocent expression on her face.

She was actually not very little. She was already nine and could understand much more than the grown-ups thought.

She didn't completely grasp the content of their conversation. But girls matured earlier than boys. Even though she had no idea why they talked about her and Max becoming a couple, she could tell that Christine disliked and even detested her from her tone.

The maid's countenance altered the moment she saw the girl.

She scurried over with embarrassment and asked with a guilty smile, "Miss Davies, what are you doing here? Why didn't you say hi to us? We didn't see you here."

Her eyes registered panic. Her movements were flustered as well. She seized Laura by the arm with extra force, which made her little arm ache.

But little Laura didn't show any bit of pain on her face. Instead, she just stared unblinkingly at Christine.

Christine looked at her coldly. Though she had just been caught speaking ill of the Davies family behind their backs, her face revealed not a single trace of embarrassment or guilt.

She just fixed her cold eyes on Laura, then gave a contemptuous laugh.

"Now you're here, go have some snacks in the backyard."

After saying that, she turned around to lead Laura to the backyard.

Unexpectedly, Laura said in a clear voice, "No need, Mrs. Nixon."

She put down the toys she was holding one by one and organized them orderly on the table.

Then, fearlessly, she drew herself to her full height, looked at Christine, and said word by word, "I've had so much fun today. Thank you for having me. I'm going home."

With that said, she turned around and ran out of the house.

She had not revisited the Nixon family since then.

She would never forget the disdainful and withering look Christine gave her.

It was the first time that she had sensed hostility in the world since she was born.

She used to be her parents' beloved little princess, too. Although Mr. Davies was not very well off, he had worked for Mr. Nixon for years and made great contributions during the war, which also brought him great fortune.

Otherwise, when he took his wife and Laura to live in the south, he couldn't have immediately bought a house and started a business.

Thus, before her father died, her family was fairly loaded.

But at that time, Christine still showed undisguised despise toward her family circumstances.

She looked at Laura as if she was a piece of sticky gum her family couldn't shake off. Laura could never forget that look, nor did she want to see that look again.

That was why up to this time, she still refrained from being together with Max.

She didn't want to see Christine's loathly look. She also hated to see her aged mother be maliciously mistaken by that woman.

She knew that the real reason why she and Max started dating didn't matter because when Christine heard about it, she would jump to the conclusion that Laura had bent over backward to seduce her son for money.

Laura didn't want to be mistaken, nor did she want to argue with that woman.

She didn't refute when she was nine. She certainly wouldn't do that when she was 23.

While contemplating, Laura shuffled ahead.

"I've made up my mind. Why do tears keep coming out?" she asked herself inwardly.

She could only lift her arm and wipe her tears with her sleeve again and again.

"Laura Davies, stay strong!"

"He's just a man."

"He is not the only man in the world. There are still other fish in the sea. Losing him is no big deal, right?"

"For your pride and your self-esteem, you gotta pull yourself together. Never let yourself be looked down upon by others, and never let your mother worry about you at such an old age."

With that in mind, she quickened her pace and headed inside.

Just then, she heard hurried footsteps from behind.

As if realizing something, Laura's face turned pallid, and she walked faster.

Yet, no matter how fast she walked, how could she be faster than a man?

A moment later, Max swiftly wrapped his arms around her from behind.

Laura struggled as she yelled, "Max, let me go!"

"No, I won't."

Max held her so tight that it hurt. He seemed to be trying to pull Laura into his own body.

He placed his head on her shoulder, feeling her quivers. In a low, pained voice, he said, "Laura, don't break up with me."

Laura was staggered!

She instantly stopped flailing.

Unable to believe her ears, she said, "What did you say?"

Max repeated, "don't break up with me!"

As he spoke, he held her even more tightly, as though he was worried that she would vanish at any moment.

His voice revealed that he could no longer suppress his feelings and his unwillingness to part ways with Laura.

"I don't care why you're leaving me, nor do I care if you like me or not. I just want you to know that I love you, and I'm hopelessly in love with you. You're either going to be with me, or you'll have to kill me. I can't bear to live without you. Nor can I stand seeing you dating other men."

"Whenever I think of you with another man, I feel like I'm going crazy. Laura, don't push me. Don't test my feelings for you, because I really don't know what I'd do if I lose you."

"Give me another chance. Can you drop all your prejudices and give us another chance to start over? If you don't wanna meet my family, you don't have to. As long as you are happy and you promise me that you'll never leave me, you can do whatever you want. If you still don't love me after you try, then I'll give up."❏

Chapter 587 Start over

Laura shuddered in astonishment again.

She never thought Max would say those things to her.

His tone was extremely sincere and miserable. He was like a dying person waiting for her rescue.

She never knew he had already loved her to the marrow. This was unbelievable!

How proud and unrestrained Max usually was!

It was as if nothing in the world could make him bow his head.

But now, he was holding her, begging her to love him...

Tears suddenly rolled down Laura's cheeks.

After a long while, Laura finally said softly with a broken voice, "Max, do you even know what you're saying?"

"Yes."

Max said in a coarse voice, "Sorry. I thought I shouldn't tell you my true feelings until you said yes to me. I had been waiting for you to approach me. But I forgot that it was me who started this relationship, and it was also me who took the initiative to approach you first."

"Sorry that my pride hurt you. I once thought of giving up, but I couldn't. So, Laura, would you give me a second chance?"

"This time, our relationship is not a deal and it should be unconditional. We'll just be together as any other couples do. You can also throw tantrums at me and tell me anything you wanna say. Let's date for real for once, OK?"

Hearing his words, Laura cried even harder.

But Max didn't know that, because Laura was facing him with her back.

After a long time, Laura fought back her tears with difficulty and said, "Why bother?"

Yeah, why bother trying?

She knew perfectly that she would not agree to be with him no matter how well they got along.

Also, she was fully aware that Like moths flying to the fire, all their efforts would go wasted and they might even hurt themselves.

Thus, what was the point of trying again?

What did he see in her? Why would he strive to be with her?

Max gave a wry smile.

Truthfully, he didn't know why he insisted on trying so hard either.

Yet, a small voice in his head told him that if he didn't make an effort tonight, he might never have a chance again.

He was just trying to... hold on to the only woman he had ever loved wholeheartedly!

Max asked in an undertone, "Do you still hate me?"

Laura didn't say a word.

Max continued, "I threatened you with your mother's life. I had sex with you without your permission. And I often picked on you. Don't you hate me to the gut?"

Laura wanted to say no.

But the word that came out was "yes".

Max laughed, as if mocking himself.

"This is why you should promise me. You gotta seize the chance to torture me and get back at me for all the sufferings I've put you through. What do you say?"

Laura's tears, which had stopped running due to her effort, burst out again.

"Max, what should I do with you..." she thought to herself.

As if sensing that she was crying, Max finally let her go. He held her by the shoulders and turned her around to face him.

Then, he lowered his head, cupped his hands around her face, and began to kiss her teardrops.

The tears slipped into his mouth, which tasted salty and bitter.

But Max didn't mind. He didn't begin to kiss her on the lips until his kiss made all her tears go away.

This kiss was extremely soft and gentle.

Max had kissed Laura many times. But he never kissed her as tenderly as he did this time. It was as if he was kissing the most precious pearl in the world. His lips gently brushed past every inch of her skin, as though he was trying to melt her into his body.

The moonlight poured through the leaves and formed rings of white light and dark shades on the ground.

Max and Laura were immersed in the kiss, as though there were nothing else but them in the world.

Luckily, it was late at night, and no one was around.

With the dim light, if one didn't get close, they wouldn't even notice there were two people standing there.

The kiss went on for God knew how long. It was not until Laura felt she was about to suffocate that Max let her go.

But the break only lasted for a brief moment. He pressed his forehead against hers. His deep eyes registered the kind of affection he had never revealed before.

When Laura caught her breath, Max's lips stole over her again.

It seemed that Max wanted the kiss to last forever. Bit by bit, his tender love melted her heart.

Laura felt that her body was quivering. Her legs seemed to be made of jelly. If Max hadn't been supporting her, she would almost collapse to the ground.

There were light chirps of bugs in the woods.

This place was quiet and serene.

This time, the kiss also lasted for a long while before Max let her off the hook.

Max's eyes were smiley again. Perhaps he started to smile when Laura couldn't help but fall into his arms, or when she was moved and began to passionately respond to his kiss.

Anyway, Max seemed over the moon. His eyes glinted brightly in the darkness as he gazed at her.

Feeling uncomfortable to be stared at, Laura looked away, her cheeks burning with a blush. She asked, "What's so funny?"

Max took her to his bosom and said with irrepressible exultation, "Does this mean you've forgiven me?"

Laura froze in place.

Max gazed at her with expectant and timid eyes.

Laura gave an almost imperceptible nod and said "Yeah".

Like a child who attained candy, Max instantly carried her into his arms in raptures.

Being caught off guard, Laura was startled by Max. He held her and spun around several times before putting her down.

Laura slapped Max on the shoulder with exasperation and said, "Stop it! That was kinda scary!"

Elated, Max said with a smile, "Laura, thank you."

Laura felt rather doleful.

She forced a smile and said, "What for?"

"Thank you for giving me a second chance."

As Max spoke, he grabbed her hand and placed it on his chest.

"I know I'm not a good-tempered person. And I've done a lot of things to hurt you before. But don't worry. I will not repeat my mistakes. I'll never let you down on any account again."

A little taken aback, Laura looked up at Max.

Seeing his earnest look, she felt like crying again for no reason.

She managed a smile, pulled her hand out of Max's grip, and said, "That we can talk about later."

Noticing that Laura didn't seem very happy about this, Max thought that she hadn't really believed in what he had promised. He then told himself that she would believe it when she saw his action.

Chapter 588 Someone Is in the Room

Thus, Max decided not to worry too much.

Laura consulted her watch.

"It's late. I gotta go to bed."

Max was very unwilling to let her go. After all, they had just decided to be a couple. It was normal for him to find it tormenting to be separated from Laura.

But he also knew that he should take it slow at the beginning of their relationship. If not, his effort might yield an opposite effect.

Therefore, Max nodded, held her hand, and said, "I'll walk you to your apartment."

Laura didn't say no this time.

Max walked Laura to the door of her apartment and watched her unlock the door and enter her apartment. Just then, he grabbed her hand and placed another kiss on her lips before waving goodbyes at her with reluctance.

Smiling, Laura watched him leave. They really looked like two love birds.

Elevator soon arrived. Max walked in. The door slid shut and the elevator went downstairs.

Right after Max left, the smile on Laura's face dissolved.

She closed the door, buried her face in her hands, and limply slumped onto the floor.

Laura had only turned on the light in the hall. The dim, yellow light poured on her, making her look like an isolated island floating helplessly in the dark.

She sat on the carpet, with her arms around her knees, her face buried in between her legs. She felt all her vigor had been sapped. Now she didn't even have the energy to move a finger.

She was drained from inside out.

She knew that Max was truly in love with her. What he said tonight was all from the bottom of his heart.

But that was exactly why she was so worried.

She was worried that she wasn't as good as he thought.

She was worried that someday, she would let him down.

Thinking of that, Laura heaved a sigh. After taking a moment to calm her nerves, she prepared to stand up.

However, just then, she heard the sound of long and slow breathing in the room.

Her body went stiff at once. She was dumbstruck.

To be precise, that was not the sound of breathing but a man's snore.

"Someone is in my bedroom?"

This realization caused Laura's face to pale.

After hesitating for moments, she banished the idea of calling Max, who just left, to come back.

Instead, she tiptoed into the kitchen and grabbed a knife. Then, walking in light steps, she headed for her bedroom.

She did not know who was making the noise from inside her bedroom.

But this man had shown up uninvited in her apartment late at night. Even a fool should know he was up to no good.

"Is he a crazy fan of mine?"

"Or rather..."

She did not dare to turn on the light for fear of waking up the intruder. To be safe, she entered 911 into her phone and held a finger above the "Call" button. Once anything bad happened, she would call the police.

The light emitted from her phone screen was enough to light up a small area around it. Holding the phone in her hand, she slowly walked toward the bedroom.

The bedroom door was only half-closed.

She gently pushed the door open. In the dim light, she saw that a man seemed to be lying on her bed.

That man was lying on his side, facing her with his back. He had even pulled the blanket over him.

The room was too dark. All the light Laura had was the bleak moonlight outside the window and the faint light from her phone screen. Thus, she couldn't tell who he was. But judging by his figure, he should be a slim, middle-aged man.

He was sleeping soundly, as though he were in his own apartment. He snored loudly now and then.

Laura held the knife a little higher. On second thought, she noiselessly put the knife in her other hand and then grabbed a stick that she used to hang her laundry.

After getting her weapons ready, she came to the bed and struck with the stick.

Painful howls immediately reverberated in the room.

Laura didn't dare to speak in case the man recognized her voice. She was a public figure after all. Thus, she just kept hitting him, hoping that she could drive him out.

As expected, after being awakened by violence, the muddled man instinctively leaped to his feet and ran for the door.

Laura also went after him, brandishing the stick.

Suddenly, one of them accidentally pressed the switch in the wall during the chase.

The light in the living room was switched on.

The next moment, Laura saw a familiar figure.

She was stupefied at once.

"Diego?"

Laura dropped the stick. Shocked and enraged, she shouted, "Why are you here?"

Diego also came to his senses. He was preparing to run to the outside with his arms covering his head. But at the sight of Laura, he immediately flared up.

He put down his arms and pointed at her, snarling, "You d*mn girl, how dare you hit me? I'm your father!"

He was not afraid of Laura at all. He even believed that he had kept her on a tight rein.

He chose to run before because he was light in the head after being woken up so abruptly. When the stick clouted at him, he subconsciously wanted to dodge.

Now, he had realized what just happened, so he felt rather angry and mortified. Over the years, he was always the one who tyrannized Laura and her mother. When had he ever been hit by them?

Laura's face turned stony. She said coldly, "What are you doing here?"

"I'm here because..."

Diego broke off because he suddenly caught sight of the knife in Laura's other hand. His expression altered with some awkwardness.

Then, he said, "Put that thing down and let's talk."

Now Laura knew the intruder was her stepfather, she certainly didn't need weapons anymore. Therefore, she let go of the knife.

After that, she sat down on the sofa, crossed her legs, and said impatiently, "Get to the point!"

It was not until this moment that Diego came over in relief and sat down on the other end of the sofa.

He looked at Laura in silence for seconds. Then, out of the blue, he spoke, "I heard that you've found a suitable heart for your mother's transplant surgery, right?"

Stunned, Laura looked at him in disbelief.

"How did you know?"

She had received a call from Natalia the other day, who told her that there was hope for the surgery. She then mentioned this to her mother when she went to visit her.

She did this because she wanted her mother to relax and worry less about her illness.

Knowing her mother, she didn't think her mother would tell Diego this news. Anyway, Diego probably didn't know she was living in St. Peter's. Even if he knew, he might not be able to get in there.

Besides, her mother knew very well what kind of man Diego was. She certainly couldn't talk to him about this.

Hence, Laura was very surprised when she heard Diego bring this up.

Diego gave a cold laugh and said, "How I got the news is not important. She's my wife after all. Now a suitable heart is available, she can have the surgery very soon, right? As her husband, it's only proper that I go over to take care of her. Don't you think so?"

Laura's brow furrowed deeply.

She knew Diego too well. He would not do anything for others if there was no gain for him.

But Diego just volunteered to look after her mother.

This was ridiculous.

Laura had no idea what he was up to.

President's Sweet Wife

Chapter 589 Don't Put on an Act

But Laura was sure that no matter what game Diego was playing, he was up to no good.

Therefore, she would on no account allow him to look after her mother.

With that in mind, Laura rejected without hesitation, "No need. She's fine without you."

Diego's face fell at once.

“Laura, what did you just say! At the end of the day, she's my wife, and you're my daughter! Your mother and I haven't divorced yet. We're still married by law. As her lawful husband, I'm entitled to visit her when she is hospitalized.”

Laura tilted her head and stared at Diego coldly.

A while later, she let out a sneer.

“Knock it off. You don't have to put on an act for me. My mother hasn't been well for years. She's been in and out of hospital at least eight times during this marriage. When have you ever cared to visit her in the hospital?”

“But now, you scampered over to show your care for her and volunteered to look after her after you learned that she's going to have surgery. Diego, what're you up to? Why not put all your cards on the table?”

“This way, at least we can have a fair negotiation. If your terms are not too demanding, I'll perhaps give you what you want. But you're asking to see my mother? Hell no!”

Diego's countenance altered the moment these words came out.

He leaped to his feet, glared at Laura, and bellowed, “Laura Davies, don't go too far! She's my wife! What right do you have to stop me from seeing her? I can see her if I want!”

Laura also stood up and gazed at him with a cold smile on her face.

“Your wife? Have you ever performed any duties as her husband over the years? Have you given her any help or taken care of her? Did you stay with her when she was ill or having a hard time?”

“No, you were never there for her! All you did was abuse her and ridicule her. You stole her hard-earned savings and lost them in gambling again and again. All you gave her was a broken heart and disappointment. How do you have the face to come to me and say that you're her husband?”

“Smack!”

A hard slap hit Laura's face as she said the last word.

Diego was shaking with fury.

He glowered at Laura, as though he wanted to shoot laser beams from his eyes and burn several holes in her body.

“How, how dare you! Do you really think you've all grown up and can teach me how to live my life instead? Today, I gotta...”

As he roared, he raised his arm again, ready to slap.

Right at this moment, Laura's phone rang.

The cheerful ringtone interrupted the bitterly hostile scene. Laura hurried to the coffee table and fetched her phone out of her purse.

The phone screen showed that the caller was Max.

All her grievances and fear seemed to have burst out at this moment.

Tears streamed down her face nonstop. She cast a backward glance at Diego and then answered the call without hesitation.

“Hello.”

The moment she picked up the call, Diego opened his mouth as if wanting to stop her.

But it was too late.

Laura had pressed the “Accept” button and deliberately turned the speaker on.

Max’s tender voice came from the other side of the line.

“Laura, have you turned in?”

Laura vigorously fought back her sobs. She put her fist into her mouth, trying to speak in her regular voice.

“Not yet. What’s up?”

“Well...” Max said with a trace of pleased laughter. His voice was extremely sweet and tender.

“It’s just that I miss you. I called you just to hear your voice. It’s late. Go to bed.”

Laura forced a smile, even though she knew Max couldn’t see it. She muttered, “Yeah. You should rest, too.”

“Good night.”

“Yeah, good night.”

After hanging up, Laura turned around to look at the dumbfounded Diego.

She then held up her phone and waved.

“What? Do you still wanna hit me now?”

Diego’s expression changed. He was so furious that he could almost breathe fire.

How could he forget that man’s voice? That caller was the one who ordered his bodyguards to beat him for Laura’s sake at the bar.

Afterward, he couldn’t stand being humiliated like that, so he sent people to investigate who that man was.

But no one succeeded in finding out that his identity.

This didn’t make Diego feel relieved. On the contrary, it put him on his guard.

Although he had remained a hooligan for decades, he had indeed seen the world.

He knew that there were many powerful forces in Egitin. Now he couldn’t find out the identity of that man, it meant that man was likely to be a big wig.

Besides, given Laura's current status in the entertainment circle, she could easily come into contact with such a powerful figure.

As he thought of that, the fury in Diego's eyes dimmed.

He laughed without humor. Fixing his eyes on Laura, he said with contempt, "Good for you. Never thought you'd associate with the upper-class. Well, that's alright. Though I'm not your birth father, at least I raised you up. Now you're famous, it's good that you can find a rich man and get married. When you do, don't forget to tell your husband to treat his father-in-law nicely."

His words irked Laura so much that she directly rolled her eyes at him.

"Back then, this man often rebuked and beat me. The times he brought money home could be counted on one finger. Most of the time, he took money from my mother and me to buy drinks and gamble. How could he say that he raised me?"

"He's really thick-skinned!" Laura refuted inwardly.

Not in the mood to argue with Diego, she directly ordered him to leave.

"Will you leave or not? If you don't, I'll call the police!"

To her dismay, Diego wasn't scared at all.

Instead of living, he lay down on the sofa. With a detestable smile on his face, he said, "Go ahead. Call the police! Then everyone would know I'm the father of you. The people in the entertainment circle would all despise you!"

Laura furrowed her eyebrows.

Sure enough, the normal way wouldn't work on a rascal like Diego.

She took a deep breath to suppress her anger.

Once again, she said, "Fine. Then stop beating around the bush. Just tell me why you came here today."

Diego didn't say a word. He merely held up his thumb and index finger and rubbed them against each other.

He wanted money!

Laura laughed out of rage.

She had guessed that this was why Diego came to her. Still, she couldn't help getting angry when she saw him ask her for money again.

Laura deliberated for moments, deciding not to reject him right away.

She got up, walked into her bedroom, and got a check.

Diego's eyes lit up when he saw the cheque in Laura's hand.

"Holy Moly! Where did she hide this baby?"

Why didn't I find it when I searched the room?" Diego thought to himself.

Laura stared warily at his greedy eyes but didn't give him the check immediately.

She paused when she was a few steps from him. Looking at him, she said, "You want money? Fine. Here is 5 million. It's all I've got. You know, I've spent almost all the money I made on you and my mother all these years."██████

President's Sweet Wife

Chapter 590 Agreeing to Get a Divorce

Diego immediately reached out for the check. Meanwhile, with a voracious look on his face, he mumbled, "Good, good. Five million will do."

But Laura took a step back right before his hand reached the check.

Diego froze for a moment.

Then, Laura said word by word, "You can have it if you promise me something."

Diego immediately frowned in annoyance.

"Nonsense! I'm your father. I have every right to have your money. Why do I have to promise you anything in return?"

Laura almost laughed out loud after hearing this.

Diego joined hands with others to gang up on her the other day at that bar. But now, he saw her as his daughter now?

Who gave him the nerve to make that speech?

Laura didn't want to bicker with him. She said bluntly, "You take the money and divorce my mother. If not, I'd rather burn this check than give you a penny."

Diego was stupefied as he heard this.

In fact, several years ago, Laura's mother already asked Diego to divorce her.

But at that time, Diego wouldn't agree no matter what. The court could only tell them to come back and file the divorce application again when they reached an agreement. At last, because Diego didn't agree, Laura's mother didn't get a divorce.

In the years afterward, Laura's mother tried to end their marriage several times, but Diego always said no.

Laura knew that getting a divorce was the only way that she and her mother could shake off this ruffian for good.

Yet, Diego was a scoundrel. Since he knew Laura had become a celebrity, he realized that he had gained a money tree.

As long as he was married to Laura's mother, Laura couldn't get away from him. So how could he agree to get a divorce?

Knowing this, Laura could only lure Diego into divorcing her mother by offering him a big, fat check.

As she expected, Diego's face darkened the instant he heard his words.

He eyed Laura coldly and said with a sneer, "Your mother and I have been married for more than a decade. I didn't agree to divorce her a few years ago, nor will I do that now. But today, you're asking me to get a divorce? Do you think of me as a fool? Perhaps you're the fool instead!"

Laura knew he would say that. Instead of getting angry, she put the check away.

In a cool voice, she said, "Now that you insist, I have no choice. The bottom line is, no divorce, no money. I know you're resourceful. Bring it on. See if you can scare me and make me yield."

She had had enough!

She didn't want to live one more day in hopelessness and fear again.

She had given this matter some thought and had thought this through.

It was hopeful that her mother could get better after the surgery. As long as what Natalia told her was true, her mother could soon have the surgery.

Then, if Diego really threatened to expose her past or mar her reputation and career by telling others he was her stepfather, she would just let him!

If that happened, she could go abroad with her mother or move to a remote village. Even if she stepped out of the limelight, she and her mother could still live a good life.

Seeing that Laura seemed bent on making him end the marriage with her mother, Diego began to panic.

"Laura, you can't do this to me! I'm your stepfather after all. How could you force your stepfather to divorce your mother?"

Laura said aloofly, "I've laid out the options for you, but you refused to make a choice."

After a short pause, she continued, "It's late. You should go. Or I'll call security."

Diego's face was somewhat pallid. He stared angrily at Laura, as though hoping to slice a chunk of flesh off her.

"Don't, don't need to threaten me. I'm telling you, if you drive me to a corner, I'll really go to the media and tell them all about your past. After that, you won't be able to make a penny anymore. How would you support your mother..."

Laura's patience had run out. She fished out her phone and prepared to call the property management.

"Why can't the property management people do anything right? I pay such a high property management fee every month. But is that all for nothing?"

"How could they let any random guy enter the neighborhood?" she complained inwardly.

In truth, she still hadn't figured out how Diego found out where she lived and how he managed to get in.

Realizing that Laura was really kicking him out, Diego knew he must do something. He didn't want to lose both his family and the money.

He pounced forward and snatched Laura's phone, saying, "OK! OK! I'll do it!"

Laura arched her brow.

She turned around and looked at Diego incredulously.

"Are you sure?"

Diego gritted his teeth. He thought of the debt he built up recently and his maddening urge to gamble.

If he couldn't lay his hand on some money, he would die!

Thus, he nodded without hesitation.

"Yes, I'm sure, only you must double the payment."

Frowning, Laura uttered, "You want 10 million?"

"No! Give me 12!" Diego said, panting.

When he said the number, his eyes turned scarlet with greed, and his smile became ferocious, too.

"As a popular star, you earn at least tens of million per year. I've raised you for more than 10 years. All I'm asking is a year of your income. That's not too much, is it?"

Laura looked at him with a poker face.

"Twelve million?"

"How dare he make such a request!"

"But if 12 million can exchange for a peaceful life for me and my mother, that's a price worth paying."

Thinking of that, Laura gnashed her teeth and agreed.

"Fine! I'll give you 12 million. But you must divorce my mother right now. I'll give you the money after the formalities are completed."

But Diego was very canny.

He saw the loophole in her words in a second.

He instantly shook his head with a serious face and said, "No, I can't agree with that. Who knows if you're setting me up? What if you refuse to pay me after I get divorced?"

Laura knitted her brows and cast him a contemptuous look.

"Do you think everyone is as cheeky as you?"

Diego was stumped for words.

However, he knew now was not the time to lash out.

He mused for moments and then suggested, "How about this? You give me half of the money first so that I won't have to worry if you will go back on your words. Then, I'll come to the City Hall with you to get the paperwork done. Anyway, we have to wait till tomorrow before we can get started with the divorce procedures. Why not pay me a deposit first?"

Laura laughed out loud, "Diego, you're really shameless."

Still, to send him away as soon as possible, Laura took out a bank card from her purse and threw it at him.

"There is some money in this card. Take this. If you truly show up tomorrow to sign the divorce papers, I promise you'll have the rest of 12 million."

Diego took the card, overjoyed, not paying attention to what Laura said at all.

With his eyes riveted on the card, he asked, "How much does it have?"

Laura loathed this expression on his face. In an irritated tone, she said, "Forty grand."

Diego's eyes widened in shock.

"What? Only 40 grand? You think you can get rid of me that easily?"

Gazing at him with an icy look on her face, Laura vigilantly took a step back.