

Trapped in Love #Chapter 1 - Read Trapped in Love

Chapter 1

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 An Exceptionally High Commission

“Mr. Jordan, the results are in. Miss Shenton’s gynecological examination shows that she is still a virgin and meets all the standards. She’s clean.” The bodyguard respectfully informed the man on the other end of the phone at the entrance of the hospital’s examination room.

Caroline Shenton lowered her head and stood in the crowded corridor, trying to ignore the strange gazes of passersby.

She was weighed down by the burden of her sick mother and father’s gambling debts. Hence, she had resorted to using her body as a bargaining chip and agreed to get into bed with Evan Jordan.

A moment later, Evan’s deep and magnetic voice came through the phone. “Send her to Villa Rosa.”

*

Back at Villa Rosa, in the dim light, Caroline huddled nervously under the blanket.

The man standing by the bed looked incomparably handsome as he stared down at her with his stone- cold eyes.

Caroline knew that he was Evan Jordan—a man so influential in Angelbay City, one could even call him the king.

As Evan lifted the silk blanket that covered her body, Caroline’s naked form was revealed and reflected in his dark eyes. He leaned in for a fiery-hot kiss and plunged deep into her. A sudden jolt of pain shot through her body, prompting a stifled moan to escape her lips

As he bit her lips, he whispered into her ear, “Don’t cry. You did this willingly. Remember, not everyone is qualified to get into my bed...”

Caroline abruptly awakened and Evan's last words before she blacked out still echoed in her ears. Slowly turning her head, she found Evan sleeping next to her, and for a moment, she was lost in a daze.

*

Time flew past, and in the blink of an eye, she had known Evan for three years, working as his private secretary and becoming his lover. Unexpectedly, she dreamed of the first time they met last night.

Caroline rubbed her throbbing head and was about to sit up when Evan's phone rang.

Evan abruptly woke up and grabbed the phone. "Speak!" he answered, pressing it to his ear.

Even so, Caroline could still hear the voice coming from the other end. "Mr. Jordan, I have verified it. The woman you are searching for is not her."

In an instant, Evan's eyes darkened even more.

Caroline looked at his gloomy expression and felt a twinge of sadness. After being Evan's lover for three years, she knew that he had been searching for a girl who had once saved his life when he was young. Although her whereabouts were unknown, Evan still missed her to this day.

Feeling Caroline's gaze, Evan turned to her and growled, "Get out!"

Caroline remained silent and rose from the bed, moving like a lifeless doll. She picked up her clothes from the floor and walked barefoot to the guest room.

Caroline entered the bathroom and turned on the shower, letting the water wash over her face. The man's callous behavior made her feel sad, but she knew that she had no right to feel that way.

She was only able to stay by his side because of a red mole on her right earlobe, similar to the one on the long-lost girl Evan had been searching for. In Evan's eyes, she was just a substitute for his unrequited love and a toy that could be easily dismissed with money.

*

Just as Caroline emerged from the shower, Evan came out of the bedroom, dressed in a perfectly tailored suit. He looked regal and detached, his handsome features making it hard for anyone to look away.

As they met, Caroline said her usual words, "I'll make breakfast."

Evan cast a cold glance her way before turning and walking down the stairs.

Just as Caroline was bringing out the coffee and breakfast, Evan's assistant, Reuben Murphy, arrived with a black medicine bag.

He said to Caroline, "Ms. Shenton, here's your medicine."

Caroline paused for a moment, placed the food on the table, and replied calmly, "Got it."

She took out the white pill and swallowed it without any expression. After watching Caroline take the medicine, Reuben left the villa and waited outside.

Caroline then approached Evan, who was sitting indifferently on the sofa, and informed him that breakfast was ready.

Evan put down his newspaper and sat at the dining table, sipping his coffee and glancing lazily at Caroline.

"You chose to stay with me. Do you remember me telling you back then, that you need to know your place and control your emotions? They are showing," he remarked.

No matter how good Caroline was at hiding her emotions, she was not able to completely hide them in Evan's presence.

Caroline sat down opposite him and picked up her coffee, pretending as if nothing was wrong. "You worry too much, Mr. Jordan. I was just thinking about today's schedule and got a little distracted."

So what if he found out? She would simply come up with an excuse to hide them. She refused to admit it and let him strip away the last shreds of her pride.

Evan remained silent, while an air of solemnity settled over the dining table, casting a weighty ambiance that permeated the room.

*

At eight o'clock, Reuben Murphy drove them to Evan's company building, which stood proudly at the center of the city, exuding an aura that matched its owner's reputation as a top businessman in Angelbay City.

As Caroline was about to get out of the car, Evan abruptly tossed a document her way.

"There's a cocktail party tonight, attend it on my behalf. If you can get Henry Devereaux to sign the contract, you'll receive a 70,000 dollar commission," he instructed.

Caroline was stunned by the offer. She stared at the contract in her hand in shock, as if it were a ticking time bomb. She knew this was a really tough job.

Henry Devereaux, the CEO of Angelbay City RT Foreign Enterprise, was bisexual and infamous for his abusive sexual predatory behavior toward both men and women. Anyone who fell prey to him would never escape unscathed. Going alone to meet him would be like walking into a lion's den.

However, Caroline was tempted by the offer. The 70,000 dollar commission would be enough to settle her mother's medical bills and her father's debts.

Evan's cold and indifferent gaze bore down on her. "If you're not willing, you can say no."

After a moment of silence, Caroline tightened her grip on the contract. "I'll do it." novelbin

As soon as she finished speaking, Evan's lips curled into a sneer.

Although he didn't say anything, Caroline could feel the disdain in his eyes.

Indeed, in Evan's eyes, Caroline was a woman who valued money above all else.

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In the evening, Caroline arrived at the Indigo Hotel with the contract, dressed in a conservative yet elegant outfit. During the half-hour journey, she mentally prepared herself for the task ahead. However, the moment she stepped into the hotel elevator, panic set in.

This was because Henry had chosen to meet her in the presidential suite, and not the private room downstairs, as they had discussed earlier. Caroline knew exactly what this meant.

Henry desired her company for the entire night.

Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Humiliation

Soon, the door opened. Henry appeared in the doorway, wearing a loose bathrobe. His piercing green eyes locked onto Casey, with a predatory gaze. Caroline's heart skipped a beat, but she forced a smile for the sake of the 70,000 dollars commission.

"Monsieur Devereaux, sorry to disturb you," she said, stepping into the presidential suite.

Henry shrugged and flashed her a smile. "Ms. Shenton, I've been waiting for you."

Caroline's heart was racing, but she maintained her composure and placed the prepared contract on the coffee table.

She subtly scanned the presidential suite from the corner of her eye, taking note of every detail.

Once Henry took a seat on the sofa, Caroline retracted her gaze and sat down as well, keeping a slight distance from him.

Henry handed her a glass of wine, and Caroline clinked her glass against his. "Thank you for your hospitality, Monsieur Devereaux."

Henry's eyes lit up. "Ms. Shenton, you're very smart, and you're not shy. I like it!"

Caroline forced a smile, aware of the need to impress Henry for the contract. With a slight tilt of her head, she downed the red wine in her hand.

Yet, Henry's face expressed a hint of pity. "Impressive, but you wouldn't expect one glass to seal the deal now, would you?"

Caroline anticipated that Henry wouldn't make things easy for her. Putting down her wine glass, she responded, "Monsieur Devereaux, I understand that you've expressed interest in working with MK for some time now. Surely you are familiar with MK's prowess in the Etes continent.

"Rather than you having to travel to meet Mr. Jordan, why don't I take the initiative to sign the contract on his behalf, as a gesture of our respect for you? I believe it's a brilliant idea, don't you agree, Monsieur Devereaux?"

At Caroline's proposal, the smile on Henry's face faltered and his gaze grew sharper as he stared at her.

Despite her nervousness, Caroline managed to maintain her composure.

Using Evan as leverage to compel Henry to sign the contract was her only option.

The room's atmosphere momentarily turned somber, but Henry soon broke the silence with a laugh.

"Ms. Shenton, I appreciate your proposal. MK has shown me respect, so it's only fitting that I sign this contract."

With that, Henry reached for the contract and pen on the table and signed it after a casual look.

Caroline was taken aback. She had not anticipated Henry's swift compliance.

However, under such circumstances, Caroline dared not let her guard down.

After signing, Henry handed the contract to Caroline. "Well, I've given you what you came for. Shouldn't you keep me company now?"

Caroline's expression shifted, and she feigned ignorance. "Monsieur Devereaux, I'm afraid my alcohol tolerance can't match yours."

"Who said I wanted you to drink with me?" Henry leaned forward and grabbed Caroline's wrist. "Ms. Shenton, I'm only going to receive a three-percent profit margin from MK. Since I've made a concession, I believe you should provide me with some additional benefits."

Caroline's mind went blank. Had the contract been altered? Did Evan do it? After all, only the two of them had been involved in preparing the contract.

Her heart sank, but her body suddenly felt hot. Caroline's eyes widened as she stared at the wine glass on the coffee table. If her suspicions were correct, Henry must have drugged the wine!

Caroline clenched her teeth and struggled with all her might to push Henry away from her. She could see the impatience in his green eyes and realized that he had also ingested the drugged wine that he had prepared. novelbin

Despite her efforts, Henry was too strong for her to resist. She could feel his lips closing in on hers and knew that she had to act quickly. Caroline lowered her head and bit down hard on the back of his hand, causing him to cry out in pain.

Enraged by Caroline's action, Henry struck her across the face with great force. The blow was so powerful that Caroline's vision began to fade, and a metallic taste filled her mouth.

"You came here seeking me out. Why are you pretending?" Henry sneered as he reached for the vodka on the coffee table.

With one hand pinching Caroline's face, he forced the alcohol down her throat. The alcohol flowed into her mouth and nose, causing a suffocating sensation to overwhelm her.

She struggled vigorously, but she couldn't break free from Henry's restraint.

Caroline was on the verge of collapsing, her cheeks wet with tears.

She should have seen this coming.

For three years, no commission from MK had ever reached \$70,000. Naively, she trusted Evan, believing he wouldn't manipulate her into the clutches of a pervert like Henry.

Clearly, she was mistaken, and her biggest error was trusting Evan.

Caroline had shared a bed with him every night, but he had always treated her like a plaything, one that could be easily discarded with money.

Henry ripped her clothes apart. In her despair, Caroline suddenly caught a glimpse of a vase beside her.

She grabbed the vase in passing and with all her strength, hurled it at the back of Henry's head.

The vase struck him with great force, causing him to let go of her and cry out in pain as he clutched his head. Fuming with anger, Henry cursed at Caroline, "You damn woman! How dare you strike me!"

Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Unqualified for Questioning

Despite her intense dizziness, Caroline managed to grab the signed contract from the coffee table before making her escape.

Rushing out, she collided with a tall figure – a familiarly handsome and sinister face.

Tears filled Caroline's eyes as she struggled, thrusting the contract into Evan's arms.

Though she held onto Evan's clothes, she slid down weakly. novelbin

In a hoarse voice, Caroline murmured, "Evan, I got the contract signed. Remember the 70,000 dollars commission..."

Evan caught her before she fell. Just then, Henry emerged from the suite.

Seeing Evan carrying Caroline, Henry demanded, "Give me that woman!"

Evan's cold demeanor intensified upon hearing Henry's demand.

Reuben, who followed closely behind, immediately intervened. He sternly warned Henry, "Monsieur Devereaux, she is Mr. Jordan's woman. How dare you lay hands on her?"

Henry's mind was clouded, and his next words were filled with anger. "How is that possible? Then why did she come to meet me alone?"

Reuben meaningfully reminded him, "Do you think it's a coincidence that Mr. Jordan is here?"

Henry was left dumbfounded as if a fishbone was stuck in his throat, when he realized the truth of Reuben's words.

*

In the back seat of the black Maybach, Caroline lay on Evan's lap. She panted and murmured incoherently while tugging at her clothes.

The drug Henry had given her had taken its toll, evident by her flushed face.

The car was dimly lit, and Evan's dark eyes betrayed no emotion, but his jaw was tightly clenched.

He took Caroline's small hands in his large palm and ordered coldly, "Tell the project department to stop funding our collaboration with Henry until he begs for forgiveness."

Reuben understood his boss's intentions well. He knew this was just the beginning. Mr. Jordan wouldn't let Henry get off this easily.

Despite Mr. Jordan's claims that he didn't like Caroline, he had immediately sent Reuben to pick her up from the hotel after she left the company.

Reuben couldn't help but sigh silently. It was clear that his boss had feelings for Caroline.

Suddenly, Caroline pleaded for help in a trembling voice, "Evan, please help me. It's so hot..."

She clung tightly to Evan's shirt, pulling him closer.

Her voice was filled with torment and ambiguity. Even Reuben, driving, felt embarrassed as he saw her sweaty forehead and exposed cleavage from the mirror when she opened her collar.

Evan's eyes narrowed as he assessed Caroline's condition. He ordered Reuben to stop the car and step out.

Reuben complied. After pulling the car over, he quickly exited and walked more than ten meters away. He then stood with his back facing the car.

Meanwhile, in the car, Evan's gaze landed on Caroline again.

He carefully sat her up on his lap, supporting her back with one arm while his other hand gently cradled her head. His icy gaze softened as he leaned in and pressed his cool lips against her feverish ones.

*

Caroline woke up the next day feeling groggy and in pain, her body aching all over.

As she sat up in the bed, she looked around the room, trying to piece together how she had ended up there the night before.

A familiar hoarse voice interrupted her thoughts, "You're awake?"

Suddenly, memories of the previous night flooded her mind, causing her face to flush.

She remembered her encounter with Evan and how he had aided her escape, but she still needed answers about the changes to the contract terms.

Despite her dizziness, Caroline mustered the strength to get up and faced Evan's indifferent gaze. "Mr. Jordan, why didn't you inform me about the changes in the contract?"

Evan narrowed his eyes.

In his eyes, Caroline was like a hedgehog. If he didn't provoke her, she could be obedient in every aspect. But she would not hesitate to push back once he pushed her too far.

Coldly, Evan reminded her, "Caroline, as a subordinate, you have no right to question your superior's decisions. Remember what I told you on your first day here?"

Caroline fell silent, acknowledging his point.

Just as Evan was about to explain the contract's profit points to her, his phone rang.

He answered, putting it on speaker mode as he got dressed. "Speak."

It was Reuben on the other end. "Mr. Jordan, our team has just received a message. A woman matching the description of the person you're searching for has been located in Florencia City. I'll send you the information shortly."

Evan stopped buttoning his shirt and frowned. "Make it quick."

After ending the call, Evan turned to Caroline and remarked, “You should have known this wouldn’t be an easy task. The commission was 70,000 dollars, after all.”

Caroline’s grip on the bedsheet tightened, unable to argue with Evan. She lowered her gaze to conceal her emotions.

She felt suffocated by the fact that Evan was still searching for information on the long-lost woman. She was also unhappy that he didn’t inform her about the changes in the contract.

But she knew Evan was right. As a subordinate, she had no right to question her superior.

Miserably, she thought to herself, ‘Caroline, know your place! Is it that difficult to be submissive and compliant?’

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Make Things Easy for Her

After breakfast, the driver drove them to the company in Evan’s black Maybach.

Half an hour later, the black Maybach stopped in front of the company.

The driver respectfully opened the door for Evan, who stepped out elegantly in a well-tailored black coat, exuding a commanding aura.

Loosening his tie, Evan handed documents to Caroline, his deep eyes freezing slightly when they landed on her pink lips.

Suddenly, he raised his hand and gently rubbed the corner of her lips with his calloused fingers.

“There’s a little lipstick smudged outside your lipline.”

As Evan wiped away the stray lipstick from Caroline’s lips with his thumb, his warm and gentle touch caused Caroline’s eyes to tremble uncontrollably.

Catching sight of her flustered and helpless reflection in Evan’s eyes, Caroline quickly composed herself. She thanked him calmly, despite her fluttering heart.

Evan withdrew his hand and smiled before striding confidently toward the office.

Meanwhile, Caroline managed to suppress the slight palpitations in her heart as she switched on her iPad and hastened to follow Evan. She needed to report on today's work schedule. novelbin

"Mr. Jordan, there's a meeting with the higher-ups at nine o'clock—"

"Mr. Jordan!"

Before Caroline could finish speaking, an unfamiliar woman suddenly rushed over.

The woman pounced on Evan and grabbed the corner of his shirt tightly, pleading desperately, "Mr. Jordan! Please tell HR to keep me. I really need this job!"

Evan's cold eyes filled with disdain as he glanced at the bodyguards beside him and growled, "Get her out of my sight!"

Hearing this, the bodyguards at the side quickly stepped forward. They grabbed the woman's hand and dragged her away.

However, the woman seemed to have gone crazy. She used all her strength to resist the bodyguards.

"Let go of me! Please give me some time to talk to Mr. Jordan! Mr. Jordan, just a few minutes! Please!"

Noticing the displeasure on Evan's face, the bodyguards quickly tightened their grips.

As the woman struggled against the bodyguards, her long hair swayed in the sunlight, and the red mole on her earlobe caught Evan's attention, freezing his gaze.

He immediately stopped the bodyguards. "Stop!"

As the bodyguards stopped, the woman approached Evan, trembling with fear and desperation.

Tears fell as she introduced herself, “Mr. Jordan, my name is Daniella Love. I have something to say to you. Please.”

Evan’s gaze was complicated as he stared at the woman’s earlobe. Unknowingly, his voice softened. “Come with me.”

With gratitude in her eyes, the woman replied, “Thank you so much, Mr. Jordan.”

Evan turned to look at Caroline and instructed, “Postpone the meeting.”

Caroline opened her mouth slightly as if to say something but quickly swallowed her words.

As she watched Evan leave with the woman, Caroline forced a smile and shut her mouth.

*

Caroline returned to her office desk after completing all of her boss’s instructions.

However, before she could reach her seat, the vision of the sight before her swayed and she stumbled, grabbing onto the table to steady herself.

As she regained her balance, she heard the sound of Daniella’s silver bell-like laughter ringing in her ears.

Looking up in front at the CEO’s office which was separated from hers by a glass wall, Caroline saw Evan and Daniella engrossed in conversation. Although she didn’t know what they were discussing, their joyful expressions suggested that Daniella might be the person Evan had been searching for.

Caroline felt a bitter pang in her heart but tried to suppress it as she sat back down at her desk and forced herself to focus on her work.

*

In the afternoon, an announcement was issued by the Human Resources Department stating that Daniella had joined the fashion design department as the new deputy head.

Seeing this message, Caroline felt a lump in her throat.

She couldn't help but think back to the day when Evan had first noticed her mole, the very thing that had helped her stand out from the other candidates and secured her the position of his personal assistant. Now, Daniella seemed to have a similar advantage.

Since the person he was really looking for had returned, Evan would undoubtedly treat Daniella well.

Just as she was deep in thought, there was a knock on the door. "Ms. Shenton."

Caroline retracted the sadness in her eyes and closed the announcement page. "Come in."

The door opened, and Reuben strode in. He had a grave look on his face.

"Ms. Shenton, Mr. Jordan wants you to take care of the new deputy head of the fashion design department, Ms. Daniella Love," he said.

Caroline was taken aback by the unexpected request. She had no authority over the fashion design department, and furthermore, she had only met Daniella once. How could she take care of her?

Seeing Caroline's hesitation, Reuben explained further, "Mr. Jordan wants you to head over to the fashion design department and ensure that no one creates any problems for Ms. Love."

Caroline took a deep breath, trying to hide her frustration. She clenched her fists under the desk, averted her eyes, and replied with forced calmness, "I understand."

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Paying Debts

Reuben left without a word, and Caroline slumped into her chair. She covered her face with her hands to hide the sadness that threatened to consume her.

Evan's actions made it clear that he had no intention of keeping her as his personal secretary, now that the person he truly cared about was back. It was time for her to accept that she was merely a substitute.

Buzz—

Her thoughts were interrupted by the buzzing of her phone on the desk. It was her mother's attending doctor, Scott Wilson.

Caroline anxiously answered the call. "Dr. Wilson, is something wrong with my mother?"

"Caroline, do you have time to come to the hospital now?" Scott replied.

Hearing Dr. Wilson's tone, Caroline quickly stood up, her heart racing. "Yes, I'll be right there!"

*

Twenty minutes later, Caroline arrived at the hospital entrance wearing only a simple shirt.

Sneezing from the cold wind as she got out of the car at the hospital entrance, Caroline hurriedly ran towards the inpatient building.

As she stepped out of the elevator, she was surprised to see a man in a leather jacket standing in front of her mother's ward, smoking a cigarette and talking to her mother's attending doctor, Scott Wilson, in a roguish manner.

Caroline clenched her fists and walked over quickly.

The sound of her footsteps made Dr. Wilson and the man turn around.

The man smirked when he saw Caroline. "Yo, the great secretary, Caroline, has finally decided to show up!" novelbin

Caroline gave Dr. Wilson an apologetic look before addressing the man with a cold tone. "Clay, I've already made it clear. Even if you're looking to harass me for money, don't ever come to my mother's ward."

Clay Davis bit the cigarette in his mouth and replied, "Your father's disappeared. Who else can we turn to for the money, if not your mother?"

Suppressing her anger, Caroline asked, "How much do you want this time?"

"Not much. Only 4,000 dollars, including interest," Clay replied.

Caroline's expression soured. "It was only 2,000 dollars last month!"

Clay scrutinized Caroline with a cold smile. "Then you'll have to ask your father what else he did to rack up the debt. The IOU is here, and you know your father's handwriting. I'm just here to collect the money that's owed to me."

He produced the IOU and showed it to Caroline.

Although Caroline seethed with anger, she couldn't find a way to refute his claim.

Caroline's father's relentless gambling addiction had driven him to borrow money regularly, and she had always been the one to shoulder the burden of paying off his debts. Despite her tireless efforts, his

debts seemed to only multiply, leaving her vulnerable to the menacing loan sharks who would invade her mother's hospital ward and cause trouble.

Knowing her mother's delicate condition, Caroline made a difficult decision to suppress her boiling rage, opting not to create a scene. "Fine, I'll give you the money this time. But if you ever dare to set foot in this hospital again, don't expect a single cent from me."

With a heavy sigh, Caroline pulled out her phone and retrieved Clay's bank details, then proceeded to transfer 4,000 dollars to him.

With the payment received, Clay nodded curtly and made a graceful exit.

Dr. Wilson looked at Caroline with concern. "Caroline, you can't keep doing this. Eventually, all of this pressure is going to take a toll on you."

Caroline's smile was tinged with bitterness. "He's still my father, though."

Scott noticed Caroline's complexion gradually paling, and his brow furrowed with worry. "Are you feeling unwell?"

"I'm fine," she insisted, shaking her head, but a wave of dizziness nearly caused her to lose her balance.

Scott instinctively reached out to steady her, hesitating for a moment as his palm met her feverish skin. "Caroline, don't you realize you have a fever?"

His typically gentle and composed expression now carried a rare hint of reprimand.

Pulling away from him, Caroline touched her burning face. "I've been too preoccupied with work to notice. I'll take some medicine later. Thank you, Dr. Wilson, for your concern, but right now, I need to go see my mother."

With that, she walked past Scott and entered the ward.

In the ward, Caroline's heart ached when she saw her mother's sallow face, weakened by illness.

She blinked back tears and composed herself before stepping forward. "Mom, are you done with the drip today?"

On the bed, Katie Lloyd slowly turned to face Caroline, her expression filled with pain. "I'm sorry to trouble you again with your father's gambling debts."

Caroline smiled nonchalantly and poured some warm water into Katie's glass. "Mom, you haven't troubled me at all. We're family. It's only natural for us to help each other."

The more sensible Caroline was, the more anxious Katie felt.

After a moment of silence, she said, "Carol, leave this family."

Caroline's hand, holding the glass, froze in midair. "Please don't say such things. You're my mother. I can't abandon you."

"Would you rather be dragged down by your father's debts?!" Katie suddenly blurted out, her agitation evident.

Pretending to be relaxed, Caroline smiled and said, "Mom, I'm earning a decent salary now. You and Dad raised me, and it's my turn to take care of you both."

Katie frowned and said sternly, "Taking care of us and sacrificing your life are two entirely different things! I know my situation. My time is limited. Listen to me, my child. Break away from this family and cut off all ties with us!"

"Mom!" Caroline grasped Katie's hand anxiously. "I promise you I'm fine, and I'll take good care of myself, alright?"

Katie looked into Caroline's tear-filled eyes and felt her heart wrench. She couldn't bear the thought of her daughter carrying such a heavy burden alone.

However, she knew all too well about her husband's unyielding gambling addiction. He seemed trapped in an endless cycle of accumulating debts, like a bottomless pit, and showed no signs of change.

Frustrated, Katie closed her eyes, taking a deep breath before letting out a long sigh. "Carol, there's something important I need to tell you."

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Take Care of Daniella

Caroline replied, "Go ahead, I'm listening."

Katie opened her eyes and looked at the ceiling. She pursed her lips and took a deep breath.

"Carol, you're actually not..."

"Honey!"

As Katie began to speak, an unexpected visitor barged into the ward. A man reeking of alcohol and cigarette smoke stumbled in, his scraggly beard adding to his disheveled appearance. He sat down opposite Caroline.

"How did it go? Clay didn't bully you, did he?"

Katie's face twisted with disgust. "What are you doing here? Haven't you caused enough trouble for us?"

Ignoring Katie's hostility, Bradley Shenton smacked his lips and turned his attention to Caroline. "Carol, could you step out for a moment? I need to talk to your Mom alone."

Caroline hesitated. However, she knew that her father rarely visited, so she decided to give them some space to talk. As she stood up from the chair, she warned Bradley, "Don't make Mom angry."

Bradley nodded in agreement, but Caroline looked back every few steps as she walked out of the ward.

As soon as the door closed, Bradley's feigned concern vanished from his face. It was replaced by a cold and ruthless expression. "Can't you just zip it?" he said in a low voice.

Katie's eyes filled with anger as she gritted her teeth. "Don't you dare use Caroline to pay off your debts again!"

Bradley sneered. "I spent money raising her, so what's wrong with asking her to help me out now? As long as you keep your mouth shut, nothing will happen to any of us. But if you tell anyone, don't blame me if Caroline ends up losing her job."

Katie's hands clenched the bedsheets as she trembled with fury. "Bradley! You're heartless!"

Bradley remained indifferent. "That's right. I don't have a heart, so watch what you say. If you say anything you shouldn't, we'll all be in trouble."

With that, Bradley strode out of the ward without looking back.

As Bradley opened the door and caught sight of Caroline still standing there, his demeanor swiftly changed.

"Carol, I'm off now! Please put the 4,000 dollars on my tab. Consider it as though I borrowed it from you, okay?"

Caroline, feeling exhausted, was about to respond, but Bradley hurriedly left before she could say a word.

Caroline sighed, straightening herself up and preparing to head back to the ward. But just as she was about to leave, her phone buzzed in her pocket once more.

Upon seeing Evan's name on the caller ID, Caroline's heart leaped, and she reflexively answered the call.

Evan's voice on the other end of the line was deep and cold as he asked, "Where are you?"

Caroline glanced toward the ward and replied quietly, "I'm dealing with an urgent matter."

There was a moment of silence before Evan continued, "You didn't follow my instructions to take care of Daniella?"

Caroline's throat tightened. Was he calling to scold her?

Still, he wasn't at the wrong here. As his personal secretary, it was her duty to carry out his instructions, even if she despised being treated like a plaything.

It was her fault for not acting on the instructions he had given her earlier.
novelbin

She murmured apologetically, "I'm sorry, Mr. Jordan. I'll inform the head of the fashion design department immediately."

"No need for that..."

"Caroline."

As Evan was speaking, Caroline was interrupted by Scott's voice from behind her.

As soon as Caroline turned around, Scott handed her a tablet of medicine.

"Take this fever medicine and eat it. You look terrible."

Caroline smiled faintly and took the medicine politely. "Thank you, Dr. Wilson. I'll transfer the money to you later."

Scott smiled and pointed at the phone beside Caroline's ear. "Please, continue."

Caroline nodded in response and asked again, "Mr. Jordan, what did you just say?" Caroline intended to resume her call with Evan. However, there was no response from Evan on the other end.

After a while, she put down her phone and looked at the screen. It seemed that the call had ended at some point while she was talking to Scott.

Caroline quickly made the call to the head of the fashion design department to pass on Evan's request, despite his previous dismissal before he hung up.

The person on the other end was Paige Watson, who had graduated from the same university as Caroline. The two were good friends, hence the call was a casual one.

"Carol, why are you worrying about her? She got off work right on time," Paige said annoyedly, causing Caroline to be stunned and speechless.

Caroline's mind started racing. What did Evan mean by that call just now then?

Meanwhile, after hanging up the phone, Evan sat in the car with a dark expression, his cold eyes filled with doubt.

"Why would Caroline take fever medicine? When did she have a fever?" he wondered to himself. Even if she did have a fever, she was supposed to endure it and not take leave from work. It wasn't acceptable that she went off during office hours and told another man about her fever, especially behind his back.

"Dr. Wilson... That was his name," he muttered to himself.

After pondering for a moment, Evan suddenly looked up at Reuben, who was driving. "Does Caroline have a family member in the hospital?"

Reuben nodded. "Yes, Ms. Shenton's mother was hospitalized due to uterine cancer. I'm not too sure about her condition now."

Evan's frown deepened. "Why didn't she say anything to me?"

Reuben couldn't help but curse under his breath. 'It's because you're always so headstrong around Ms. Shenton. Of course, she wouldn't tell you anything.'

At that thought, Reuben decided to take the opportunity to put in a good word for Caroline. "Mr. Jordan, Ms. Shenton actually has it quite tough. Her family..."

Before Reuben could finish, Evan's phone interrupted him.

It was Daniella calling.

Earlier, Evan had asked Reuben to book a restaurant to celebrate finally finding Daniella, the woman he had been searching for for years. Right now, they had arrived at the restaurant as the Maybach pulled up at the entrance.

Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Why Didn't You Come Home?

Evan pushed aside his unwarranted concern and opened the car door with a cold expression.

“Arrange for medicine to be sent to her tonight, and inform the HR department to grant her three days off.”

Then, he unexpectedly added, “Hire an attendant to take care of her meals and daily needs during this period.”

“Yes, Sir!” Reuben nodded and instinctively glanced at the French windows of the restaurant.

As Reuben observed Daniella sitting in the upscale restaurant, ordering food with a radiant smile, he couldn’t help but feel a whirlwind of emotions inside.

*

That night, Caroline didn’t return to Evan’s villa. Instead, she took the medicine Dr. Wilson had given her and fell asleep on the hospital bed until she naturally woke up.

When she woke up, she noticed a needle on the back of her hand. Katie, seeing that Caroline had awakened, quickly reminded her, “Carol, don’t move around. You have a fever. Dr. Wilson administered the IV drip for you.”

Caroline nodded weakly as she propped herself up.

“What’s the matter, dear? You didn’t even tell me you had a fever, and you’re wearing such a thin shirt.” Katie reprimanded gently. Caroline felt a warmth in her heart upon hearing those words that were laced with care.

She eased her furrowed brow and looked at Katie playfully. “Mom, I’m hungry.”

Katie glared at Caroline and chided, “The nurse will bring food later. Just hold on a little longer. You always miss meal times. You should make the effort to eat on time!”

Just as Katie finished speaking, her caregiver, Ms. Hannah, entered the room with a thermos in hand.

Noticing that Caroline was awake, she tilted her head towards the door and inquired, “Carol, there are two handsome men at the door. Are they your friends?”

Caroline was taken aback. “Friends?”

Caroline's mind went blank for a moment as Evan's figure suddenly flashed through her thoughts.

Before she could utter a word, footsteps approached the door.

Reuben emerged and addressed Caroline, "Ms. Shenton, please step outside for a moment."

Caroline nodded and carefully removed the needle from the back of her hand before leaving the bed.

Katie shouted anxiously, "Carol, what are you doing?!"

"Mom, I'll explain later!"

With that, she followed Reuben out of the ward.

She saw Evan standing there, smoking. His handsome face clouded as if someone had provoked him.

Confused, Caroline stood before him and called out softly, "Mr. Jordan."

Evan shot her a cold gaze. "Why didn't you come home last night?"

Lowering her gaze, Caroline replied, "I was sick."

Evan let out a disdainful scoff. "Sick? Even your voice seems to have vanished. Why didn't you inform me at all?"

Caroline furrowed her brow. "I fell asleep after taking the medicine. It wasn't my intention to keep it a secret."

Suppressing the boiling anger within him, Evan's tone turned even colder. "Are you sure that's the truth, or did you purposely want to be by another man's side and hide it from me? Hmm?"

Caroline looked up at him in disbelief. "What man?"

Evan narrowed his icy eyes that resembled a thousand-year-old frigid lake, and sneered, "Shouldn't I be the one asking you that?"

"Caroline?"

Before Caroline could unravel her boss's enigmatic thoughts, a familiar gentle voice called out to her.

At that moment, Caroline suddenly recalled her conversation with Dr. Wilson the day before. That was right before her boss abruptly ended the phone call yesterday!

Was Evan referring to Dr. Wilson?

Caroline glanced up at Scott, who was approaching them, and then at Evan, whose eyes gleamed with mockery.

That must be it! Otherwise, why would he be here today?

Scott came closer and observed the bleeding back of Caroline's hand. It was a result of her hasty removal of the needle without applying pressure.

Frowning, he cautioned Caroline, "You're bleeding. According to the time of your drip, it shouldn't have been finished yet."

Caroline glanced down and quickly applied pressure to the needle puncture. "Thank you, Dr. Wilson. I'll take care of it."

Scott sighed with concern and gently placed the back of his hand on Caroline's forehead.

"The fever has subsided, but you still need to rest." novelbin

Worried that Evan might misunderstand, Caroline swiftly averted her gaze. "I understand."

Scott helplessly slipped his hands into his pockets and stood upright to face Evan, who was breathing heavily.

In a gentle yet polite tone, he spoke, "Sir, the patient needs to rest. Please limit the duration of your conversation."

Evan lifted his gaze and locked eyes with Scott. "It's rare to encounter a doctor who can accurately measure a patient's temperature without relying on instruments."

Scott smiled and replied, "That's thanks to my extensive clinical experience. It also saves time and allows me to respect the patient's need for adequate rest."

Scott deliberately emphasized the words "respect the patient's need for rest."

Caroline felt a wave of anxiety wash over her.

She knew that Dr. Wilson was speaking up for her, but he was unaware of Evan's identity.

Everyone in Angelbay City was aware of her boss's ruthless nature. If he became displeased, the entire city would tremble under his wrath.

If Dr. Wilson upset Evan, he could lose his job at any moment.

"Dr. Wilson, this is my boss. Please, go back to work. I have some matters to discuss with my boss!" Caroline hastily intervened, her words laced with urgency.

Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Terminating the Contract Prematurely

Dr. Wilson averted his gaze and looked at Caroline. He nodded and departed.

Recognizing it was inappropriate for him to linger, Reuben tactfully made his way to the elevator and patiently waited.

The ensuing silence weighed heavily upon Caroline. She mustered the courage to speak, "Mr. Jordan..."

"What do you gain from all this?" Evan coldly interjected.

He turned away, his eyes hinting at mockery. "Do you expect my sympathy in return?"

Caroline stood there, stunned. "Mr. Jordan, I don't understand what you mean!"

Evan lowered his gaze, peering down at Caroline, who stood a head shorter than him. His handsome face radiated an icy coldness.

His eyes, like thin ice, reflected a frigid glint as he uttered with a chilling tone, “Don’t you find your attempts to elicit sympathy and portray yourself as pitiful quite juvenile? Or perhaps you feel that what I have provided you with isn’t enough, and now you seek connections with a doctor to secure free treatment for your mother?”

Evan’s words pierced Caroline’s heart like a knife.

The pain was suffocating, almost unbearable.

She hadn’t even known about her fever, so how could she have feigned it?

It was clear now. Right from the start, she was nothing more than a crass fortune hunter in his eyes!

Caroline clenched her fists, determined to maintain composure.

She forced a smile and inquired, “Mr. Jordan, what kind of response do you expect from me?”

Caroline’s distant and bureaucratic reply fueled Evan’s anger.

Closing in on Caroline, he took a step forward, his sharp eyes prying into her emotions.

“If it’s money you want, then perform your job diligently. And if you dare to engage in an ambiguous relationship with another man before our relationship ends, you’d better be ready to accept the consequences!”

Caroline’s nails nearly pierced her palms, yet her tone remained calm. “Mr. Jordan, the contract terms are clear. Once the person you sought returns, the contract terminates, granting me freedom to pursue someone else.”

Finally, Caroline showed her true temper.

Rarely did she challenge Evan, and in his eyes, she should submit unquestioningly.

This was the first time Caroline had fiercely stood up to him.

Evan’s towering figure loomed over her, his iron-like fingers gripping her chin. “Caroline, have you become bolder?”

Tears welled up in Caroline's eyes. After years of obedience, could her defiance truly provoke such fury?

A cold smile played on Caroline's lips. "Thank you for the compliment, Mr. Jordan."

Evan tightened his grip. "You want to terminate the contract prematurely, don't you? Caroline, I won't allow it!"

With that, Evan released his hold.

In an instant, anger transformed into disgust in his gaze as he forcefully pushed Caroline away and strode off.

Caroline, pressed against the wall, slowly sank down as tears streamed down her face.

*

Caroline gathered herself and made her way back to the ward. After spending a few more hours with her mother, she returned to her humble abode.

Her family's house was situated in an aging neighborhood. The house she had purchased for her mother earlier had been sold by her father to settle his debts.

Now, all that remained was this dilapidated and cramped dwelling, barely spanning 60 square meters.

Caroline ascended to the second floor and opened the door. Immediately, the stench of alcohol assaulted her senses. novelbin

Standing in the doorway, she surveyed the scattered wine bottles on the floor and let out a weary sigh.

After tidying up, Caroline settled herself in front of her computer. Just then, a message popped up.

[G, you're taking too long this time. My boss is on the verge of losing his temper!]

Caroline replied. [I apologize. I've been occupied lately. Please give me another half an hour.]

After sending her response, Caroline buried her head in the fashion design draft she had been working on halfway.

In addition to her role as Evan's personal secretary, Caroline would also take on freelance fashion design projects during her free time to earn extra income.

The other party swiftly replied. [G, with your exceptional talent in design, if you pursue it wholeheartedly, you could become an internationally renowned designer in no time. Why do you still insist on following Mr. Jordan?]

Caroline responded with a bitter smile. [Quick money.]

Her mother's medical expenses amounted to tens of thousands every month, and her father's outstanding debts reached hundreds of thousands. She had no other choice.

*

After attending to her responsibilities, Caroline noticed that there was still some time left. She grabbed her bag and hurriedly made her way to the office.

Just as she stepped out of the elevator, she bumped into Evan and Daniella.

Concern evident in her voice, Daniella asked, "Ms. Shenton, are you feeling better now?"

Caroline avoided looking directly at Evan and responded to Daniella, "I'm feeling much better. Thank you for your concern."

Daniella's smile was sweet and kind. "You're welcome. The sooner you recover, the sooner you'll be able to share some of Mr. Jordan's burdens."

As she spoke, Daniella delicately tucked a strand of her long hair behind her ear, revealing the red mole on her petite earlobe.

She cast a gentle sideways glance at Evan. "Mr. Jordan, why don't we bring back some food for Ms. Shenton during dinner later?"

Evan's expression turned cold. "No need! She's an adult and perfectly capable of taking care of her own meals."

With that, he firmly grasped Daniella's wrist and walked into the elevator.

Caroline tactfully stepped back and calmly brushed past them.

However, as she entered the office, a bitter smile formed on her lips. 'I shouldn't have come back to the office at this hour.'

Caroline's heart ached as she remembered the effortless interaction between the two, seemingly unaware of anyone else around them.

Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Unpresentable

At eight o'clock in the evening, Caroline sent the updated schedule to Evan before leaving the office. As she stepped out, she noticed Reuben waiting by the car.

Seeing Caroline, Reuben approached her and said, "Mr. Jordan asked me to send you back to rest."

Caroline declined, "No need. I'll go home on my own."

Reuben hesitated before continuing, "Ms. Shenton, there's something I'm not sure I should tell you."

Caroline looked up, her voice weak as she replied, "Go ahead."

"Mr. Jordan knows that you're sick, so he specially hired an attendant to take care of you, and that person is already waiting at Villa Rosa."

Caroline furrowed her brow. What was his intention?

Did he want to be with Daniella while continuing their relationship?

Caroline sneered inwardly. She would never stoop so low as to agree to share a husband with another woman!

Just as she was about to refuse again, Reuben lowered his voice and added, "Ms. Shenton, Ms. Love's identity has not been confirmed yet. Are you sure you don't want to fight for yourself?"

Caroline let out a bitter laugh. "Reuben, in this day and age, money holds more importance than relationships."

After saying this, Caroline walked around Reuben and left.

Sighing, Reuben got into the car. He glanced at his superior sitting behind him and reported, "Mr. Jordan, Ms. Shenton is unwilling to go back."

Evan pursed his lips tightly and spoke solemnly, "Then there's no need for her to go back! Tomorrow, throw out all her belongings and make sure she disappears as far away as possible!"

Reuben replied, "Yes..." with a heavy heart.

*

The next day arrived.

Caroline was awakened by a knock on the door. She got up, went to open it, and found Reuben standing there with two large cardboard boxes.

Caroline understood what was inside. She looked down for a moment, then silently moved the boxes inside.

Once that was done, Caroline stood upright and said in an indifferent tone, "Thank you, Reuben. I don't have any food or snacks to offer you, so I won't keep you."

Reuben opened his mouth to say something, but before he could speak, Caroline closed the door mercilessly.

When he returned to Villa Rosa, Reuben informed Evan, who was drinking coffee on the sofa, "Mr. Jordan, Ms. Shenton's belongings have been sent back."

Evan did not say anything. He put down his coffee and continued flipping through the contract in his hands.

Reuben couldn't help but speak up, "Mr. Jordan, about where Ms. Shenton lives..."

Before he could finish, Evan's phone suddenly rang.

Evan put the phone on speaker, and Daniella's light laughter filled the room. "Evan, let's skip going out for lunch today. I've prepared something delicious for you."

Evan's expression softened. "What delicious food did you make?"

Hearing their conversation, Reuben couldn't help but feel that it was a good thing Ms. Shenton didn't return.

After ending the call, Evan glanced at Reuben. "How's the investigation on Daniella going?"

Reuben replied, "I've already contacted Daniella's adoptive parents. We should receive news soon."

Evan narrowed his eyes. Although Daniella could recall the past events, her personality now seemed completely different from what he remembered.

He wanted to uncover what had happened to her all these years.

*

The moment Caroline entered her office, she looked through the glass separating her office and Evan's office, and noticed Daniella sitting in Evan's office.

Just then, Daniella happened to look up and saw Caroline.

A smile appeared in her eyes as she picked up the thermos lunch box on the table in front of her and approached Caroline's office.

"Ms. Shenton, this is for you."

Caroline's gaze landed on the lunch box, she calmly replied, "Thank you, Ms. Love, but I've already eaten."

Ignoring Caroline's response, Daniella proceeded to place the lunch box on the desk.

Then, she sat down in front of Caroline, her eyes focusing on Caroline's earlobe. "What a coincidence. We both have a red mole on our earlobes."

Caroline remained silent, understanding the implication behind Daniella's words.

Resting her chin on her hands, Daniella smiled sweetly. “Ms. Shenton, since I just got together with Evan, I’m not quite familiar with his preferences. Could you share some insights with me?”

Caroline was in the midst of organizing some documents. Hearing that, she paused briefly and said, “Why don’t you ask him yourself?”

Daniella expressed a hint of regret. “Oh, what a shame. I wanted to surprise him and get to know him better.”

Caroline stood up straight and looked directly at Daniella. “I’m sorry, but I have no interest in whatever it is that is going on between the two of you.”
novelbin

After saying that, Caroline glanced at her watch and offered a reminder, “Ms. Love, considering that you were personally recruited and promoted by Mr. Jordan, I suggest you work diligently to prevent other employees from gossiping about Mr. Jordan.”

Daniella’s smile froze, and a hint of coldness appeared in her eyes.

How dare Caroline use Evan to pressure her?!

She took a deep breath and slowly stood up. “Ms. Shenton, I hope you remember this—fakes will never be presentable, as they will never, ever measure up!”

With that, Daniella slammed the door and left.

*

In the evening.

Caroline hurried to the hospital after work.

By chance, she spotted Scott standing by her mother’s ward’s entrance, engaged in conversation with a nurse.

Caroline approached him and nodded lightly. Just as she was about to enter the ward, Scott stopped her.

“Caroline, your mother just fell asleep after last night’s chemotherapy. It’s best not to disturb her right now.”

Upon hearing this, Caroline decided to inquire about her mother's condition instead. "Considering it's the fifth stage of chemotherapy, how is my mother doing?"

Scott offered reassurance. "Try not to worry too much. The surgery was performed early, so the recovery has been better than expected."

Caroline sighed with relief. "Regarding the funds I transferred earlier, is there enough to cover the expenses?"

Scott looked puzzled. "Didn't you deposit an additional 140,000 dollars just yesterday?"

Chapter 10

Chapter 10 I Will Return It to You

Caroline blinked in disbelief. In a flash, she understood.

She quickly grabbed her phone and dialed Reuben's number.

"Yes, Ms. Shenton?"

Caroline asked urgently, "Did Mr. Jordan pay for my mother's medical bills?"

Reuben responded, "Yes, Mr. Jordan didn't want me to tell you. He transferred 140,000 dollars into your mother's account as soon as he arrived at the hospital yesterday."

Upon receiving the confirmation, Caroline immediately dialed Evan's number. "Mr. Jordan, where are you?"

Evan's tone remained cold. "What do you want?"

"I will return your 140,000 dollars to you!" Caroline declared firmly.

Evan sneered dismissively. "Come to Villa Rosa."

With that, he abruptly ended the call.

Caroline held onto her phone, deep in thought. After a moment, she made up her mind and headed out of the hospital.

*

When she arrived at Villa Rosa, Caroline stepped into the darkened villa. She searched around the wall for the light switch.

Before she could reach it, a familiar presence enveloped her, and she felt a strong arm wrap around her waist.

Without warning, she was lifted off her feet and carried toward the sofa by Evan.

Anxious, Caroline struggled against his embrace. "Mr. Jordan! I came here to discuss returning the money!"

Evan remained silent.

It was only when he placed Caroline on the sofa and forcefully pushed her down that he spoke in a deep, commanding voice. "Quiet!"

His words lingered heavily in the air as Evan deftly unbuttoned Caroline's bra, his lips descending upon her with a dominant kiss.

In the aftermath of their intimate encounter, Caroline endured the lingering soreness in her body and hastily covered herself with her clothes. Slowly sitting up, her voice was low and filled with bitterness.

"Aren't you concerned that Daniella will be jealous if she finds out?" she asked.

Evan casually lit a cigarette, the smoke curling between his lips. "That's none of your business," he replied.

Biting her lip, Caroline mustered her courage and said, "I will return the 140,000 dollars to you."

Evan exhaled a cloud of smoke. His gaze pierced through her as he sneered, "And how do you plan to repay me? With your body?"

Feeling a deep sense of humiliation, Caroline clutched her clothes tightly. With a firm voice, she said, "That's my own business."

Evan's lips curled into a sarcastic smile as he spoke, his words dripping with condescension. "70,000 dollars is your commission, and the other 70,000

dollars is payment for our little session just now. Since you claim to care only about money and not relationships, all you need to do is obey me to get what you desire. You have no right to question any decision I make!”

Caroline felt as if she had been slapped by an invisible force. The sting of his words resonated deeply within her.

Indeed, in his eyes, she was merely someone who valued money above all else. What right did she have to resist and stand up for herself?

*

On Friday, after handling some work at the company, Caroline purchased some food and headed to the hospital to be with her mother.

On the way there, she received a call from an unknown number.

As soon as she picked up the call, her father’s panicked voice pierced her ears. novelbin

“Carol! Come and save me! They’re going to chop off my fingers! Please, save Daddy!”

Caroline’s expression changed drastically. Before she could respond, the unsettling laughter of an unfamiliar man filled the line. “Miss Shenton, is it? Your father lost 14,000 dollars in our casino today. You see, he doesn’t have the money to repay us, so we had no choice but to call you.”

“I don’t have the money!” Caroline clenched her teeth, her anger evident in her reply.

Even if she possessed the funds, she would never surrender them!

Her father’s selfishness and his relentless cycle of indulgence had become unbearable!

“No money?” The man’s laughter grew louder. “Then, let’s proceed!”

In the next moment, her father’s agonized screams echoed through the phone, “My fingers! My fingers!”

Caroline’s body tensed, and her complexion grew increasingly pale.

She had believed the perpetrators were merely issuing threats. She never imagined they would carry out such a gruesome act!

“So, will you reconsider repaying the 14,000 dollars?” the man taunted once more.

“I don’t have that much! Please, can we negotiate...?”

Before Caroline could complete her sentence, a chilling order was given, “Chop off his hand.”

Her heart sank as she listened to her father’s despairing cries, filled with terror and helplessness.

A surge of fear and desperation coursed through her veins, and she urgently pleaded, “Stop! I’ll give you the money! Just send me the address, and I’ll come right away!”

The man’s laughter echoed sinisterly. “Very well, I’ll send it to you. If you fail to show up, your father will be left crippled and worthless.”

As the call ended, Caroline clutched her phone tightly, her hands trembling uncontrollably.

Despite her father’s faults, she couldn’t bear to witness his life being taken away before her eyes.

Checking her bank balance, which held less than \$14,000, she hesitated for a moment before making a difficult decision. She had to reach out to Evan.

*

Meanwhile, at the opulent Fies Casino—

Within an extravagant VIP room adorned with luxury and decadence, several young men lounged around a lavish table, accompanied by stunning hostesses at their sides.

In the center of it all sat a man exuding an air of elegance and regality. His face basked in the enchanting glow of shimmering lights, as if he were touched by a divine radiance, captivating all who beheld him.

The woman by his side clung to his coat, her gaze fixated on his profile with unwavering devotion. Each beat of her heart intensified her infatuation, drawing her deeper into his spellbinding allure.

Daniella understood all too well that as long as she stood beside this man who was capable of wielding power over the entirety of Angelbay City with a mere gesture, she would forever be shielded. No one would dare to threaten or mistreat her in any way.

The allure of boundless wealth and unending glory proved irresistible to her. How could she not be enticed?

No matter what, she had to find a way to become the sole woman by Evan's side!

Just as Daniella reached for a cigarette to offer it to Evan, she felt a vibration emanating from the coat resting on her arm.