

## The Mbahsb 291

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The dinner party was held in a fancy French restaurant.

“Lind, would you like to have a drink with me?” Tiffany was swiveling a glass of red wine in her hand, swaying it towards Janet. She glanced around the crowd before darting her eyes back to Janet.

With sincerity, she said, “I’m sure it must’ve been difficult for you to showcase the limits of your talent under all that pressure. I know what kind of person you are. Truthfully, I’d rather not say anything else. Different people have different views. Right now, I just want to drink this glass of wine with you first.”

Upon hearing Tiffany’s remark, all the employees of the company fell silent.

Amidst the quiet atmosphere, someone stood up and joked, “We didn’t think that Lind was very capable. She looks pretty meek. We’re actually surprised that she’s so incredible! Perhaps we should try to get along better after this drink?”

‘This could be a way to overturn the previous rumors circulating about me,’ Janet thought.

She took a sip of wine and smiled at Tiffany. With a reserved smile, she said, “Thanks, everyone. I appreciate that.”

Now that she had cleared things out, Janet was over the moon.

When the dinner party came to an end, she received two messages; one from the bank, and one from Brandon. He said that he had given her a bonus.

It was a large sum of money.

This time, Janet accepted the money without any qualms. She had spent lots of time and energy for the fashion week in Seacisco, and she had indeed made great contributions to the event. Since she was just an ordinary woman who was short of money, Janet accepted the bonus gratefully. She sent Brandon some words of gratitude to express how grateful she was.

The dinner party didn’t last very long. Most of the company’s employees were married, so they had to go back to their families and take care of them.

Around eight in the evening, Janet’s colleagues sent her home.

Unable to restrain her excitement, she started humming a song while she was changing her shoes.

“You seem pretty happy. What’s going on?” When Ethan heard the door open, he came out to have a look.

He was holding the clothes that he had just taken out of the dryer. His broad shoulders, narrow waist, and the simple white tank top he wore made him look even more muscular.

Janet’s eyes lit up as she walked to the sofa to lay down. She had the look of satisfaction and relief.

“There was a project in the company I had been working on. Now that it has been completed, and I get some extra bonus!”

She didn't tell Ethan all the details of the project, because she assumed that he didn't know much about fashion shows. After all, men usually paid no attention to fashion.

Ethan nodded in response. Then, he sat on the sofa with a pile of clothes in his arms. Thereafter, he folded the clothes neatly.

It was then that Janet noticed that her underwear were among the clothes he was folding. Her bras and panties looked a lot smaller in his hands.

"I can fold those myself!" Janet took her underwear away; her face turned red.

Ethan didn't think it was a big deal, for he had done this many times. He chuckled and pinched her blushing face. "We're a couple. Why are you so shy about it?"

The way her eyelids dropped and how her eyelashes fluttered about made Janet looked timid yet lovable.

Trying to suppress his smile, Ethan cleared his throat and decided to change the topic. "In that case, we should celebrate your victory! Let's go out this weekend. You've been busy with work for so long that you haven't had a chance to relax."

He and Janet had been through a lot recently, and they weren't even that close yet. All he wanted was to have an opportunity for them to develop their feelings for each other.

As Janet lay on the sofa, she stared at the ceiling. She realized that so many things had been happening lately.

She had done a good job during the fashion week, so she deserved to relax for once. Aside from that, ever since she and Ethan got together, she seemed to be getting luckier than before. Janet had left the Lind family, and she was able to stand out during the fashion week.

She looked at Ethan and asked, "I have no idea where to go. Do you know where we can go?"

Ethan picked up the neatly folded clothes, stood up, and headed back to his room, saying, "Yup! I'll make the arrangements."

Fearing that he would waste too much money, Janet sprang to her feet and said, "Don't spend too much money!"

Adhering to Janet's request of not spending too much money, Ethan took her to his private island near Seacisco. This island hadn't been developed yet. At a glance, it was just an island with a dense jungle, and the only source of light at night was the lighthouse.

Ethan got off the yacht, grabbed Janet's waist, and lifted her up. The waves dashed against the rocks and hit the reef. The cloudless sky seemed to have lined up with the coast.

"There aren't any tickets or goods to spend money on here. So, what do you think? Is it economical enough?"

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“It’s good that it doesn’t cost a lot. We need to save as much money as we can in case of any emergencies. Anyway, how did you find this place? The scenery is so beautiful and the air is fresh. It’s nothing like the city.” Janet took a deep breath and the cool air soothed her nerves. She continued to inhale and exhale to relax more.

After doing that and stretching herself, she soon felt comfortable. Her day-to-day life was a little tough. She usually faced the computer and saw many tall buildings and people every day. Now that she was away from the hustle and bustle of the city, she was at ease.

“A friend recommended it to me. I’m glad you like it.” Ethan carried the big bags and walked ashore. They were quite heavy, but he preferred to carry them himself. He didn’t want to burden his wife at all.

Janet just followed him closely, carrying her small handbag. She had thought she was alone with Ethan on this island. But when she looked back, she saw four men coming down from the yacht. They were carrying tents, tables, chairs, cauldrons, and a couple of other camping equipment.

The men went under a shade of coconut trees and began to set up the tent. It was as big as a yurt, almost the size of a house.

“What are they doing?” Janet has never seen a tent this big before. From the sizes and appearance of the other equipment, she could tell that they were high-end. She had her eyes fixed on the men in confusion.

“They are helping us set up the tent and everything we will need.” Ethan put the foldable outdoor chair on the ground. Patting off the dust, he said to her, “Come and sit here. The arrangement will take them some time.”

“How much does all that cost?” Janet covered her mouth in awe of everything she was seeing. It was as if she was seeing those things for the first time.

Three of the men were setting up the tent, while one of them was arranging the barbecue grill. ‘How come they are doing all these? Well, I don’t think they are doing these for free. Delivering such high-end camping equipment and setting everything up must cost a lot. How was Ethan able to afford their service? Did his friend who recommended this place send them here?’

Noticing that Janet was lost in thought, Ethan pulled her to sit on the chair and explained, “Those pieces of equipment are all rental. They don’t cost much at all.”

Shortly after, the four men were done setting up the equipment. They bowed to Ethan and Janet and left as quickly as they came.

As Janet took a sip from the orange juice Ethan had given her, she murmured to herself, “Those men were so diligent. Their customer service is just excellent. That’s good to know.”

The couple went to the arranged area and camped there.

“What would you like for lunch?” After checking the time on his wristwatch, Ethan walked to the grill to start the fire.

The dried leaves and branches on the ground made rustling and snapping sounds as Ethan walked on them. He rolled up the sleeves of his shirt. His slender fingers and strong arms had green veins slightly protruding out of them.

Janet's mouth flew open when she saw his muscular figure. It was until Ethan turned to look at her that she regained her senses. She shook her head and blinked severally as her face flushed. As if nothing had happened, she walked up to him and finally replied, "Since there's a grill here, how about we have a barbecue?"

The faint fragrance of Janet's body wafted into Ethan's nostrils as soon as she walked to his side. He couldn't help but wonder what perfume she wore today.

Her scent was doing something to him. To control himself, he pinched his palm hard and slightly bit the walls of his mouth. The piercing pain kept him from getting turned on.

However, his temporary wall of defense came crashing down when Janet touched his hand.

"Let me help you..." Janet said as she tried to take over the grill from him. But her words were cut short because Ethan suddenly grabbed her chin with his big hand.

"Damn it!" he cursed, gritting his teeth. After staring at her lips for a split second, he lowered his head and bit her lower lip gently. He suddenly held her around the waist and pulled her closer with his other hand.

Janet's body was trembling and her heart was beating fast at this time. Before she could process what was happening, Ethan kissed her slowly and deeply. She found herself responding hungrily to him.

The kiss was so passionate that they didn't know how long it lasted. By the time they released each other's lips, they were both panting heavily and their lips were slightly swollen. Ethan hugged her and stroked her hair lovingly.

Camping was a first-time experience for both Ethan and Janet. Although they were so excited to cook in the open air, it took them the whole afternoon to make a half-cooked barbecue and vegetables. They were happy with the result, nonetheless.

When dusk came, the island became even more breathtaking. The orange setting sun hung above the sea horizon. It made the water glisten brilliantly. A fishing ship was in a distance. At this moment, it seemed like time slowed down.

Sitting in a chair, Janet looked in a distance and enjoyed the beautiful scenery. She propped her chin on her hand and mumbled casually, "The sight is so beautiful. I wish I could make a painting of it. I

haven't painted in a long time. It's a pity that I didn't bring any painting tools along. I guess I can only feed my eyes then."

Ethan didn't say anything in response to her at first. He just stared at her quietly as she basked in the sun. The reflection of the sunlight on her beautiful face delighted him. Affection flitted in his eyes. His heart suddenly began to thump against his chest and he could hear it clearly.

"Ahem! You don't have to just feed your eyes. I'll see what I can do about the painting tools," he finally said.

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Janet quickly turned to look at Ethan as soon as she heard those words. With her eyes widened in surprise and disbelief, she asked, "Did you bring painting tools along?"

Undiluted affection glistened in Ethan's eyes as his lips curled up in a smile. He stood up and leaned close to her. As he stared at her affectionately, the golden sun rays danced on their faces.

Instinctively, he stroked her hair and replied, "I'll try find you some. Just wait for me here."

Ethan straightened up and began to walk towards the forest. When he was sure that he was out of Janet's sight, he took out his phone and called Sean. His face was cold and his tone was authoritative at this time.

"Send a helicopter here with the best painting equipment immediately!"

On the other end of the line, Sean was flabbergasted to hear his boss's command. He had been busy supervising the servants to clean up Ethan's house. Although the errand was out of the blue, he had no choice but to respond, "Okay, sir. I... I'll do that right away."

In a resigned state, Sean guessed that Ethan wanted a set of painting equipment because of Janet. He immediately set to work.

Thirty minutes later, a helicopter came to the island and delivered a set of painting equipment.

Ethan wasted no time in grabbing them. He strapped the easel and the drawing board on his back, while he carried the acrylic paint set, a bucket, and paint brushes in his hands. He then walked back to the beach.

"What! Where did you get all these from, Ethan? The drawing board is so big. How come I didn't see it among our belongings just now?" Janet asked in surprise. Opening her arms wide, she added, "This is an uninhabited island and there's no shop here. More so, the closest habited area is hundreds of miles away from here. Where did you get these things from?"

As Janet bombarded him with questions, Ethan set down all the tools and smiled at her. She looked so adorable in her puzzled state.

"Well, there's a ship on the other side of the island. I went to speak to the occupants there. Luckily, there was a painter amongst them. He sold these tools to me at a cheap price."

"Wow! Where is he?" Janet's eyes lit up and she looked in the direction that Ethan had come from. "I want to meet him!" she added excitedly.

Ethan grabbed her wrist and replied sadly, "I'm afraid that can't be possible. They sailed away as soon as I got out of the ship. I think they only stopped to watch the sunset. Not to worry, I already thanked him enough for you. Didn't you say that you wanted to paint? Why don't you get right to it? See, the sun would set soon. You'd better hurry up!"

Janet was a little displeased that she couldn't meet the so-called painter, but she smiled and began to set up the easel. The cool evening breeze blew her white dress when she took a paintbrush and dipped it in paint.

Now that she was ready to begin painting, Ethan decided to take delight in watching her. He poured himself a cup of refined beer and sat next to her. He quietly watched as she painted.

Only one-quarter of the sun remained in the sky about an hour later.

Ethan thought it was about time she finished painting. He stood up from the wooden chair, put his arm around her shoulder, and kissed her on the forehead. He then brushed her nose with his. Smiling dotingly at her, he asked, "My little painter, how's your painting coming along?"

Without responding, Janet brushed the paintbrush on the canvas a few more times before she put it away. A proud smile suddenly appeared on her face. Massaging her hand, she stared at the canvas intently.

On the canvas, there was a man and woman sitting side by side. The rays of the orange sunset were on them. A sea which was dyed golden by the sunset was in front of them. Thin coconut trees were on each side of the canvas. The mood of the painting was serene. The white clothes the couple had on also contributed to its warmth.

Janet had intentionally painted her and Ethan. The current atmosphere was beautiful, calm, and romantic. She wanted to make this moment last forever.

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"What do you think?" Janet asked timidly.

If she had to be honest, she wasn't really confident about the painting. The last time she had painted with nature as the subject was when she was still a student. She had been drawing fashion designs so much that she had started to feel the rest of her drawing repertoire slipping. As for what she had just made, she'd just pulled it mostly out of her imagination. Janet wasn't sure if Ethan would like it; it certainly looked flat to her.

Ethan's face was unreadable as he reached out to run his fingers across the drawing board. For one long moment, he said nothing and just stared at it.

Janet grew flustered soon enough. She tugged at his sleeve, her lips pursed. "Ethan, is everything okay?"

Instead of answering her, he just bent down and kissed her again.

Janet was so nervous that her palms were sticky with sweat, but she still grabbed his shirt and pulled him close. She closed her eyes and allowed herself to fall into his passionate assault, even as her heart thundered inside her chest.

Their kiss deepened, their tongues dancing wildly against each other. The sound of the crashing waves faded into the background, and all they could hear was their labored breathing and the occasional moan of pleasure.

“Wait, Ethan,” Janet panted as she pulled back and turned her head sideways to avoid another kiss. “You haven’t said anything about my painting yet.” Her face was flushed, and her lips were swollen.

Undeterred, Ethan pressed a soft kiss on her cheek and pressed her slender waist against his body. He gave the drawing board a short, tender glance before trailing more kisses down her throat.

His lips wandered to the back of her ear. “It’s good, babe,” he whispered, his voice tight. “It looks really good. There, can I do it now?” Ethan was burning with desire.

Janet finally looked up at him, only to lower her eyes again. Her mind was slowly turning into mush. She didn’t even know what to say. The truth was that she wanted him just as much as he wanted her, if not more.

Ethan’s eyes darkened. Before she could utter a word, he swooped down and mischievously licked her lips, nipping and sucking the soft flesh between her teeth.

Soon enough, neither could contain their raging lust any longer.

Ethan picked Janet up and carried her into the tent.

The next thing she knew, he had already set her down on the thick bedding, trapping her with his large frame.

He rubbed his body against hers, eliciting a slow moan that sent currents running down his veins.

Ethan kissed her gently on the neck, prompting Janet to grab his collar in a death grip. For some reason, that single, innocent kiss was more profound than the more torrid ones they had just shared. Her long legs instinctively wrapped around his waist. The air inside the tent grew hot and heavy.

“Ethan...” Janet trembled, all at once excited and scared. She could feel every inch of his hands as they roamed her body, and wherever they touched, her skin ignited.

“I’m here,” Ethan rasped. With one swift movement, he sat back on his hunches and took his shirt off, revealing his broad chest. He looked like a beast raring to devour its prey.

A drop of sweat fell from his hair and slid down his toned abs before disappearing under his trousers.

Janet closed her eyes in anticipation. She heard the sound of a zipper ripping open, and then finally, she felt it—hot, hard, and pulsating, pressing against her pelvis.

Just when they were about to get to the best part, there was a bright flash of light, followed by the cracking sound of thunder. Heavy rain began pouring in the next second, beating down on the tent and causing its roof to cave in slightly.

Ethan propped himself up on his elbow and swept the tent’s curtain aside. When he saw the storm raging outside, his eyes narrowed dangerously.

He had made sure to check the weather forecast before they had even come here. Apparently, the sea was so capricious that the weather in nearby areas could never be predicted for certain.

The thought had barely crossed his mind when the winds suddenly picked up. They blew violently against the tent, while the heavy rain kept pelting its thin fabric. It might be a high-end product of

excellent quality, but it stood no chance against a tempest by the sea. Even now, the damn thing was shaking around them.

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Ethan grunted and stopped reluctantly.

When Janet couldn't feel the hardness of his body against hers, she slowly opened her eyes in confusion.

Ethan's heart was filled with mixed feelings as he stared at her. He smoothed his wet hair back and swallowed hard.

"What are we going to do now?" Janet's cheeks were red and her eyes were misty. She still hadn't recovered from the hot kiss she just received.

Ethan hugged her and rubbed her back as he tried to calm himself down. After a long while, he said, "Everything will be fine. Just stay here. I'll go and erect the tent again."

He got up, put on his clothes, and went out.

Janet took a fetal position and wrapped herself up with the thick blanket. As she waited obediently, she looked out of the window. The rain was falling heavily and the wind blew. A violent bolt of lightning suddenly erupted in the sky. She immediately stopped looking outside and pulled the blanket over her head.

The moment Ethan returned, she rushed to him and hugged him tightly.

"I hope the rain won't get heavier. But it's okay, Janet. I'm here with you." He patted her head dotingly.

Ethan didn't want her to get too scared, so he adjusted his mood. He held her in his arms and they lay under the blanket. With his face pressed against her neck, he muttered, "It's my fault. I should have studied the weather report well before bringing you here. It's rather unfortunate that we can't call a ship at this time. I'm sorry."

The rainstorm outside was so heavy that it hit the tent violently.

"Hey, are you feeling sleepy? Why aren't you saying anything?" Ethan smoothed the wisps of hair on her forehead and stared at her face which had an absentminded expression. He thought, 'She is so cute!'

After yawning, Janet looked up at him and replied flirtatiously, "Just a little. But I can't sleep peacefully with all the noise. I'm scared."

"Don't be scared, dearie. You should sleep since you are sleepy. I'll watch over you and wake you up if something happens," Ethan said and kissed her nose. He then wrapped his arms around her more tightly. The two of them snuggled up together and waited for the rainstorm to stop.

It wasn't until midnight that the storm finally subsided. Janet peacefully fell asleep in Ethan's arms.

The next morning, Janet woke up, still in her husband's warm embrace. She gently broke free, opened the tent, and walked out. Everything outside was a complete mess, except the tent.



“My God! We have to compensate the service agency for the damages. It will cost a lot!” she uttered unhappily as she picked up the broken chairs on the ground.

“All these don’t matter. I’m just relieved that we made it through the night in one piece.” Ethan shrugged when he saw the damaged properties. Afterward, he took his coat and put it over Janet’s shoulders.

“Huh? Why are you downplaying what happened? We made it through the night, but the experience was horrible. We could have been drenched by the rain. Or worse still, struck by lightning. We shouldn’t have come here in the first place. Wouldn’t it have been better to stay at home?” Janet nagged, nudging him with her elbow.

They cleared up the place and went back home in the afternoon.

As soon as they got into their apartment, Ethan began to take Janet’s belongings to his room.

“Hey, why are you in such a hurry? Let’s take things slow.” Janet held his arm as her face flushed.

Still holding one of her bags, Ethan stared at her with squinted eyes. It was as if he didn’t want to take things slow as she suggested.

Since he refused to listen to her, Janet acquiesced in the end.

Night came and the two of them slept on the same bed.

Under the dim light, Ethan slowly moved to her and hugged her tightly. He then kissed her neck aggressively and began to explore her body with his hand.

Just when he was about to get under her nightgown, Janet gasped and pushed him away. She blushed and said, “I only agreed to move into your room. My agreement wasn’t a go-ahead for you to take things too far!”

“Tsk!” Ethan sucked his teeth and bit her ear slightly. He then lay back on the bed, smiling bitterly.

‘Gosh, I want her! Why is she refusing me? The mood is just right. It would be hard to be in such a good atmosphere again. I wish she could just allow me to touch her tonight!’ Ethan thought as the throbbing in his groin reduced.

It was bad enough that the rainstorm on the island had stopped him from having sex with her last night. He had been horny since then. But as a gentleman, he didn’t want to force himself on her. He just rolled over to the side and slept off.