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Janet looked up with difficulty.

A middle-aged woman had opened the car door. She was wearing a red down jacket and a white knitted scarf. She looked very... ordinary.

"Oh, you're tied up!" The woman spoke with a strong Seacisco accent. As she spoke, she immediately helped Janet up, untied the rope around her wrists, and ripped the tape off her mouth. "Get out of the car quickly. You've run into some bad people."

Janet clambered out of the car as quickly as she could. Her lips were chapped and her hair was a mess.

After helping Janet out, the woman hurried to pick up all the thumbtacks on the ground. She grumbled, "How troublesome! I have to pick them all up as soon as possible, lest they puncture the tires of other cars."

Still in a state of shock, Janet looked around in a daze. There were many cars coming and going. Perhaps this place was near the highway, so there weren't that many pedestrians.

When she came back to her senses, she helped the woman pick up the remaining thumbtacks and handed them to her. She thanked the woman and asked incredulously, "Did you break their tires to save me?"

The woman carefully tucked the thumbtacks into her pocket and said with a kind smile, "It's not a big deal. I just happened to be in the area, buying some groceries. When I saw that you were shoved into a car by two men, I knew I had to help. My family used to run a Boxing Gym, so I know some combat skills. I hurried to buy these thumbtacks from a hardware store and planted them here to burst their tires. There are many human traffickers in the area. You should be more careful."

Janet smiled at her bitterly. She didn't expect Tyler to be so cruel and lawless.

The middle-aged woman shrugged and said, "Anyway, I've got to go now. You'd better leave here, too. Go somewhere safe. Those human traffickers might come back soon. Maybe they'll bring reinforcements."

"What should I do? Tyler's a bad guy. I can't let him get away with this!" Janet glared at the man who was lying unconscious on the ground. She wanted to stay and make sure he got what he deserved, but she was also afraid.

"Don't worry. I'll call the police. You'd better leave now, young girl. I know some combat skills. They can't hurt me." The woman's tone was very calm. She pointed down the road and said, "There's a shopping mall up ahead. There are many people there. No matter how bold these human traffickers are, they won't dare to strike there."

The woman in front of Janet was tall, strong, and powerful. She was clearly not weak and looked like she could take care of herself. So Janet made up her mind. "Be careful."

After saying goodbye, she ran down the side of the road.

The second Janet turned around and left, the kind smile on the woman's face disappeared in the blink of an eye.

She kicked Tyler's face hard with her foot, and then she tapped the Bluetooth ear bud in her ear to call Ethan. "Boss, Janet's safe now. Don't worry."

Laney was still in hospital, so Ethan had hired an older but experienced female bodyguard from Shadow. She was to protect Janet in the interim.

"Good. I'll send someone there now. Where are the two human traffickers?" Ethan asked coldly.

"They're running northwest. There's nothing but orchards in that direction, and it's snowing tonight. The temperature will drop below zero. They won't make it very far. We can catch them before night falls."

Hearing that, Ethan immediately sent someone to take Tyler away, while simultaneously ordering his men to chase after the two remaining human traffickers.

After running for what seemed like forever, Janet finally arrived at a shopping mall packed with people. By then, she was panting heavily and sweating despite the cold weather.

As soon as she made it safely inside the mall, she took out her phone and called Ethan.

As soon as he got off the phone with the female bodyguard, Ethan had immediately set off for Janet. That was when she called him.

"You're safe now. Find a cafe and sit down. I'll be there soon."

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Janet was rooted to the spot for a while before finding a cafe to sit down and wait for Ethan. The cup of coffee she was holding was hot, but her limbs tingled in coldness.

She was now safe inside a cafe, but her mind still couldn't get over what she had heard in the car a while ago. It was hard to believe that Tyler would transact with human traffickers.

They said they were going to sell her to Southernnton, an underdeveloped area where the people were poor and conservative. It was also a place with frequent cases of abduction over the years.

Just thinking about it gave Janet goose bumps. She rubbed her arms, scared for her life.

Her train of thoughts was interrupted by the bell at the entrance of the cafe.

When she looked up, Janet saw Ethan striding in. Some snowflakes rested on his black hair. And his expression was colder than the winter.

"Ethan!" Without thinking twice, Janet ran to him and threw herself into his arms.

For a split second, Ethan was stunned. But then he hugged Janet back before making her face him. "You should have told me that you were going out. How are you? Did you get hurt?"

"I'm fine. But I... I didn't know Tyler would be such a scum." Ashamed by her poor judgment, Janet lowered her eyes.

Ethan was enraged, but he didn't show it to Janet. God knew what would have happened to her if he was a little too late. Fortunately, he had hired another bodyguard to secretly follow her. "Let's go to the police station first. We can't let him get away from this."

As he spoke, he took a look at his wife, who lowered her head again. Ethan ran his fingers through Janet's hair, comforting her. "I didn't know you could be so bold."

"I thought he had really changed. I have never imagined that he would try to sell me to human traffickers..." Anger and sadness laced in Janet's voice. "How could Hannah have a son like him? She is so unfortunate."

Ethan clenched his jaw but continued to comfort her. "We have to get rid of him once and for all so he won't get the chance to hurt anyone again."

After convincing Janet, they both went to the police station.

The police made a move as soon as Janet gave her statement.

"What? You haven't caught him?"

To say that Janet was shocked was an understatement.

"Yes. Tyler was no longer there when we arrived at the scene. The witness had left too after calling us. Only his car was found there. We are still searching for him." The policewoman who took Janet's statement sighed. "There have been six abductions in Seacisco in the past few months and we haven't been able to catch the people behind them."

What she said made Janet feel sick. She thought people like Tyler deserved to be in jail.

"Janet, let's go home for now. I'm sure they'll update us once they get a lead." With his arm around Janet's shoulder, Ethan said expressionlessly, "They will catch those bag guys, don't worry."

Thinking that he was just trying to comfort her, Janet nodded and followed him.

Soon, they arrived home.

Janet received a call from Hannah.

"Janet, how are you? Where's Tyler? Did anything happen?"

Afraid that Hannah wouldn't be able to handle the truth, Janet decided to hide it from her. "I don't know. He told me he'd work somewhere else and left."

"That brat is really a troublemaker! Well, forget it. This isn't the first time he left without saying a word. Just let him be."

Perhaps it was because Tyler often left without telling Hannah, she was no longer surprised to hear the news. However, disappointment was still evident in her voice. "He must be gambling somewhere again. I honestly thought he had changed for real."

On the other end of the line, Janet was completely quiet. Now that she had realized how terrible Tyler was as a person, there was no point in putting in a good word for him anymore.

Somewhere in the city, inside a dark interrogation room, Ethan sat on a chair and looked down at Tyler whose blood was dripping all over his body.

“Sir, let me go. I, I have told you everything I know. What else do you want?” Sweat mixed with tears fell down Tyler’s face. He wasn’t a tough man at all. After being whipped several times, he immediately confessed.

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“Pour some saline water on his wounds.” Ethan’s eyes flared up with rage and hatred.

With eyes wide open, Tyler stared at the man standing in the darkness. All he could see was the man’s tall silhouette. Despite the fact that Ethan rarely spoke, Tyler was intimidated by him.

“I’ve already told you everything. Please let me go! Please...” Before Tyler could even finish his sentence, a bowl of saline water was poured over his wounds, causing him to scream in agony.

After screaming at the top of his lungs for a long time, he could hardly breathe. “I’ve told you everything I know! I won’t do it again, I promise. Please! Please, let me go!”

Ethan didn’t believe a word that came out of Tyler’s mouth. The way he stared at the latter was truly frightening.

‘Human traffickers, the casino, and a mysterious acquaintance... It’s all too much of a ‘coincidence’. It might seem as simple as Tyler just intended to abduct Janet and sell her off to pay for his gambling debts. But there’s definitely more to the story.’

Ethan walked out of the room with a recorder pen in hand and said, “Take ‘good care’ of him, but I want him alive.”

Having said that, he went back to the room next to the interrogation room, pressed the recorder pen’s play button, and carefully analyzed Tyler’s confession.

“There’s an acquaintance I knew, someone from my village and I met him in Blakewood a while ago. He told me that my mom had been supporting a girl named Janet Lind. She works at a big company, and they say she hooked up with the Larson Group’s CEO. So, I figured I’d come here and ask her for money and mooch off her. Later on, I met two human traffickers at a tavern and decided to join hands with them to abduct Janet.”

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In the recording, Tyler sounded fired up. He kept on repeating the same sentences, and he didn’t seem to be lying.

However, there two things that Ethan just couldn't figure out.

Firstly, Tyler had been in Blakewood. It was miles away from this place, so the chances of him hearing about Janet when he was in badly need of money to pay off his gambling debts was astronomically low.

Aside from that, Ethan had asked his men in Blakewood to conduct a thorough investigation. The "acquaintance" that Tyler knew in Blakewood had been living there for years and never met Hannah, nor Janet. It couldn't have been possible for that person to know what was happening in Seacisco.

Secondly, human traffickers were usually very vigilant. It was highly unlikely for someone like them to cooperate with a random stranger who they met at a tavern. 'Tyler's offer to join them that night was a spur in the moment decision. Why would they agree to his request so readily?'

Ethan turned off the recorder pen, interlocked his fingers, and continued contemplating.

'Maybe Tyler is telling the truth. Maybe he really isn't aware that someone has been using him as a pawn. Someone else is probably behind all this; someone who's using Tyler to hurt Janet.'

At first, Ethan thought that someone from the Lester family must be the mastermind, but then he cast the idea aside.

"Even if the Lester family does want to hurt Janet, they're not going to use such underhanded tactics. They prefer to attack head on. And even if their plans get exposed, they could easily deal with it. They don't have any reason to do something like this and make things difficult for themselves.'

Thereafter, Ethan told his man to call the police over, and Tyler was put behind bars.

However, he had no intention of letting this go. He just didn't want to alert the enemy that he was onto them. His intention was to continue to look into this matter further.

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It was late winter now and snow was frequent. Seacisco, the concrete jungle, was covered in a layer of snow and frost.

Catherine Turner was calmly making tea in her residence. After decades of experiencing the world, she had assumed a noble, elegant demeanor.

"My dear daughter, you've been looking sullen these days. What's the matter?"

After pondering for a moment, she smiled at Charis sympathetically and asked, "Is it about a boy?"

Feeling agitated, Charis stared at the tea in her cup with her chin propped on one hand. "Mom, I don't want to talk about it, okay?"

Catherine could sense that something was wrong. She eyed her daughter warily, wondering what had happened.

Although Ethan had warned Charis several times, she couldn't stop herself from hiring a private detective to investigate Janet.

She had thought that she could use the Lind family to hurt Janet, but she found out that Janet had cut all ties with the Lind family. The only family she had now was Hannah Stone, who used to serve the Lind family.

But it was clear that Hannah loved Janet and would never do anything to hurt her. Charis couldn't use her at all.

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Fortunately, Charis also found out about Tyler, Hannah's son who hadn't been in contact with her for years.

Tyler was a scumbag and gambling addict. He was deep in debt and was at the end of his rope, so Charis thought that he was the perfect guy to start with.

Charis spent some money and asked someone in Blakewood who knew Tyler to "casually" tell him that Janet worked in the Larson Group.

Two days later, as expected, Tyler came running back to Seacisco and went straight to Janet.

Charis had thought that she had everything under control.

But what she hadn't foreseen was that Janet would ask Ethan for help the second she found out about Tyler's gambling debts.

And Ethan had dealt with it easily. Now, Tyler had no choice but to pay off his debts by himself.

Seeing that her plan was going to fail again, Charis felt frustrated and unwilling to let Tyler to start over again like that.

So that night, she used the Turner family's connections to hire human traffickers to set a trap for Tyler to abduct Janet for money.

But just before her plan could succeed, someone meddled and ruined things for her.

Little did she know that Ethan had sent someone to replace Laney while she was out of commission. The new bodyguard was good and she saved Janet right after she was abducted.

Originally, Charis wasn't that invested. If her plan succeeded, then that would be good for her. If it didn't, then she wouldn't lose anything. After all, because Tyler was the one doing all the bad things, he would be the one to go to prison. She could always back away.

But Ethan didn't seem to intent to let things go so easily even after Tyler was put in jail.

Now, Charis was distraught. Ethan had begun to investigate the matter thoroughly. He'd find out that she was behind everything sooner or later.

"Mom, I need to go back to work. I'll visit you another time." Lost in thought, Charis looked flustered. She suddenly stood up from her seat, grabbed her bag, and hurried out of the room.

“But you just arrived—!” Catherine sighed regretfully. She hadn’t spent much time with her daughter ever since she lived separately with Luke.

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On her way back to the office, Charis worried nonstop. She couldn’t give Ethan a bad impression; she just couldn’t.

In a panic, she called the private detective she had hired. “Get me information on all of Janet’s enemies by the end of today. Got it?”

“Miss Turner, how detailed are we talking about?”

“I want to know every single enemy Janet has made ever since she was a child!”

Without waiting for a response, Charis hung up the phone angrily.

She didn’t expect that Ethan would pursue this matter so thoroughly. Given the connections the Larson Group had, it’d only be a matter of time before he found out that she was the one behind all this.

Of course, Charis didn’t want Ethan to know about the horrible things she had done.

She wanted to stay perfect in his heart.

Fortunately for her, the private detective she had hired was really good. He got Charis the information she wanted within the day.

There was a woman in particular who stood out to Charis. Her name was Elaine Sellers.

Charis had seen this name in the personnel files before. Elaine was fired because of Janet. Later, she was even sent to jail because of Janet again. She must’ve hated Janet to the core. Charis had seen this name in the personnel files before. Elaine was fired because of Janet. Later, she was even sent to jail because of Janet again. She must’ve hated Janet to the core.

Upon reading through the file the private detective had sent her, Charis sneered and went to see Elaine.

Elaine had graduated from a famous university in Seacisco, but now, she worked as a receptionist in a motel.

Elaine looked up in surprise when she saw Charis in high heels and sunglasses here. “Miss Turner, what brings you here?”

When Elaine was working in the Larson Group, she had seen photos of Charis and thought that she was a really intelligent and beautiful woman. But before she ever got to meet Charis in person, she was fired because of Janet.

Charis delicately removed her sunglasses and glanced around the shabby motel in disdain. “Miss Sellers, allow me to be straightforward with you. I’m here to ask a favor of you. Should you agree to help me, you will be rewarded generously.”

Because Elaine now had a criminal record, she could no longer find a decent job. Her current job was just enough to keep her fed.

“What do you mean?” Elaine clenched her fists secretly. She had to admit that Charis gave out an intimidating aura.

Charis leaned closer to whisper in her ear, “I want a scapegoat.”

Elaine shook her head immediately. “No, I’ve already been in jail once. I can’t go there a second time.”

Her days in prison were so horrible that she shuddered at the thought of it.

If she became Charis’s scapegoat, she would inevitably be sent to jail again.

“Hear me out first before you make your decision,” Charis said calmly. “The charge won’t be serious. Even if you are put in jail, it’ll only be for a few years. You’ve already been there once, it’s no big deal if you go back. But the money I’ll give you in exchange for this will be more than enough for you to live the rest of your life in luxury. What will you choose? To live like this forever? Or to spend a few years in jail in return for a lifetime of luxury?”

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Elaine shook her head stubbornly. “I’ve been to prison once. It was the worst place on earth. The other inmates loved to bully me. Moreover, there was no freedom in there and you repeat the same routine every day. It was hell.”

Charis smiled calmly. “So is your life here better? Are you happy?” She glanced around the motel in disgust. It was located downtown, but in a dirty, shabby part of the neighborhood. The only customers this motel served were gangsters and their prostitutes.

She got close to Elaine’s ear and whispered, “My dear, this is hell. And have you thought carefully about who it was that got you here? She’s the happy one! She has a handsome husband and a stable job. She might even become a famous designer in the future. Elaine, will you just sit and watch as her life flourishes?”

Clenching her fists, Elaine gritted her teeth angrily, her eyes seething with rage.

She fell silent for a long time before she finally looked up at Charis again. “I want five million. Then, after I get out of prison, you have to help me emigrate to another country.”

Elaine didn’t want to stay in a place where she had been humiliated.

“Not a problem.” Hearing this, Charis smiled brightly.

She could easily give Elaine five million, but she had to be alive to enjoy that money.

The two women smoothed out the details of the agreement. Charis then managed to shift all the blame to Elaine and intentionally gave out some clues for Ethan’s men to find.

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Soon, Ethan’s men were led to Elaine.

Elaine had hated Janet to the guts after all. And it wasn't impossible for Elaine to find Tyler and pass the messages to him. Ethan took things at face value and sued Elaine.

When Charis found out that Elaine was put behind bars, she finally felt relieved.

"It's finally over!" At home, Charis sank into her chair, her trembling fingers holding the phone.

It had only been about two weeks since Ethan had started the investigation.

Charis closed her eyes. She wanted to lie down for a while, but suddenly, her eyes popped open again.

Things weren't over yet.

Elaine was the only one who knew what she had done. She had to make sure that Elaine wouldn't tell a soul.

Charis picked up the phone immediately and dialed a number.

Fortunately, the Turner family had a lot of connections and she knew someone in Seacisco Prison. She called them and asked them to get rid of Elaine, ensuring that she wouldn't live to tell anyone what Charis had done.

Less than two days later, the news reported that a female prisoner in Seacisco Prison was beaten to death by other inmates due to a trifle conflict. The matter wasn't investigated too thoroughly. After all, the people in prison were all criminals and this sort of thing happened often. Soon, that news was drowned out by other things.

But even after everything was over, Charis still had a lingering fear.

She applied for a business trip to another city. She felt that she had to stop and lay low for a while before she did something again. The next time she took action, she had to make sure her plan was foolproof. Moreover, she had to maintain her perfect image in Ethan's heart. Perhaps Ethan had already begun to doubt her not being as pure and innocent as she appeared, so she had to be extra discreet.

On the other side...

Ever since the human trafficking incident, Janet had been trying to find the lady who had saved her to thank her.

She went back to the area where the incident happened, but she couldn't find a trace of the lady. No one in the area had ever seen the lady she described.

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"It's just so weird. How can a person disappear without a trace just like that?" Janet had been pondering the matter for so long, but she still couldn't figure it out.

Her elbows were propped on the table, her dainty little chin resting on the tent of her fingers. She pursed her lips and squinted at the distance as she thought of every possible explanation for her savior's disappearance.

Ethan emerged from the kitchen with the tableware. He couldn't help but chuckle at the tiny furrow between her brows and the slight pucker of her lips.

"Think about it carefully. Maybe you forgot something, or missed some details." He set their places on the table. His cooking skills had significantly improved these last few weeks, and tonight, he had volunteered to cook dinner for them two.

"Oh, please." Janet shot Ethan a glare. "There's no way I would forget anything about the person who saved my life." And then something occurred to her. "Ethan! You can help me find her, right?"

Ethan paused. He couldn't let Janet know the existence of this bodyguard, no matter what.

He stalled by picking up Janet's fork and handing it to her. Although the indoor heating was on, it was still a little cold. Ethan was wearing a cream turtleneck sweater and lounge pants. He looked cozy and relaxed, with just a hint of his usual debonair elegance. "All right," he finally said. "I'll have my friends make some inquiries for you."

Ethan wasn't planning to do that, of course. He only said it to get her to drop the matter, and then a few days later, he would tell Janet that they had no leads about her savior's whereabouts.

Just as he intended, Janet felt assured by his show of support, and didn't pursue the subject any further.

In the middle of dinner, however, Janet put down her fork and turned serious all of a sudden. "I'm not sure why, but I feel like I've been very lucky recently. I mean, why does someone always appear to rescue me every time I'm in danger? Ethan, do you think I should buy a lottery ticket?"

The corners of Ethan's lips lifted in amusement. He cleared his throat and casually pushed the salad bowl towards her. "Who knows? Maybe you've done a lot of good deeds in your previous life, and this is your reward."

The corners of Ethan's lips lifted in amusement. He cleared his throat and casually pushed the salad bowl towards her. "Who knows? Maybe you've done a lot of good deeds in your previous life, and this is your reward."

But Janet didn't resume eating. Instead, she leaned over and narrowed her eyes at him. "Tell me, honestly. Did those things have anything to do with you?"

Ethan's heart skipped a beat. He could feel his guilt showing on his face, but he composed himself in the next second.

He racked his brains, but couldn't recall anything that could have exposed his involvement in everything related to Janet's safety. Perhaps his wife was just inherently clever.

Since she had found out the truth, anyway, he decided to explain everything once and for all. Ethan put his fork down and crossed his arms over his chest. "How did you know?" he asked, cool as a cucumber.

Janet cocked her head to the side and thought about it for a few seconds. "It's just that... Ever since I married you, I've always been fortunate in everything I got myself into. Whenever I encountered trouble at work or other things, the problems were always resolved quickly. It's obviously because of you."

Ethan blinked at her, realizing that she hadn't found out after all.

Chuckling to himself, he picked up his fork and got back to his food. “You’re a very charming person. No matter where you are and who you meet, you’re bound to be fortunate. I won’t refuse your praise, though. If you say that I’m the one who brought you good luck, then who am I to argue? But if that’s the case, then shouldn’t you be thanking me for the blessing?”

At the back of Janet’s mind, a voice was telling her that she had missed something. She wanted to discover what it was, but her thoughts were currently in a jumble, and she had no idea where to even begin.

She then figured if she couldn’t determine what it was, then it must be nothing important. There was no need to strain herself over something so trivial.

After dismissing the voice in her head, Janet rolled her eyes and scoffed. “I may have praised you, but I can’t believe you really ran away with it and took it to another level. For your information, Ethan, you’re also lucky to have married me. Extremely so.”

He burst out laughing. What she said did make a lot of sense. If he were really the dirt-poor nobody that he was pretending to be, then it would indeed be a great fortune to have married Janet.

Of course, he considered himself lucky either way. Janet was a priceless treasure in his eyes.

“You’re right; I am lucky. I’ve been married for half a year, and have been abstinent for just as long. I am so very lucky.” Ethan flashed her a wicked grin, his eyes glinting with mischief.

Janet almost fell into a daze before she caught herself. She ducked her head and focused on her food for the remainder of the meal.

A few days later, Laney was finally getting charged from the hospital—again.

Janet had more insight this time. She called Garrett in advance and asked if he could go and pick up Laney.

“Sure, I’ll do it. By the way, Lind, would you like to have dinner together this evening? I booked a private room at a nice restaurant. You can bring your husband as well.” Although he had promised Laney a reward in the future, he felt that he should at least treat her to dinner to celebrate her recover. She had saved his life, after all.

But he knew that they couldn’t dine alone, especially not in public. He might not care about the rumor mill, but he couldn’t say the same for Laney.

“Then, I shall take you up on your offer, Mr. Harding,” Janet said without a second thought.

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The ambiance of the restaurant was quaint yet beautiful. Bamboo trees lined up the path, interspersed with red flowering plums. The plants swayed with the gentle breeze, and the refreshing fragrance of bamboo and plum blossoms filled the air.

It was a renowned Chinese restaurant that boasted a unique menu. People often came to the restaurant just to try its braised pork.

Laney had stayed in the hospital for nearly a month. In the past month, she ate nothing but the bland hospital food provided for patients. Now, looking at the tempting, meaty dishes made her mouth water. Laney wasn't really a fan of meat, but today, she ate twice as much as she usually would.

Garrett had never seen a woman gobble up food like that before. He had usually been with women from wealthy, noble families. And those ladies only ate a few bites to maintain their shape.

A faint smile emerged on his face as he watched Laney hog down the food without having a care in the world.

On the other hand, Janet was eating gracefully as Ethan placed one dish after the other on her plate. "Would you like to have another bite?" He would smile tenderly and ask her to taste the dishes.

Only after Janet agreed would he fetch the food for her.

Only after Janet agreed would he fetch the food for her.

The four of them sat face to face. From afar, they looked like two sweet couples.

Janet was chewing her food. As she looked up, her gaze met Garrett's, and realized he was trying to start a conversation with Laney.

However, Laney gave perfunctory answers as if she had no interest in him.

"Mr. Harding is very articulate," Janet joked with a smile. She was familiar with Garrett now, so she had no inhibitions around him.

She found that Garrett was capable of noticing people's emotions. He seemed kind and considerate, which made women fond of him.

Garrett leaned back in his chair and looked at Laney from time to time. "Miss Garcia saved my life. I am indebted to her. She is my savior."

Janet looked at him and smiled. She could sense there was definitely chemistry between Garrett and Laney.

However, she continued to eat without voicing her thoughts. Just then, the door of the restaurant flew open.

A young girl sashayed in. She looked beautiful and energetic.

Her angry gaze fell upon Janet before she turned to look at Garrett. Her jaw tightened, and she was a picture of pure rage.

She strutted to their table and pointed at Garrett. "Mr. Harding, you canceled your date with me saying you had something important to do. Is having dinner with another woman behind my back the important thing you were talking about?"

"Tracey, who told you I'm here?" Garrett put down his chopsticks and frowned at her.

Noticing that something was wrong, Janet quickly swallowed the food and tugged at Ethan's shirt. "I think we'd better leave. It's most likely that Mr. Harding had a fling with this woman. It looks like he is in trouble."

Garrett was her boss after all. It didn't seem right for her to sit there and watch another woman embarrass him.

Ethan nodded and gave Garrett a quick glance before taking Janet to the bathroom.

Laney also wanted to follow them, but she was sitting next to Garrett. The moment she stood up, Tracey pinned her back to her chair. "Where do you want to go? You are not going anywhere, bitch! We need to talk this out today!"

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"I don't need anyone to tell me about that! I've already known that something was off about you since a long time ago!" Tracey crossed her arms, cast Laney a hostile glance, and scoffed.

The way she looked at Laney was so judgmental.

Laney swallowed, turned her head, and continued eating without responding. Since she wasn't allowed to leave, she figured it would be better to continue eating. Besides, she wasn't full yet.

Garrett put down his chopsticks, and spoke in a patient manner. "I think you misunderstood. This is my secretary. She saved my life a few days ago, and for that, she got injured. She's only just been discharged from the hospital today, so I figured I'd take her here and treat her to a meal."

Tracey sneered while glancing at Laney. She then looked back at Garrett and asked, "Your secretary? Do you think I'm an idiot? A few days ago, I conducted an investigation. She may appear to be your secretary, but she hasn't done any real work that pertains to a secretary's job description. I think it's fairly obvious who she really is."

Having said that, Tracey looked exasperated. "I've never done anything wrong to you, Garrett! Why did you do this to me?"

Garrett didn't know what to say at this point.

Garrett didn't know what to say at this point.

He couldn't tell Tracey who Laney really was, so he figured he should turn to Ethan for help. But when he glanced around the table, he noticed that Ethan and Janet were nowhere to be found.

"Let's not talk about this here. We should talk about this once we're home, okay?" Garrett stood from his seat, grabbed Tracey's hand, and was about to leave the restaurant.

However, Tracey was riled up again. "Why can't we talk here, huh? Are you afraid that your little mistress will find out the truth?" She then glanced at Laney and growled, "You uneducated slut! Didn't your parents teach you not to seduce someone else's boyfriend?"

Even Garrett found Tracey's words too harsh. He squeezed her hand and gently rebuked her. "Tracey, play nice."

Laney had always been an upstanding person, and she'd never been insulted like this. She stood up, wore a straight face, and said, "Miss, I am not seducing Mr. Harding here. We're simply having a meal together. Besides, we weren't on our own! Our other colleagues were with us earlier."

Tracey glared at her and grunted, "Lie all you want; that's not going to help!"

After saying that, she turned to Garrett and tugged on his sleeve. "Garrett, since you say that there's nothing going on between you two, fire her if you want me to believe you!"

The latter shook his head, adjusted his glasses, and put on a stern face. "I can't just fire her! I don't even have the authority to do that."

This was something that he couldn't decide by himself. He still had to discuss it with Ethan first.

Now, Tracey was even angrier than before. "You're supposed to be in a high position in the Larson Group and you can't even fire your own secretary? So, you really were lying just now, weren't you?"

Right after she finished speaking, she overturned the table in anger.

Laney was quick to react. She darted backwards to avoid getting hit.

The tableware fell to the ground in an instant. The noise was so loud that it attracted the attention of the other guests dining here.

Now, everyone was staring at them.

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Laney managed to duck away in time, however, Garrett wasn't able to. He stood there in a complete daze as the food splattered all over his tailored suit.

He was usually very gentle and tolerant towards women, but when he saw Tracey throwing tantrums in public, it was hard for him not to get angry.

Fortunately, he was a well-educated man and exhibited none of the anger he was feeling at the time. "Tracey, people are dining here. Don't embarrass yourself as well as ruin their night."

After having said that, he went on to say in a calm voice, "I'll never do anything that's against moral codes. You can make a scene if you want but don't do it in a public place. Let's discuss some more about this after we get back, all right?"

Noticing that he appeared angry, Tracey became timid and didn't say a word. Garrett grabbed hold of her hand and they proceeded to walk out of the restaurant together.

Before he left, Garrett turned to look back at Laney and apologized, "I need to head out now. Please let Ethan and Janet know that the restaurant damages and the meal will be on me."

Afterward, he said after a moment of hesitation, "I'm sorry you had an unpleasant meal just now. I'll make it up to you later."

Watching his receding back, Laney didn't say a word. It was not until Garrett was gone did she start to help the staff clean up the mess.

Laney kept her face devoid of expression, but she certainly felt stuffy in her chest.

She didn't do anything wrong, but today, she was treated like a mistress and a slut. She played the role as Garrett's secretary simply to stay close to Janet and protect her. She never wanted to get involved in Garrett's private life in the first place. With that in mind, how could she sleep with him? But now, she was being called an ambitious slut who tried to sleep her way to the top, which was ridiculous.

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Ten minutes later.

Ethan proceeded to walk out of the bathroom holding Janet's hand in his. Janet walked slowly with her cheeks blushing and her lips swollen.

After walking into the room and seeing that the waiters were cleaning up and that their table had been replaced by a new one, Ethan furrowed his brows and asked, "Was there a fight just now?"

Looking at the oil stains all over the floor, Janet quickly walked to Laney and asked her, "Were you hurt? You should have gone with me just now."

Earlier, before Janet could get a grasp on what was going on, she had been dragged into the bathroom by Ethan.

Laney forced out a smile and said, "It's fine. I think the meal has already ended. Let's head back."

After coming back home, Laney mulled it over in her head for a while and sent a message to Ethan.

She didn't want such misunderstandings to occur again in the future which was why she let Ethan know in the message that she did not want to continue working as Garrett's secretary anymore and asked him to find her another job with very little importance to do in the Larson Group. Anyway, what she really was here for was to protect Janet.

At night, after Janet fell asleep, Ethan got Laney's message and decided to give Garrett a call.

"How are things right now?" This was the first time that Ethan had ever gone out of his way to ask about Garrett's private life.

This was only because Ethan knew that he was the cause of the problem, so he thought he should bring it up.

"It's fine. I have handled the matter," Garrett said in a calm and even tone.

"Since you've got it handled, I want to have a chat with you about Laney. She sent me a text, saying that she wanted me to find her another position. She was concerned that your girlfriend would make a scene about her being your secretary again and cause unnecessary trouble for you and the company. I thought I should discuss this matter with you first before I decide anything." Ethan was silent for a few seconds

before he said, "I agree with what Laney said. There shouldn't be any more problems after we give her another job."

Hearing this, Garrett appeared a bit excited. "You can't just go about things randomly. Tell her she has nothing to worry about. Tracey doesn't have enough trust in me. I have already broken up with her. Laney can continue working as my secretary. This job is the perfect undercover disguise for someone like her."