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It was already quite late into the night when Emani woke up from her nap.

She picked up her phone, squinting her eyes, and logged into her Twitter. The discussion about the incident on the Internet was getting more and more intense. It would be strange if she still didn't say anything after everyone kept urging her to say something.

Perhaps she could try to win everyone's pity by claiming that she hadn't been able to sleep because of her worries.

She organized her thoughts and put them into words before posting an official response.

"Dear fans, I am truly sorry for taking so long to speak up and say something. I haven't been able to come online and respond to your requests as I have spent the past two days in bed being ill. I met Miss Janet Lind when I was the spokesperson of the Larson Group's clothing brand. I liked her immediately and hoped to be friends with her. As for what happened the other day by the lake, I believe she didn't really mean it. I hope that everyone will stop attacking her."

It seemed on the surface that she was speaking for Janet, but in fact, she not only made it clear that it was Janet who pushed her into the water, but also implied that she had been friendly and nice to Janet. She was trying to imply two messages. For one, Janet had a problem with her, so she pushed her into the lake. For another, she wanted everyone to think that she couldn't respond sooner because she was too sick to surf the Internet.

Emani's post instantly infuriated the netizens. Many fans were swift to comment and hurl curses at Janet.

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"Emani, please take care of yourself and don't wear yourself out because of that bitch."

"You are too kind, E. Talking about her will only give her more attention. I bet she's proud of what she's done to you."

"E, you are the nicest person ever. How could that bitch treat you like that?"

Emani replied to these comments one by one.

Lo and behold, she succeeded in winning everyone's sympathy.

As a star, she knew well what fans could do and that cyber-bullying could destroy a person.

Just ten minutes later, her post started to trend on every social media platform on the Internet.

Emani switched to another account with a different username and kept riling up her fans.

At this time, she received a call from Ritchie.

“Miss Gomez, I am impressed. Slinging mud at Janet even in such a late hour,” Ritchie said, snorting in derision. Judging from the music playing in the background, Emani guessed that he was in some club.

“Well, I’m not doing anything she doesn’t deserve. She put her foster mom in jail and cheated on her husband with a CEO. This is her retribution,” Emani said calmly. The fact that she was destroying someone’s life didn’t seem like a big deal to her at all.

Janet’s reputation got dragged through the mud now that the news was spreading like wildfire.

In truth, although Emani wasn’t a big fan of Janet, she didn’t really have that much against her either. She did what she did just to use Janet to curry favor with Ritchie.

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“Mr. Lester, do you have any plans later on? I am all yours.” Emani smiled, whispering in a seductive voice.

Emani got to this from an oblivious actress, so she knew well how things worked in the industry.

With a glass of wine in his hand, Ritchie chuckled playfully. He always had a soft spot for women who were obedient. With a domineering voice, he said, “You are doing a good job now.” In truth, he was quite impressed with what Emani had managed to do till now, so he encouraged her. “I have been friends with Director Hinks for many years. Apparently, he’s been looking for someone to play the lead actress in his new movie. I will recommend you to him.”

Marion Hinks was a well-known director in the film industry, whose movies boasted a considerable roster of world-famous movie stars.

Emani’s voice rose with excitement. “Really? Thank you so much, Mr. Lester!”

Ritchie hung up the phone with a smile.

Emani was completely immersed in joy.

Just then, her agent opened the door from the outside and came into her room in a hurry, seemingly frightened. “Something horrible has happened! Wait! Why are you still laughing?”

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The smile on Emani’s face hadn’t disappeared in the slightest bit. She was even imagining how she would receive the prize for best actress of the year at an International Film Festival.

“What happened? Calm down.” Emani said, as she casually lay across the bed.

“Why are you still lying there?! Get up and put on your clothes. Are you aware that the company has already started an emergency PR meeting?” The agent’s face turned bright crimson with rage. She pulled Emani to sit up in the bed and with a roar, she said, “Why are you so dumb? Why couldn’t you just sleep at night, like a normal person? Why did you have to post that comment and cause trouble for everyone?”

“What are you going on about?” Emani enquired with utter confusion. “What’s going on? I did post a tweet just now, but it was a great one, wasn’t it? The fans are angrier at that bitch than ever now.”

Her agent was pacing around the room anxiously. “It’s not about that. The fans might not be able to see what you were trying to do, but Kirby Wilde, that paparazzo, was somehow irked by what you had posted. In response, he’s been posting all the bad news about you and they’ve all gone viral now!”

Emani was dumbstruck. She quickly lifted the covers off herself and jumped off the bed to her feet. “Let me see!” The smile on Emani’s face hadn’t disappeared in the slightest bit. She was even imagining how she would receive the prize for best actress of the year at an International Film Festival.

The agent flung the phone in front of her and said, “Well, see for yourself! I have told you time and time again to behave yourself. Why can’t you be more sensible? You have executed a myriad of atrocious deed and we spent copious amounts of time and money covering it up. You should have been very careful after all we’ve had to do! Why do you have to make trouble for everyone?”

Emani hurriedly clicked on Kirby’s post to see for herself.

In the article, Kirby specifically pointed out Emani’s intention in posting what she had said to paint herself as the victim and the other woman the vicious bitch. Kirby also implied that Emani had probably devised this plan and purposely put on this show.

He also exposed the fact that Emani had been sleeping with men to secure roles in plays, as well as bullying other actresses. There were other extensive details of her misdeeds. There were even pictures and videos to prove it.

“How did he get his hands on such foolproof evidence?” Emani was so flustered that her voice was trembling with anxiety.

With a frigid look, the agent said, “He has been a paparazzo for years. You should know his reputation of having brought down several A-listers to their knees. If he resolves to take someone down, he ensures he gets solid, irrefutable evidence so that the person will never be able to get back up again.”

Emani felt as if she had been struck by a bolt of lightning. She stumbled backwards to the bed, her face ghastly pale.

Her phone rang endlessly. Her agent’s phone was also incessantly bombarded with call after call. Each call was from a different one of their business partners, cancelling their endorsements and contracts with Emani.

The agent shook her phone at Emani and said, “I’ve never seen an actress as stupid as you. Look at how many people are calling me. I was called and informed on my way here that all the brands that have endorsement deals with you want to cancel the contracts and sue you for damages for their losses! Emani, you have ruined your own career! You have no one else to blame!”

The agent was so overwhelmed by the calls that she was filled with frustration and had to just turn off her phone.

It finally dawned upon Emani the facts of the matter when she heard her agent’s words. Flustered, she held a corner of her agent’s clothes and asked pathetically with sobs, “Ruby, what should we do now?”

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Ruby, her agent, was also utterly flustered and said, "It's what you should you do now! There is an endless flow of newcomers into the industry and they are either apt at acting or very attractive. After you are gone, I will be assigned to someone new.

To put it bluntly, you are replaceable."

Emani was terrified by her words. Tears filled her eyes to the brim and threatened to overflow down her cheeks. "Ruby, you can't just give up on me like this, and leave me high and dry. You have been my agent since I came into the industry!"

What Ruby had said was just her anger talking in the heat of the moment.

Emani could be remarkably stupid sometimes. She had been in the entertainment industry for so many years, but she still didn't understand how things worked.

If no one had anything on her, then it never would have got to this point. However, she had done so many horrible and dumb things, and her colleagues in the industry were privy to it. It was just that they all had their own secrets, so no one bothered to expose hers.

Kirby was a famous paparazzo and he knew exactly what kind of person Emani was. He easily figured out the intention of her post tonight and decided to do something about it.

Although Ruby said that she was going to give up on Emani, she still felt sorry for her plight. After all, Emani had gone through a lot. She would have made an A-lister if she worked hard and starred in a few more movies. But now...

Ruby, her agent, was also utterly flustered and said, "It's what you should you do now! There is an endless flow of newcomers into the industry and they are either apt at acting or very attractive. After you are gone, I will be assigned to someone new. "Well, wipe away your tears. Every star has their own secrets that the public don't know of. Let's try to get past this phase first before we do anything else," Ruby said icily and walked out of the room.

Emani was left all to herself in the room. She sat on the bed in a state of complete desperation.

She took out her phone and logged onto her Twitter profile again, but this time, she was in a totally different mood.

Under Kirby's posts, she saw several comments that were cursing her.

"I have long thought that Emani is a terrible person. She's just a scheming bitch; how dare she act like she was a victim here? You know, there had been numerous pictures of her sleeping with different directors. I heard that one of the directors' wives was pregnant when her husband cheated on her with Emani, and the wife committed suicide!"

"Kirby never lies. He always has evidence for anything he says. He has been a paparazzo for years, and he must know something we don't. Why else would he take Janet's side out of nowhere? This whole thing must be Emani's plot!"

“Wow, Emani is so vicious. She used her fans to attack an innocent woman. How could she resort to such a dirty trick? It’s disgusting!”

Some netizens who had been on her side began to turn against her because of the proof they had seen. Moreover, a lot of her fans had declared that they would stop following her.

“I’m no longer her fan now. She’s beautiful, but she’s a terrible excuse for a human being.”

“We have been cursing Janet Lind for your sake! It turns out you have been using us! You bitch!”

When Emani saw these hateful comments, she was so infuriated that she snapped in the room, and screamed shrilly, “You psychos. I have never asked you to do anything! It’s none of my business what you decide to do!”

After cursing, she immediately paid some people to put in good words for her on the Internet.

But her tactic didn’t work. This had gone viral across the Internet.

The next morning, her company sent a car to pick her up to take her to their offices.

Emani had stayed up all night from the sheer stress of the situation. There were dark circles under her eyes.

“I was wronged. The news Kirby revealed was mostly made up by him!” Emani still wanted to defend herself.

The PR manager didn’t believe a single word she uttered.

They had been working all through last night trying to do damage control so that they could make the topic about Emani subside. However, many people who had been hurt by Emani in the past also took the opportunity to take a stand and speak out against her.

It was then when the PR department realized that this might not just be a coincidence. Emani might have offended some big shot, who was taking revenge on her. After all, why else would all the people she ever bullied just appear online to point fingers at her overnight ?

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After the PR department weighed both the pros and cons, they discovered that Emani was in a fix and that it would be hard to get her out of this situation. Since she had offended someone higher-up, it was not worth it to have the entire company go down with her.

Even though she was a popular actress now, they had no other choice but to let her go. Furthermore, newcomers came into the industry every day. They could always cultivate a brand-new star after her.

The company had given their final decision to Ruby, who was Emani’s agent.

“Ruby, did you hear from them yet? What did they say? Just say the word and I’ll hold a press conference to clarify the whole matter.” Emani’s eyes were still swollen from all the crying.

Ruby let out a long sigh. "You're in a lot of trouble now. Everyone is talking about you. After careful discussion, the company has decided to terminate its contract with you. You happened to start the whole thing, Emani. It's best if you just walk away right now."

Emani was shocked to hear that. "So you're saying that you're going to dump me?"

Ruby said with indifference plastered all over her face, "Emani, just look at yourself and the mess you've gotten yourself into. How do you expect us to save you now? When you signed the contract with the company, you promised you would maintain a good image. You brought everything upon yourself today."

After that, she walked off with the contract and left. After the PR department weighed both the pros and cons, they discovered that Emani was in a fix and that it would be hard to get her out of this situation. Since she had offended someone higher-up, it was not worth it to have the entire company go down with her.

Emani was feeling so emotional that she was on the cusp of breaking down. She sat there in her seat in a daze for a long time and decided to call Ritchie for help.

She believed that Ritchie would help her out in her time of need. After all, it was him who asked her to frame Janet and who promised to make her more famous after she did that.

However, as soon as Ritchie answered her call, Emani heard him say with a sigh, "Emani, how dare you call me right now? I heard you did so many bad things. I have to say, I happen to be very disappointed in you."

Emani was at a loss for words. "Mr. Lester, it goes without saying, I didn't mean for any of this to happen. I had no idea Kirby would leak all that news about me. They should've been hidden well. Mr. Lester, please help me out this one time. After this, I'll be all yours for the taking!"

"Unfortunately, I don't need you anymore, Emani. You brought this to yourself. There's nothing I can do to help you out." His words were cutting and ruthless. After that, he hung up the phone before Emani could say another word.

Emani stared at the blank screen in utter disbelief, her beautiful eyes opening wide. She clenched her teeth tightly and said, "What a bastard!"

While cursing him, she kept calling Ritchie but was not able to reach him again.

Obviously, she had been blocked by him.

Later, Lester Silk Fabric issued a statement that they had terminated their contract with Emani because of her immoral behaviors earlier.

After she was sent home by her assistant, Emani was so enraged that she took out a bottle of red wine from the cupboard, opened it, and gulped almost the entire bottle down. The dark red liquid leaked out of the corner of her lips and stained her dress.

Emani was kneeling on the ground, her eyes bloodshot as she cursed, "Those righteous snobs! When I was famous, everyone came to bask in my light. Now that I'm down and out, no one is willing to even help me!"

Her assistant listened without saying a word. Things had always been this way. Everyone in the showbiz happened to be a snob. She then directed her next words to Emani, "Emani, it's required that I take all the clothes, bags and accessories back. All these items belong to the brand companies, who are asking us to return them."

"Take them and leave immediately!" Emani glared daggers at her and shouted out loud.

Not only was her reputation destroyed and that she had been abandoned by everyone closest to her, but she also had to pay a huge penalty. She was about to break down very soon.

The assistant left Emani's place with the clothes and other things in her arms. After she closed the door behind her, she looked at Emani again and what she saw made her very sad. It was like she was looking at a rose that had just withered.

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At the Lester family home.

After hanging up with Emani, Ritchie took a sip of his brandy. The bronze liquid burned his throat, but that was the least of his problems.

He tried to bite down the anger that surged from the deepest parts of his mind and miserably failed. "Fuck! That crazy woman! Why would she call me at this juncture? Did she want to bring me down with her?"

Elissa had just gotten home after playing cards with her rich girlfriends and found Ritchie sitting at the garden and fuming with rage. She frowned, walked over to him, and asked, "What's wrong? Is it about business? Did the board members pick on you again?"

"They dare not. I'm a Lester. Only fools pick on Lesters. It's Ethan's wife. She keeps making trouble for Lester Silk Fabric. Damn it! I really have to teach that bitch a lesson!" Ritchie was an irritable man who always did things on impulse. He never let go of anyone who made him unhappy.

Elissa strode gracefully in front of Ritchie and faced him. With a stern look on her face, she raised a finger and poked Ritchie in the forehead. "So you're fighting with women now? That's what losers do."

Ritchie rubbed his forehead and complained, "There must be someone helping her, Mom! When we tried to frame Janet, someone contacted Kirby Wilde to dig up dirt on Emani. I know how the entertainment industry works, and I know what the fans can do. I thought I could finally bring down Janet, but someone immediately targeted Emani. I don't believe it's a coincidence. Janet must have a very powerful backer." At the Lester family home.

After hanging up with Emani, Ritchie took a sip of his brandy. The bronze liquid burned his throat, but that was the least of his problems.

Elissa had also been following the news.

"I wish the rumors were true, that Janet really hooked up with someone in the Larson Group. I've been worried that it may be Ethan who has been helping her. It would be horrible if he had such powers and connections." The more Elissa thought about it, the more she felt that it was highly possible.

Ritchie stood up in an instant and laughed sardonically. "Ethan? How could it be him? He's just a loser! Janet must be sleeping with someone powerful, and that dickhead, Ethan, is still pathetically unaware of it."

Elissa glanced at Ritchie and sneered. She couldn't believe her son's naivete. "Ethan is just like his mother. They're excellent schemers. Don't be fooled by what they choose to show you. Do not underestimate him. I've always suspected that there's more to him than what meets the eye."

There was a reason why Elissa thought so. After Nora's birthday party, she had sent a lot of people to follow and investigate Ethan. Either there was nothing important to report, or the men she sent just disappeared, both of which were anomalous results.

Since then, she had been convinced that Ethan was more powerful than he was letting on.

"Are you kidding, Mom? He had never done well in school, and he had always been quiet and unsuccessful. What could someone like him achieve?" Ritchie didn't believe it. He had always remembered Ethan as the loser that he constantly bullied.

Still, Elissa thought that Ritchie was making a mistake by trivializing his enemy. "My silly son, if he's really as stupid as you think, then how do you think did he get into Seacisco High School's top class? Do you think that we paid his way in?"

Back then, the Lester family had to "donate" millions of dollars to get Ritchie into Seacisco High School, and he had only lacked a few scores.

But at that time, Elissa didn't think that it was a big deal that Ethan also got into Seacisco High School. She thought that Ethan's intelligence was no threat to the Lester family's power and fortune. There was nothing Ethan could do to go against them.

Now she regretted her decision to pay no mind to Ethan.

She realized that dangers were dangers no matter their size, and they should be dealt with the moment they presented themselves.

Finally able to connect the dots, Ritchie stared at his mother with wide eyes. He was instantly enlightened. He flashed Elissa a ferocious look and asked, "What if it's really Ethan? We have to do something, Mom!"

Looking into Ritchie's eyes, Elissa felt inexplicably anxious. She picked up the box of cigarettes on the table. She fished out a cigarette and lit it. As smoke filled her lungs, she let herself get lost in thought.

A sense of crisis rose in her heart. She had always been a decisive person. She decided to continue what she wanted to do but failed back then.

She took several deep drags before flicking the cigarette to the ground and stubbing it with her shoe. "It's time to get rid of Ethan."

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Janet had no idea what had been happening outside.

Stewing in her own anxiety, she locked herself up at home. She drew all the curtains shut, plunging the room in depressing shadows.

The fridge was empty. Ethan went out to buy some food. When Janet peeked through the curtain to look outside, winter dusk greeted her, which very much looked like nighttime.

There was still a large group of fans besieging the neighborhood, especially their building. Janet sighed. She was about to look away when a new wave of commotion seemed to stir the crowd.

Everyone was still very agitated. They were looking at something on their phones and discussing animatedly among themselves. However, the “Janet, apologize” banners had gone down, and no one screamed and cursed at Janet’s window anymore.

Janet felt that the angry mob was no longer upset with her. They seemed to have calmed down a bit. The security guards blew the whistles and dispersed the crowd. Finally, they were able to clear a path through the gate.

Janet’s phone then rang.

Because the room was as silent as a tomb, the sound startled Janet. She rushed to find her phone and answer the call.

Janet had no idea what had been happening outside.

Stewing in her own anxiety, she locked herself up at home. She drew all the curtains shut, plunging the room in depressing shadows. It was Laney.

Since Janet and Laney parted at the staircase, they hadn’t contacted each other. Janet felt that since she was the target of public criticism now, she might get Laney in trouble if she kept communicating with her.

“Janet? Have you checked your phone?” Laney asked in an excited voice, which was rare. She usually spoke in a nonchalant monotone.

“No. Ethan took away my phone and shut off the Internet connection. He was afraid that I would be even more anxious if I checked my phone,” Janet replied, drooping her shoulders.

“Then turn on the TV and check out the news.”

“Sorry, I don’t think that’s such a good idea. I’m not in the best of moods right now. If I watch the news now, I may have to ask for a long leave after,” Janet said as if she was joking. She didn’t want others to think that she cared too much.

Laney said with a smile in her voice, “It’s not about you. It’s about Emani. Last night, a lot of news against Emani was exposed to the public, and she’s now being criticized online. I think seeing it on TV will make you feel better.”

Laney's words reminded Janet of the strange scenes downstairs just now. She picked up the remote control on the tea table and reluctantly turned on the TV.

Emani was indeed all over the news. Her dirty past had been laid out in the open, and many influential TV personalities were condemning her and calling her a bad influence whose immorality knew no bounds.

The public's attention was now on Emani. It seemed that everyone had already forgotten about Janet.

Janet was stunned. She couldn't believe that she had survived such a desperate situation. She didn't understand how the tables suddenly turned, but she was immensely relieved.

She switched to another TV channel. It was broadcasting news from someone who claimed to be present at the scenic tourist spot where Emani met her accident. He released a video he had taken at that time. Emani and Janet were on it, and they were by the lake.

The angle was perfect, and it captured what really happened between Janet and Emani that day.

Janet hadn't touched Emani the entire time. It was Emani who held Janet's hand and seemed to use much force. Janet looked a little uncomfortable in the video, but before she could do anything, Emani had already fallen into the lake.

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Janet had known well that there were no security cameras around the lake, which was also partly why she hadn't bothered to assert her own defense.

She simply didn't see the point—no one would believe her when she didn't have any evidence to back her up.

But surprisingly someone had filmed the whole thing, and the footage could finally prove that she hadn't pushed Emani into the lake.

The TV stations feasted on the story, and some of them even went as far as to interview random passersby and ask for their opinion on the matter.

"What do you think of this incident?"

"I honestly think that the standards for artists and celebrities these days have reached a new low. It looks like even an ill-mannered and talentless girl can be a star as long as she looks the part."

"Yes, I've seen the video, and it led me to do a bit of digging. Apparently, Emani hasn't even graduated from college. She only managed to be where she is now by latching on to some rich old man. With her disgusting character and her questionable morals, I think she deserves to be banned from the entertainment circle entirely."

"I heard that Emani purposely incited her fans to bash Janet on the Internet. I'm telling you, that woman is crazy! Janet is a good person who's done nothing wrong, yet she had to suffer such malice. I really feel sorry for her."

Janet turned off the TV and sighed. She wasn't expecting the public opinion shift completely in just a matter of hours. Janet had known well that there were no security cameras around the lake, which was also partly why she hadn't bothered to assert her own defense.

She took out her phone and began reading news about Emani on the Internet. All the brands that she had previously endorsed announced the termination of her contract, and the comment section for each article was bombarded with hate speech against Emani. Even on various social media platforms, this was the hottest issue, and the netizens didn't hold back with their criticisms.

Emani had done many other despicable things in the past, so people didn't really find it hard to believe that she had also framed Janet this time. Gradually, they began expressing their regrets in public, and some even apologized to Janet for wrongfully pinning the blame on her.

As Janet scrolled through the social media sites, she realized that Emani's account had been officially deleted and could no longer be found. She seemed to have been banned from the Internet altogether.

Just then, Janet received a message from Gerda.

"I heard that Emani's Twitter account has been deleted. Serves her right! Finally, the whole thing has been brought to light! I am so pleased with how things turned out."

The text ended with a couple of cute smiling emojis. Janet pursed her lips and smiled as well.

For some reason, the sight of the comments and her friend's text brought her comfort. She felt her anger slowly ebb away. At last, this matter could be laid to rest.

"Looks like the trouble Emani caused is finally cleared up." Ethan stood at the door, a gray, woolen scarf wrapped around his neck. He was carrying a large grocery bag in one of his hands.

Janet turned to him with a wide grin on her face. "Someone posted the footage of us by the lake that day on the Internet. It proved that Emani fell into the water by herself. Now, everybody is apologizing to me. This feels so good."

Ethan chuckled under his breath. His pretty little wife was so simple and naive. If it were his former self, he would have looked down on her with disdain. But now, he could only feel sorry for the likes of Janet, who often got bullied by the rich and the powerful. He made up his mind to protect her for the rest of their lives, no matter the cost.

Ethan strode across the living room and went straight to the kitchen. "I'll make some good dishes to celebrate," he said as he passed by.

Janet hurriedly put on her slippers and followed after him. "Great!" she said happily. "I want to eat some braised pork, please."

They bickered in the kitchen for a while. All of a sudden, Janet turned pensive. "Don't you think I've been too lucky lately, Ethan? Emani has gotten away with her evil deeds all this time. Why was she exposed now, after so many years? Isn't it too much of a coincidence?"

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Ethan's hand froze.

While in the jewelry store last time, he had noticed that something was going on between Emani and Janet.

The first thing he did was to tell his people not to renew Emani's contract once it expired.

And when Ethan heard that she had signed a contract with Lester Silk Fabric, he kept an eye on her. After all, Lester Silk Fabric belonged to the Lester family.

On the same day the scandal was exposed and Janet was being accused of by the public, Ethan immediately asked the public relations department of the Larson Group to deal with it.

Fortunately, there was a lot of dirt on Emani before. Not long after Emani's career took off, her company bought off all the paparazzi who had dirt on her to keep their mouths shut, in order to maintain her good image.

His last resort in exposing Emani's dirty past was making his men do a secret investigation.

Then his next step was to approach Kirby, a renowned reporter in the entertainment industry. Over the years, he had reported a lot of exclusive news that were all proven to be real. Hence, his name became famous. Ethan knew Kirby was the right person to expose Emani's secrets. So he asked this reporter to write a long article using the information he had given him.

At first, Kirby hesitated. It was because he knew too well that the information Ethan had asked him to revealed could completely end Emani's career.

Unlike him, Ethan was merciless. If it was only a simple argument, he wouldn't have come to this point. But Emani deliberately framed Janet and used her fans to bully the latter online. How could Ethan tolerate it? Ethan's hand froze.

While in the jewelry store last time, he had noticed that something was going on between Emani and Janet.

On second thought, he knew that exposing Emani's true colors was not enough to solve the problem. It would be better if they found evidence that could prove Janet's innocence. Everyone should know that she didn't really push Emani into the water.

So on that night, Ethan ordered his men to search for all the tourists that were there at that time. Fortunately for Janet, someone among thousands of tourists had taken a video of Janet and Emani.

Ethan snapped out of his trance and turned around to look at Janet. His eyes were calm, coupled with his deep and perfect features, creating a powerful visual impact. "Aren't there people analyzing this matter online? Such dirt on Emani had been dug out and been exposed before, but her PR teams had paid to suppress them. Considering her ill personality, Emani must have offended many celebrities and reporters. Taking advantage of this opportunity to drag her name through the mud will give a fatal blow to Emani. This is a win-win situation for both the reporters and her rivals."

In a daze, Janet quietly listened to Ethan's analysis.

The more she learned about Ethan, the more she realized that he was different from the rest of the people she knew. His temperament, behaviors, and thoughts were all very unique. At that moment, Janet felt that he was a wise person in disguise all along.

As she got closer and closer to the real Ethan, Janet felt a little jittery for some reason.

“Well, your analysis makes sense.” Pretending to be calm, Janet smiled at Ethan before walking back to the sofa in front of the TV. Her eyes were glued to the screen.

A lot of things happened in Seacisco during that winter. Emani, a popular celebrity, had been the center of criticism. She basically lost everything, including her fans.

New faces soon occupied the big screen of the central square of Seacisco. Emani was just another pretty face. People would soon completely forget about her now that she was gone.

Two weeks after the incident, Janet went back to work.

Nothing much had changed. The employees of Larson Group still talked a lot about her. But this time, they weren't badmouthing her. They were all sympathizing with her after she had been framed by Emani.

Either way, Janet didn't really care. All she cared about now was her and Ethan's family. Everything else didn't matter.

The hours passed like the cold piercing wind outside. When Janet got off work, it was still snowing heavily.

Putting on her gloves and scarf, she walked out of the building, and once there, she was almost blinded by the headlight of a luxury car. Janet heard the door closed, and when she looked up, she saw a man walking in the foggy snow.

It was Kent. He looked fairer with his black coat in the snow. His nose was a little red because of the cold. With just this handsome face, anyone who didn't know him much would think he was a good man.

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“It's a cold day. How would you like to have a cup of coffee with me, Miss Lind?” Kent stepped on the snow to get to Janet, but then he kept his distance and kept his voice calm and respectful.

Janet could not refuse because he had helped her again just recently, so she pointed to somewhere in the distance and said, “There is a coffeehouse right around the corner. This will be my treat for all the help you rendered the last time.”

Kent was rather amused, so he asked, “Do you have to keep things so formal all the time? I wasn't expecting repayment.”

Janet simply stared at him and shrugged her shoulders. She said, “In that case, there's no need to go and get coffee with you. Can I go home now?” Turning around, she attempted to leave.

“Can you ignore what I just said? I was joking,” Kent said, obviously flustered by her rejection.

Janet bit her lips to stifle her laughter as she thought, ‘Why does he look so silly?’

The two of them walked into the coffeehouse. While they were in the coffeehouse, Janet paid more attention to her phone than Kent even though they were sitting opposite each other, so he said, "Hey, I am sitting right here, but you have been checking your phone since we got here. That's rather rude, you know?" "It's a cold day. How would you like to have a cup of coffee with me, Miss Lind?" Kent stepped on the snow to get to Janet, but then he kept his distance and kept his voice calm and respectful.

When she heard that, Janet raised her head and smiled. "I am so sorry. I was just checking in with my husband."

The disappointment in Kent's voice was obvious as he asked, "So you are on good terms?"

"Of course." Janet's excitement was obvious in her voice and she didn't realize she had answered without any hesitation.

Kent's eyebrows were raised as he ordered two lattes before handing the menu back to the waiter. Suddenly he asked Janet, "Who has been helping you all this while? Who's the person to you?"

Janet bit her lower lip and asked, "What do you mean? It's just a rumor, and there's no need to take it seriously."

"I really think someone is backing you because someone brought Emani down right after you were cyberbullied. That was pretty obvious, wasn't it?"

"No. I think someone else had been plotting against her, and they just took that opportunity to bring her down," Janet said with a sigh. "It could've also been a reporter who just wanted the spotlight."

Kent realized Janet was really naive. He pressed his elbows against the table and sat up as he said, "You are really simple, aren't you? If there's something I know about the entertainment industry, it is that ordinary paparazzi will never get their hands on so many big secrets on one star. Even if they do, they would usually let it out immediately for their readers to enjoy. However, for someone to have found out so many of Emani's secrets in such a short time, he must be a big shot."

"How is that even possible?" Janet managed to look calm, even though Kent's words got to her.

Her first thought was that it could be Brandon. He was the only person she could think of who was that powerful and would try to help her. Still, she refused to believe he would do this for her. When she thought about the fact that he had helped her again and again, however, Janet began to wonder if it was really him. She decided to ask him about it later.

When he saw that she was lost in thought, Kent knew that his words had gotten to her. He laughed out loud and joked, "If you have such a powerful supporter, why haven't you left your loser of a husband? Is it because you don't actually love your backer? Not a problem though. You'll find a way to fall in love with this backer of yours I'm sure. Or is it because it's just pure business from the very beginning? In that case, I can be your new backer and you can marry me. That's also an option."

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With one hand supporting his chin, Kent said the last sentence with a seemingly gentle and sincere expression on his face. Although it was apparent that he was just joking around, Janet could tell that he was somewhat serious.

'Wait, serious?' she thought to herself.

How could he of all men be serious about anyone?

He probably just wanted to see her panic and embarrassment in response to his jest.

With a smile, Janet supported her face by placing her hands on her cheeks, and responded in a sugary voice, "If I really did get divorced, Mr. Perkins, would you marry me?"

Kent's heart skipped a beat and then started racing when he saw her smile.

However, he didn't know what to say to her question.

He had to admit that he was dumbstruck by her words.

Marry her?

Marriage was something that he had never given the slightest thought.

He had been playing the field for years and it never occurred to him once to get hitched.

He had toyed with the idea that someday his parents might perhaps ask him to marry a woman of their choosing of equal status to their own family. With one hand supporting his chin, Kent said the last sentence with a seemingly gentle and sincere expression on his face. Although it was apparent that he was just joking around, Janet could tell that he was somewhat serious.

But that was something he thought was in the distant future.

However, when he heard Janet's question just now, he thought about it for a while and was shocked to find that he actually could live with this idea.

When she noticed that he wasn't going to answer, she burst into laughter and said, "Don't make such a joke, alright? How could a man like you ever marry me? Besides, I won't divorce my husband just because he is poor. He is a good, wonderful guy."

When she said this, her eyes were full of sincere seriousness.

The smile on Kent's face froze.

"Thank you for helping me so many times, but you'd better give up on me. I won't ever cheat on my husband," Janet said with firm conviction.

"Can we be friends then?" Kent smiled and said calmly. "Miss Lind?"

"My friends are all decent and kind-hearted people. They don't play with women's feelings to get them in bed," Janet said after considering his proposal.

Kent was rendered speechless. He then complained, "What are you talking about? I can't get you off my mind and I haven't been with a woman for three days already."

Janet covered her smile with her hand but her smile was still apparent from the crinkles at the corners of her eyes. Perhaps she felt that it was wholly inappropriate for her to smile at this juncture. She pursed her lips momentarily and then said, "Okay, keep up then. But I suppose it will be difficult."

The waiter served them two cups of coffee. The pleasant aroma of roasted coffee beans filled the cold, wintery air.

After saying thanks to the waiter, Janet took a few sips of her coffee and turned to look at the clock on the wall of the coffeehouse. With the coffee still in her grasp, she said, "It's getting late. I'm going to head home now."

Knowing that he had no reason to ask her to stay, Kent gently replied, "Alright. I had fun."

After paying the bill, Janet left the shop.

Kent's coffee was still untouched. He watched Janet's receding figure, filled with newfound bitterness.