

The Mbahsb 411

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“Excuse me! What... What’s going on?”

It wasn’t until Janet was taken away that everyone realized what had happened.

“When that man strode over here and took her away just now, he looked so cool and elegant!”

Some girls had to cover their mouths in case they screamed in excitement.

Ella kept staring at the direction in which Janet disappeared. Like the people around her, shock was written all over her face.

When Garrett came back to the club, many partners and senior executives of the company were still shocked by Brandon’s action just now.

In their eyes, Brandon had always been a decisive and ruthless man who looked at the bigger picture. It was inconceivable that he would leave his business partners behind and go after a woman in public like this.

“Don’t just stand here. Go inside.” Garrett’s expression grew serious immediately. “Mr. Larson had some personal affairs to attend to, so let’s go ahead first. We can rearrange the meeting some other time.”

Some of the senior executives of the company knew of Janet. Confused, they turned to Garrett for answers. “Mr. Harding, what’s going on? What’s the relationship between Miss Lind and Mr. Larson...?”

Garrett smiled ambiguously.

The look on Ethan’s face just now was priceless. For the first time, he was almost scared to death, but he had to pretend to be calm. It was so funny. Garrett had never seen Ethan like this before. He should have taken a video of his reaction.

“Well, it’s exactly as you saw.” Garrett coughed lightly and regained his composure. “You won’t be spreading this around, yes?”

The senior executives were suddenly enlightened. They snapped their fingers and exclaimed, “Miss Lind is Mr. Larson’s wife?”

Garrett said nothing but smiled meaningfully.

Everyone was shocked.

Standing in the background, Ella had also heard it clearly.

“Janet is Brandon’s wife?” Ella was shocked and felt like she was slapped across the face

She had no idea that Janet was married to the CEO of the Larson Group.

It was no easy feat that her husband established a cooperative relationship with the Larson Group not long ago, and he had to seriously butter Brandon up to keep the business afloat. But she had made a fool of herself by bragging so shamelessly about her “rich husband” in front of Janet just now.

The classmates standing next to her also had eyes as wide as saucers. They exchanged glances, too flabbergasted to speak.

Janet had told them just now that her husband didn't have a decent job. But it turned out that her husband was the CEO of the Larson Group. Wasn't that the most decent job in the world?

Some of them stole glances at Ella and clicked their tongues in secret. Ella had been mocking Janet just now. Now, she must've felt terrible.

In a five-star hotel next to the Merry Club, the receptionist saw a handsome man coming in with a woman.

The woman was only wearing light makeup, which made her look delicate and naturally beautiful. Her most poignant feature was her eyes, but they seemed to be burning with rage at the moment.

The woman's expression was ominously cold. Obviously, she was holding back her anger. It could be seen that the man had forced her to come here.

Although the man looked serious, his eyes were firmly glued to the woman.

After checking in, Ethan pulled Janet into their suite.

Janet had never been to such a luxurious presidential suite before, but here she was and now she felt the whole thing was ironic.

She shook off Brandon's hand and retreated a few steps away from him.

"Mr. Larson, there was something you wanted to tell me?" Janet asked firmly, looking down at the soft carpet beneath her feet.

Ethan stared at Janet guiltily. "Thank you for giving me the chance to explain."

Janet raised her head and sneered coldly. "You're my boss, Mr. Larson. We should make things clear to each other."

Ethan's body stiffened. His eyes wandered around the living room and then he walked to the nearest chair and put it in front of Janet, motioning for her to sit down first.

After hesitating for a few seconds, Janet stayed glued to the spot.

"I won't bite..." Ethan looked at her reassuringly and found that this scene was somewhat familiar. On the night of their wedding, he had also gotten a chair for her and said something similar. At the time, Ethan was lethargic and slovenly, like a hooligan.

Finally, Janet sat down stiffly.

Ethan loosened his tie and breathed a sigh of relief. Placing his hands on the wine cabinet next to him, he drummed his fingers on top, as though he was thinking about what to say.

“The Lester family hates me as both Ethan Lester and Brandon Larson. So you will definitely be in danger if they know I’m Brandon and you’re Mrs. Larson. I originally planned to announce your identity as my wife after I defeated the Lester family.”

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Janet clenched her fists so tightly that her fingernails dug into her palms.

Even though Ethan’s explanation made sense, she still felt inexplicably sad.

The man standing in front of her now was graceful, gentle, yet indisputably powerful. He was wearing an expensive suit, leather shoes, a luxury watch...

Janet couldn’t help but feel like they were not from the same world.

She had grown close to Ethan, but now she felt that there was still an insurmountable gap between them.

A lump formed in her throat. “But you lied to me, Mr. Larson.”

The words “Mr. Larson” cemented the huge gap between them.

With tears in her eyes, she said, “Even if I knew your other identity, I wouldn’t have leaped at the chance to announce to the world that I am Mrs. Larson. I still would’ve wanted to be an employee at the Larson Group. Did you think that women have to be housewife after marrying a rich husband? Or were you afraid that I would take advantage of the situation after finding out that you are the CEO of the Larson Group? You don’t trust me, do you?”

“You misunderstand me, Janet,” Ethan started to say.

“I do trust you. I just feel that you will be hurt if we can’t tell the world that you’re Brandon Larson’s wife.”

Janet shook her head and bit her lower lip, trying so hard not to cry. “You never thought that I’d like to be by your side as Ethan Lester’s wife even if I found out the truth. Because of that, you lied to me countless times. I was so stupid to think that I was just lucky! I had even started to wonder if you and Brandon were either lovers or twins. Did you think it was fun to keep me in the dark like some fool?”

Seeing Janet’s mounting anger, Ethan was at a loss for words. He could only lower his head and keep silent, like a child who knew he had done something wrong.

Ethan had chosen not to tell her the truth because he believed it wasn’t the right time. Now, he was tongue tied.

Seeing that Ethan had fallen silent, Janet stopped asking him questions.

Suddenly, a thought occurred to her. She stood up and asked in a panic, “Is it possible that... you know Laney?”

Laney always showed up when she was in danger and had saved her on more than one occasion. She had always chalked it up to luck, but now, she wasn’t so sure.

Ethan's heart skipped a beat. He didn't dare to deny it. He looked up at Janet cautiously and said, "Yes. Laney is a bodyguard I hired to protect you, because—"

"You don't have to tell me anything more, Mr. Larson. No wonder she's so good at fighting. Now I understand..."

Her voice trailed off to a whisper. In the end, she looked up dejectedly and said, "My husband has been lying to me from the beginning, and so has my best friend."

Ethan rushed to Janet and grabbed her wrist, explaining in a hoarse voice, "I did all those things for a reason. I had no choice—"

"Get your hands off me! Stop defending yourself, Ethan!" With her mind in a mess, Janet slapped Ethan's hand away and took two steps back.

The memories of the past resurfaced in her mind.

"My name is Laney Garcia... I was just passing by when I saw you fall into the river..."

"This is my house. Please make do with it first. When we have the money, we can move into a bigger house..."

"How do I know what's real and what's not?" Trembling, Janet raised her head to look at Ethan, unable to hold back her tears any longer.

Before Ethan could say anything, tears streaming down her face. She turned around and ran out, slamming the door shut behind her.

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Janet was so angry that her whole body was trembling. Her mind was in a mess, and she felt like the whole world had been turned upside down. She didn't know what was true versus what was just deliberately created to deceive her. Everything now seemed fake and strange.

As soon as she walked out of the hotel, she saw that Garrett was standing outside, along with several senior executives of the Larson Group. Janet often ran into them in the elevators.

"Hey, Janet! Where's Ethan?" Garrett pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose and smiled flatteringly. If he got along well with Janet, he would have more vacations in the future.

But upon a closer look, he realized that she was crying bitterly.

Garrett had thought that the two would reconcile, but it turned out to be the opposite. So he immediately stopped smiling and stammered, "I'm sorry, I..."

Janet simply ignored him. Looking around, she found that the senior executives of the Larson Group who should have been in that club were all standing outside. Perhaps they didn't know what to do, so they had all waited for Ethan here.

When Janet walked out of the hotel so aggressively just now, everyone exchanged glances and then looked away, pretending not to have seen her.

Janet wiped the tears on her face with the back of her hand and proceeded to leave, but Garrett stopped her.

“Janet, sometimes Ethan’s terrible with words, but I’m with him every day. I know that he only cares about you.” Garrett touched the back of his head awkwardly, glancing anxiously at the hotel from the corner of his eyes.

Damn it! Janet was running away! Why hadn’t Ethan come out to chase after his wife yet?

With Garrett blocking her way, Janet crossed her arms over her chest and sneered. “I’m now the wife of Mr. Larson. How dare you stop me?”

Her chilling gaze sent a shiver down his spine.

Janet and Ethan had been together for a long time, so now even their tones were practically the same.

“Janet, you misunderstand me. I didn’t mean to stop you.” Seeing that Janet was so angry, Garrett’s voice faltered. Finally, he stepped aside and let Janet go.

Only then did Ethan come running.

“Why didn’t you stop her?” he asked Garrett harshly.

“Bro, your wife is angry as hell right now. I couldn’t stop her! Besides, whatever you say now might only add fuel to the fire. If she wants to leave, just let her be and give her some space. Just follow her from a distance.” Garrett wiped the cold sweat on his forehead.

Ethan was speechless. He had no choice but to chase after Janet himself.

It was late winter now, and the night was freezing cold.

The surrounding trees were covered in a layer of white snow.

Under the dim-lighted street lamps, the woman in a red overcoat trudged in the heavy snow. In the surrounding grey and white scenery, she was like a flickering red light.

When she saw a taxi approach, Janet hailed it.

“Where to, Miss?”

After getting in the taxi, Janet looked out of the window at the snow. She didn’t know where to go. She just wanted to leave this place.

“Wherever. If I want to get off, I’ll ask you to stop.”

The driver didn’t press her further and stepped on the gas.

Seeing Janet get into a taxi, Ethan immediately drove his own car and followed them.

Seacisco was developing rapidly and the tourism industry here was exceptional. The taxi driver drove around several scenic spots until it was late, and the taxi slowly came to a stop at the river bank.

The sounds of the ferries came closer and closer. The wind over the river, with cold snow, swept past Janet’s face and went through the gap of her scarf.

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“Miss, please close the window. It’s too cold outside to keep the windows ajar like that.” The taxi driver went on to stop the car. After driving for so long, it was now time to get more gas. “By the way, where in the world are you going?”

The driver snuck a glance at Janet in the rearview mirror. She was innocently beautiful, and the more he looked at her, the more charming she appeared in front of his eyes.

From the rearview mirror, Janet made eye contact with the curious driver. She wrapped her scarf around her neck and said, “Please stop at the nearest hotel.”

“Okay, let’s head out.” The driver smacked his lips together and started the engine of the car.

She was indeed a very beautiful girl and it was obvious that she had been hurt by love. The taxi driver felt very bad for her.

The cold wind made Janet shiver in her seat. She was way calmer now.

On second thought, she knew that Ethan hadn’t done anything heinous.

He just lied to her.

If this was someone else, they might not take this matter to heart.

Janet wondered if she was being overreacted.

Ethan had now become Brandon, the richest businessman in Seacisco who started from scratch. He had many good traits. He was not only young and promising but also handsome and rich.

She should feel fortunate to have such a husband.

However, there was one thing that Janet couldn’t wrap her mind around. Everyone around Ethan knew about his true identity, except for her. Why didn’t he tell her? Did she even matter in his heart?

Janet didn’t want to return to “Brandon’s” villa. Ethan had also lied to her about this. It turned out to be one of his many assets.

The driver stopped at the entrance of a chain hotel, which also happened to be affordable.

After paying the cab fare, Janet walked into the hotel.

Ethan, who had been following her, let out a sigh of relief. It was freezing outside. At least Janet was no longer braving the cold winds outside.

He got out of his car and followed her into the hotel, in a hurry to catch up to her.

“Give your manager a call.”

This chain hotel also happened to be one of the properties that Ethan had invested in.

When the hotel manager caught sight of Ethan, he came over right away with a flattering smile. “Mr. Larson, it’s so late at night. What can I help you with?”

Ethan's eyes were locked on the woman who had just walked into the elevator. "I want you to arrange the room opposite hers for me."

Holding the room card in her hand, Janet swiped the card and opened the door wearily. She was obviously worn out by the events of the day. The moment the door was opened, she heard a sound coming from the opposite room.

Janet looked back subconsciously and before she knew it, her eyes were looking into Ethan's deep ones.

Ethan fixed his gaze onto her. He wanted to say something but stopped after thinking things over. At a loss for words, his hand frozen in mid-air. He somehow managed to squeeze a few words from his thin lips. "Janet, I..."

With a snort, Janet turned back and proceeded to march into her room as if she hadn't seen him at all. She slammed the door closed in front of Ethan's face.

And just like that, a door seemed to isolate their two worlds.

After hesitating for a good while, Ethan made his way to the door of Janet's room.

He wanted to start knocking on the door, but he was afraid that he might say something wrong to make Janet even more upset. After all, he wasn't that good at coaxing girls.

But if he used some sort of tough method, the result would be the exact opposite.

At the same time, Ethan didn't want to leave either. His tall body leaned against the wall and his eyes were covered with layers of unreadable emotions. He simply stood outside the door the entire time.

Lying on the bed, Janet fixed her gaze on the closed door. Upset, she tossed and turned all night, unable to sleep a wink.

It was not until early in the morning that she finally closed her eyes and was able to take a nap.

When she opened her eyes again, the sun was shining brightly into the windows.

With bags underneath her eyes, Janet proceeded to brush her teeth and wash her face, mulling it over in her head whether she should go to the company later.

Even if she had some setbacks in her love life, she still had a job to get to and a lot of things were still waiting for her at the company.

She opened the door with her coat in her arm and bumped into the man, who was standing outside her door.

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The dark circles under Ethan's eyes were telling of how exhausted he was. When he saw Janet come in, he blinked nervously.

Holding up the paper bag of food, he said hesitantly, "Let's have breakfast."

Suddenly, Janet felt a lump in her throat.

It was obvious that Ethan had been standing here waiting for her for a whole night.

Janet lowered her head, trying to hide the mixed feelings in her eyes.

“You can eat by yourself,” she said indifferently, pulling out the room card and closing the door.

She was still undeniably angry with Ethan. Seeing that he had waited outside her door only annoyed her even more. “Mr. Larson, don’t get in my way, okay?”

Ethan had kept his identity a secret from her. In a word, he had deceived her.

It was all just so ridiculous! She didn’t even care whether she was Ethan’s wife or Brandon’s for they were the very same person. What she did care was Ethan didn’t trust her and lied to her!

If they were just ordinary friends or strangers on the road, it would’ve been fine for Ethan to conceal his secret identity as Brandon. But they were a couple who lived under the same roof. Ethan had never considered her feelings.

“Janet, can we find a time to talk it through?” With his arm on the door, Ethan lowered his head and seemed to want to say something, but he frowned, as if something was stuck in his throat.

Without answering him, Janet looked away, walked past him and left.

Janet walked the streets aimlessly, surrounded by crowds of people.

When she made it to a rental agency, she paced back and forth outside restlessly.

“Miss, are you looking to rent a house? Come on in. We have many good houses that are fit for anyone’s budget.” An agent opened the door and greeted Janet with a smile.

Janet hesitated, wondering if she should get her own apartment.

She couldn’t live in Ethan’s villa anymore. Just the thought of going back there angered her.

He had told her countless lies. He was a liar!

But she didn’t enter the rental agency just yet. Her things were still in the villa, so she had to go back to get them first.

As for her job at the Larson Group, Janet was not in the mood to work at all. Her mind was a complete mess. So she texted Tiffany and asked her for a leave.

Moreover, many senior executives of the Larson Group had found out yesterday about her relationship with Brandon, and she wasn’t in the mood to face them.

In a daze, Janet hailed a taxi and went back to the villa to pack up her things.

Unexpectedly, she ran into Laney at the gate to the villa.

Sitting on the steps outside, Laney stood up at once when she saw Janet approaching.

“Janet, why didn’t you go to work today? I was so worried about you.”

Laney's concern was genuine. She had learned from Garrett that Ethan's identity had been exposed, so she immediately came to see Janet. But Janet never came home, nor did she answer her phone calls. So Laney settled for waiting for her here.

"Hello, Miss Garcia. I'm fine." A faint smile appeared on Janet's face.

Truth be told, she wasn't as angry with Laney as with Ethan. She was just disappointed with her.

She had considered Laney her good friend, but it turned out that she was just a bodyguard hired by Ethan. Come to think about it, Laney was probably only here to fulfill her duty to protect her client.

"Miss Garcia, aren't you tired of protecting me twenty-four hours a day? I don't need anyone to protect me now," Janet said with an indifferent smile.

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Janet's words rendered Laney speechless.

She was used to dealing with people straightforwardly with force, but Janet's outright coldness made her flustered and helpless.

Laney would've preferred it if Janet beat her to vent her anger rather than cut off their friendship.

"Don't act like we're strangers, Janet..." Laney forced a smile.

"If it weren't for Mr. Larson, you and I would have been strangers, Miss Garcia," Janet retorted coldly.

"Okay. It's true that Mr. Larson hired me to protect you, and it's true that I've been lying to you. For that, I'm sorry," Laney apologized right away. Janet's anger was unsettling; it made her realize just how terrible it was when a usually gentle and nice person got mad.

Janet nodded but didn't say anything else.

"Sorry, I just need some time to calm down," Janet said with a sigh after a while. She didn't want to talk to Laney anymore, so she started to walk past her.

"Wait!" Laney stopped Janet, and then quickly lowered her head. "I'm sorry, okay? My contract said that I couldn't reveal my identity nor could I reveal Mr. Larson's. I couldn't violate the terms."

Janet put on a calm smile, but the smile didn't reach her eyes. "I know you were just doing your job. I just feel like I had been such a fool for believing you were my friend ever since you saved me. Miss Garcia, I've never had a real friend since I was a child, so when you treated me well, I couldn't help but believe that you had considered me as a friend, too."

Laney anxiously explained, "It's true that at the beginning, I was just hired to protect you, but I gradually came to regard you as a real friend. I wasn't lying to you about that. You're a very worthy friend. You're gentle and refined, whereas I'm a straightforward person. Few girls are willing to be friends with me. When you treated me sincerely, I was really happy that I had you."

Laney's voice sounded genuine. Janet's cold eyes softened somewhat and she fell silent.

It wasn't that she didn't believe what Laney was saying, rather she was still hurting from the fact that their friendship was fake in the beginning.

Other than her biological parents, no one in this world would've treated her well for no reason. With Laney, she just didn't figure it out at first.

The more Janet thought about it, the more distressed she felt. She didn't say anything as her mind raced. How was she supposed to treat Laney now?

She didn't think it was necessary to cut off all ties with Laney, but she couldn't continue to view Laney as a friend either.

She lowered her head, walked past Laney, and unlocked the door with her fingerprint. "I won't invite you in, Miss Garcia. You can go back and tell Mr. Larson that I'm safe and I don't need anyone to protect me from now on."

Then, without waiting for a response, she closed the door on Laney's face.

Being left outside, Laney felt helpless.

It was clear that Janet was still too immersed in her anger to listen to reason now. No matter what Laney said, it would likely fall on deaf ears.

Just as Laney was about to leave, she sensed that someone was behind her. She whirled around vigilantly and when she saw who it was, she sighed in relief. "Mr. Larson, why are you sneaking around in the daytime?"

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Ethan brushed the snow off his shoulders and emerged from the bushes.

He was wearing a long face, and he was carrying a bag of food that had clearly gone cold. Dressed in a luxurious suit, his image was full of contradictions. On the one hand, he looked like a warm partner who had prepared breakfast for his lover. On the other hand, he also looked like a mature and steady socialite.

Ethan didn't answer Laney. The truth was he had been following Janet ever since she left the hotel. He just didn't show himself until Janet was inside the villa.

Laney approached him anxiously. Considering how Ethan was her employer, it wasn't her place to judge him. She could only shake her head wryly and say, "Mr. Larson, you've really done it this time. No wonder she's so angry. But I think you can still fix things. Go and apologize to her right now."

Ethan wasn't good at expressing his feelings. He could only nod and say, "Janet only spoke out of anger just now. Your contract hasn't expired, so you still have to protect her at all times."

Laney smiled. "Even without you telling me, I would've protected her to the ends of the earth."

Looking at the closed door to the villa, she added softly, "Because she's my best friend."

Janet opened her suitcase and began to pile her clothes in it.

When she took them out of the closet, she found that every article of clothing was folded neatly.

Ethan was good at doing housework. She had seldom done laundry ever since they got married.

She looked around the room quietly. The windows and furniture were clean, and even the floor was shiny.

Now that she knew that Ethan was loaded, she wondered if he had hired maids to clean the house whenever she was away. Even so, there was no doubt that Ethan was good at cleaning; she had witnessed this herself.

She still remembered that when the two of them first got married and moved into that small house of his mother's, he couldn't do the dishes properly and even broke a few of them.

A smile crept on Janet's face. As the CEO of such an esteemed company, he shouldn't have needed to do such housework. No wonder he was so clumsy at the time.

Now that she looked back carefully, she realized there were a lot of clues that alluded to Ethan's secret identity as Brandon Larson. For example, he knew multiple languages and liked to pay attention to stock and financial reports.

But she had ignored all those clues.

Just then, the sound of the intelligent door unlocking interrupted her train of thoughts.

Ethan strode in. Seeing that Janet was packing up her things, he strode over to her suitcase and closed it.

Janet glared at him and demanded, "What do you think you're doing?"

Ethan rested his hand on the suitcase firmly, showing no intention of letting it go.

The two of them stared at each other in a stalemate.

After a long while, Ethan broke the silence and said in a low voice, "I'm here to apologize to you. I'm sorry."

Janet sneered coldly. "You've deceived me for so long. Do you expect me to forgive you after just a simple 'sorry'?"

Ethan pursed his lips and looked at her steadily. "I'll do anything you want me to do, but you can't leave."

For the first time, he looked very humble, like a little child who knew he was in the wrong.

Seeing him like this, Janet didn't have the heart to stay so angry at him. Instead, she tried to snatch the suitcase from under his hand, but it didn't even budge. She had no choice but to give up.

She glared at Ethan and said, "Let me go. I want to move out."

Ethan frowned. "What are you going to do after you move out?"

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“It’s none of your business, Mr. Larson!” As Janet carried the folded clothes, she tried to grab the suitcase from him.

‘Where am I supposed to go? I don’t even have any idea. It’s going to cost a lot of money to find a new apartment, and that’s money I don’t have at the moment. I’ve given most of my saving to Tyler,’ she thought.

It was almost impossible to rent an ideal apartment nearby her workplace. Because of her current financial situation, her salary wouldn’t be enough to cover both rent and living expenses.

Janet hadn’t thought about what to do next at the moment. ‘Should I really get divorced? Should I resign and leave the Larson Group for good?’ Things didn’t seem to be that serious, but she had blurted out some unpleasant words when she was angry.

She couldn’t just take back what she said now.

Seeing as Janet was still fuming with rage, Ethan stared at her in silence for a long time before he found his voice. “You can get mad at me all you want, but you can’t leave. I’m not going to let you leave.”

He refused to let go of the suitcase. He straightened himself up, and lifted the suitcase, intending to take it away.

“Don’t think I’m going to forgive you that easily!” Janet pursed her lips while staring at the clothes in her hand. It seemed as though she was determined to go through with this.

She glared at Ethan for a long time, uncertain of what to say. Finally, she grabbed all of her clothes and belongings from the sofa and brought them into the room. She shut the door behind her and decided to ignore him.

Ethan, on the other hand, took a deep breath.

For now, the situation was still under his control. At the very least, Janet wasn’t going to move out anytime soon.

The sadness in his heart diminished, but he knew full well that the problem was yet to be solved.

Ethan clenched the suitcase handle and put it down. He carefully took all of Janet’s stuff out of the suitcase and put them back where they used to be.

Once Janet was inside the room, she wanted to find out what Ethan was doing outside, so she opened the door quietly. Outside, she saw him carefully putting away her stuff before taking off his coat and doing household chores.

Ethan was the CEO of the Larson Group. There was no need for him to do such menial labor. As a matter of fact, he had changed so much for her.

Janet closed the door again and leaned against it, feeling a lump in her throat.

After that encounter, she didn’t speak to Ethan again.

She wasn't sure what she was supposed to do. Right now, all she wanted to do was to be alone and at peace.

Whenever she was frowning, she looked really unapproachable.

Sometime later, Janet was able to stay calm and assess her situation. 'I've been living a happy life with Ethan ever since we're married. Is all of this going to be ruined just because of a lie?'

Truthfully, she didn't want to give up on their relationship, but the fact that he had lied to her really bothered her a lot.

Ethan was cautious around Janet, for fear of irritating her again. He was finding it difficult to understand women more and more. Most of the time, she would ignore him. But all he could do was tolerate her behavior for now and carefully observe her.

Janet spent the entire day inside the room, forgetting that she had to go to work today.

She had thought it over later, and decided to just go to work tomorrow. Whether she liked it or not, she'd have to decide if she still wanted to continue working for the Larson Group or not. It was imperative that she dealt with the matter of her job properly.

She was well aware that she couldn't just skip work for the rest of her life just because of this matter.

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Janet returned to the Larson Group's headquarters the next morning.

She heard some people laughing inside the design department. But the second they saw her come in, an ominous silence ensued in the room.

Everybody else in the office realized that there was a tension in the room, so they all glanced at the door.

"Hey! Shut up! Can't you see that Janet is here already?"

"Wait... Is Janet the one who's secretly married to Mr. Larson?"

"Who else could it be?"

Janet could hear them whispering among each other, and they all sounded surprised.

Deciding to ignore them, she went to her seat and sat down as if nothing happened.

When Gerda saw Janet, she poked her head out and went to the latter's seat. Visibly excited, she said, "My queen! You're finally back! Everyone in the company is shocked to hear the news about you and Mr. Larson!"

Janet could tell from the look on Gerda's face that the latter was excited.

"Who spread the news?" she asked.

Gerda had no idea either. "When I arrived at the company yesterday, everybody was already discussing that you're the CEO's wife. Someone even took a video of Mr. Larson chasing after you!"

When Janet looked around, the people inside the department fell into deeper silence. The air felt tense and it grew worse with every passing second.

The moment she entered the company building earlier, she could sense that people were looking at her differently. Some were curious; others were confused. But most of them were giving her a modicum of respect, and were cautious around her. It seemed that the entire company already knew that she was Brandon's wife.

"Everyone's scared of you now!" Gerda declared as she looked around.

Janet burst into laughter. "Why would they be scared? Do they think I'm going to bite their heads off or something?"

Gerda winked at her and replied, "It's because of your conflict with Patty. It didn't end well, did it? Didn't you feel that everyone was keeping their distance from you at the time?"

"Of course, I did! Patty's boyfriend is a department head of our company. I can understand why everyone chose to side with her," Janet responded.

It was difficult to keep healthy interpersonal relationships in the corporate world. In their world, any common fool who would go up against someone who had connections, someone like Patty, would just be asking for trouble.

"Well, that's the point! Since you're the wife of the boss, you're completely different in everyone's eyes now. They're all nervous around you, because they're scared you'll take revenge on them," Gerda remarked with glee.

She wasn't a sensitive person, and she had always been on Janet's side. Thus, she wasn't nervous around her. As a matter of fact, this turn of events excited her.

Janet lowered her head and said, "I've already got a lot on my plate now. I don't have time to waste seeking revenge on everyone."

Gerda pouted. "They just feel guilty. Putting that aside... What the hell, Lind? How could you hide the fact that you're Mr. Larson's wife from us?"

A bitter smile appeared on Janet's face.

'How am I supposed to answer that question? I don't even know the answer, myself.'

Although it was quiet in the design department, all eyes were on Janet.

Just as she was feeling unsettled, someone gave her a pat on the shoulder from behind. "Lind, can I see you in my office?"

Tiffany stood behind Janet, crossing her arms. She looked as calm as ever, and she acted like she always did.

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Janet warily followed Tiffany into her office.

“Miss Fisher, is this about me asking for another leave yesterday?” Janet bit her lower lip. She was aware that she had been asking for leaves too frequently lately.

Sitting cross-legged on the sofa, Tiffany couldn’t help but giggle. “Lind, I always suspected you might have something to do with Brandon, but never in my wildest dreams would I have thought you were his wife.”

It was known to everyone in the design circle that Tiffany was an artful and observant person. On more than once occasion, she noticed that Garrett was secretly helping Janet.

But she knew that Garrett had a girlfriend at the time, so Tiffany boldly guessed that it wasn’t him who was in a relationship with Janet, but Brandon. After all, Garrett worked for Brandon. It made sense that Garrett would pull the strings in Janet’s favor for his boss.

Now that her guess was confirmed, Tiffany was calm. She was not a snobbish person. She had grown a little partial to Janet, but only because she appreciated her talent and work ethic.

But she always maintained fairness as the department director and dealt with the company’s affairs professionally.

Janet took a deep breath. “Miss Fisher, he is his own person, as I am my own. I still work for you. I won’t violate company rules just because I’m the CEO’s wife. Don’t worry.”

Janet couldn’t figure out what was going on in Tiffany’s mind, but she tried to make her intentions clear anyway.

Tiffany smiled and waved her hand dismissively. “I’m not worried about that. I’ll be as strict as usual, and you’ll still be criticized if you do something wrong.”

As she spoke, she stood up and walked up to Janet. “But let me ask you this question as a friend: now that everybody knows that you’re Mr. Larson’s wife, what’re your plans for the future?”

Stunned, Janet lowered her head and said softly, “I haven’t figured it out yet.”

Tiffany heaved a sigh of relief. “You are very talented, Lind. It’d be a pity if you gave up your career just because you married a billionaire. Everyone in the Larson Group now knows who you are. If you choose to stay here, people will definitely fawn over and flatter you. You’re unlikely to encounter any obstacles and will easily climb the corporate ladder. That being said, staying in this kind of environment might not be good for your career growth. Take Patty’s case as an example. If you want to hone your skills further, I suggest you look for opportunities outside the Larson Group. The world is big. Don’t be a frog in the bottom of a well that can only see a small patch of sky above. A person with a limited outlook won’t make a success of his or her career.”

“You want me to leave the Larson Group?” With her lips slightly parted, Janet looked at Tiffany in disbelief.

She could tell that Tiffany was just being frank but sincere and straight to the point.

“Are you sentimentally attached to this company?” At a glance, Tiffany knew what was weighing on her mind immediately.

Janet shook her head. After a long while, she said slowly, "I love what I do, and I would want to advance my career. I'll consider your suggestion carefully, Miss Fisher."

Tiffany smiled, although there was a trace of sadness in her eyes. "No matter what path you take, it'll be difficult. That's life. What matters is that you're happy and live with no regrets."

Janet looked at Tiffany steadily. After holding each other's gaze for a few seconds, they both broke into smiles.

Janet stood up to leave, but Tiffany stopped her.

"I forgot to tell you something. I was so caught up in giving you advice that I forgot that Mr. Larson sent me a message. He said that he had contacted Ronald and got the necessary information from him. It was true that it was Patty who offended him. So now you can clarify the misunderstanding and prove to everyone that you're innocent."