## **Unconscious 531**

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Theodore sat beside Ariana in the car, looking out the window at the scenery passing by. Suddenly, he said, "Now that I'm wooing you, and we've already gone on two dates, can we say we are in love?"

"What?" Ariana asked as she came to her senses.

Theodore turned around and gazed into Ariana's eyes. "I'm asking if we can take our relationship to the next level," he replied earnestly.

Ariana laughed and teased, "Why do you look so cute when you are serious?" Theodore was speechless and snorted, "Do | look ridiculous?" "No, no. It's cute," she comforted him while rubbing her head against his arm.

Theodore smiled, lowering his head and kissing her. "| remember there's a special occasion coming up. Can you free up your schedule for next Wednesday?" he asked gently.

Ariana wanted to refuse, but suddenly she remembered that that day was her birthday, and felt comforted. He remembered her birthday and kept it in mind.

After sending Alina back to Molly, Theodore accompanied Ariana to her apartment. They left the elevator together and separated at the corridor.

"Go home and have a good rest. | can't stay with you tonight, alas, | have a video conference | can't miss." After saying that, Theodore held Ariana's hand and kissed it.

"It's very late. Can't you hold the video conference tomorrow instead?" Ariana asked unhappily. She felt he was actually a workaholic. He had spent the whole day with her, how come he still had the energy to deal with work?

With a faint smile, Theodore wrapped his arms around Ariana's waist and looked up at her affectionately. "I have no choice. This video conference is very important and | can't postpone it. I'll be with you tomorrow night."

"Wait a minute. Did you cancel your work today to spend time with me?" Ariana asked suddenly, looking at him seriously. Theodore nodded. "That's right. But the thing is, that work..."

He sensed that she wasn't happy with him, so he wanted to explain himself. But when he opened his mouth to speak, she pressed her index finger against his lips.

He looked at her face and saw a guilty expression on her face. "Sorry, | didn't know you had so much to do today. Next time, I'd like you to tell me. We can have a date anytime," Ariana said softly.

"| know, but there's always work to do. | don't want to let you down." Theodore sighed helplessly.

He never believed that one day he would strive to complete two days' work in one day just to spend time with a woman. It wasn't that anyone was forcing him to do so. He just wanted to. "By the way, I'm very happy today. Don't think too much, okay?" As Theodore spoke, he held Ariana's hand and kissed it again.

Ariana nodded and kissed him on the forehead. "Good night. Don't work too late. Text me when you go to bed."

Chapter: 532 "Okay."

The two of them went to their respective apartments. Ariana first took a bath before returning to her bedroom. Lying on the bed, she looked out of the window at the moon in the night sky.

She couldn't fall asleep. She remembered that earlier in the car, Theodore told her with a serious air that he would arrange things for her next Wednesday. He told her he would give her an unforgettable birthday and there was something important he intended to tell her.

What could it be? Ariana pondered, tossing and turning in bed. However, no matter how hard she racked her brains, she was unable to figure out what Theodore could possibly plan for the next Wednesday.

She wanted to tell him about her pregnancy earlier today, but she was interrupted.

Thinking about that, Ariana touched her belly with concen. She knew she would have to tell him the truth sooner or later. If she kept it a little longer, she would definitely be exposed. Her belly was so big now that she couldn't wear any tight clothes.

Additionally, she and Theodore had gotten so close lately that quite often they found themselves hugging and kissing each other. Someone as sensitive and insightful as Theodore would quickly notice her pregnancy.

She knew it would be better for her to tell him the truth than to let him discover it for himself.

At the thought of this, Ariana sighed heavily. After thinking for a while, she decided to tell him the truth the next Wednesday. She wanted to give him a big surprise.

Hopefully, it wouldn't be a shock tohim. The next day, Ariana lazily got out of bed and got ready for work. It was the first time she had felt so reluctant to go to work.

Considering Lyla's tendency to gossip, Ariana guessed that Lyla might have already spread the news of her relationship with Theodore throughout the company. She worried about how their colleagues would perceive their relationship and how they would judge them.

When Ariana entered the premises of SJ Entertainment, she was on her guard and on the lookout for the slightest remark or the slightest comment from her colleagues. But to her surprise, her co-workers didn't seem to care about her at all.

She felt strange again.

Was it that Theodore was so intimidating that no one dared gossip?

That was a possibility. After thinking for a while, Ariana decided to send a message to Theodore.

She sent a sticker of a little dog riding a skateboard and falling. As she was about to type a message to send with the sticker, a fierce voice suddenly came from nearby.

"Ariana!"

Ariana was startled and her shaky fingers typed two wrong letters. Stunned, she raised her head to see who just called her name. It happened to be Marge, and the woman was rushing towards her aggressively.

"Marge, calm down. Calm down. I'm sorry. | didn't mean to hide it from you! | didn't tell you because | was afraid of people's reaction when they knew that Theodore is my husband," Ariana explained quickly.

Marge suddenly stopped in her tracks, looking utterly shocked. "What? Mr. Theodore Anderson... is your husband?!"

As a result of Marge's exaggerated reaction, Ariana immediately realized that something was wrong. She hurriedly covered Marge's mouth before dragging her into the tea room.

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Thankfully, the office was still empty at that early hour, sparing Ariana's embarrassment. "What's going on? Why did you say that Theodore Anderson is your husband?

When did you guys get hitched?" Marge was practically bursting with curiosity.

"No..."

"No?" Marge wasn't having any of it. "Nonsense! You just said it with your mouth!"

"It's a long story."

Marge continued to push, "Then make it short! Come on, are you playing some kind of game? Is Theodore playing the role of your husband today?"

Marge was so animated that there was no room for Ariana to speak.

"What if | tell you this is all a role play? | am playing Theodore's wife today!" Ariana was frantic, and she clearly felt she shouldn't have been that timid just now. It was all her own doing to speak the truth. How did she get so articulate? The evil part of Ariana's soul was beating her desperately.

"[ won't believe you for a second. | think you're joking." Marge narrowed her eyes at her with suspicion.

Ariana was at a loss for words. "First, you have to tell me. When you hurried over here, what were you planning to tell me? Why are you being angry? | anticipated that you would do something."

With that, Ariana successfully switched the subject. Marge smiled wickedly and leaned in closer. "I simply wanted to let you know that Lyla has publically apologized and resigned from her position."

"Wasn't that so sudden?" Ariana came close to using the f-bomb.

Marge firmly nodded her head. "You're absolutely correct. That as well really floored me. On the other hand, the revelation that your spouse is Mr. Theodore Anderson is far more shocking."

Ariana's face suddenly took on an odd look. She was thinking of a plan to trick Marge.

Marge was an extremely intelligent lady. "Don't even think about lying to me! Just say it. Mr. Theodore Anderson is your spouse, correct? Is it a yes or ano?"

"Please hear me out..."

"Yes or no?"

"Yes! There you go!"

Marge was pleased with her response. She was so ecstatic that her eyes were glistening with joy. Ariana placed her palm on her forehead and silenced Marge's queries out of sheer helplessness. "Tell me about Lyla first. When did she hand out the letter of apology?"

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"She put it up late last night. You can check it."

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Ariana pulled out her phone and signed in instantly. Lyla did publicly apologize to her. She said that she had to leave because the company was negatively affected by the fraudulent and defamatory images she had taken in the past.

"By the way, why did you tell me about your husband just now? | almost passed out when | heard you affirm that you are Theodore's wife," Marge asked bewilderedly.

Ariana sighed. Maybe it was because she felt guilty about keeping the truth. Then she wiped her nose in embarrassment and said, "This weekend, Theodore and | went to camp and ran into Lyla. We were afraid she would gossip at work."

"Tt makes sense. Lyla was acting very haughty and domineering last week, so it's surprising that she apologized voluntarily and out of the blue," Marge said, licking her lips in satisfaction.

Not knowing what to say, Ariana could only grin awkwardly and hope the subject would be shifted quickly.

"Wait!" Marge's eyes brightened as if she had just had an epiphany. She couldn't help but exclaim, "The man you mentioned earlier is Theodore Anderson, the sharp-tongued, arbitrary, bossy one?"

Ariana could only nod in dismay.

"So it was him who displayed his affection at the company entrance with hydrogen balloons on drones?" Marge's face lit up as she continued, "Oh dear, that was so romantic!"

"It was Mr. Theodore Anderson who did that, so of course it's romantic!" Marge said confidently. Ariana was at a loss for words.

Marge, knowing the startling secret, continued to inquire.

They were in the midst of a lively conversation when a commotion was heard outside the tea room. Marge dragged Ariana out to see the action.

Many individuals were milling about outside. Marge inquired of a total stranger. The male coworker with a round visage said, "Mr. Anderson's girlfriend has arrived.

Everyone is looking forward to meeting her!"

"What? Mr. Theodore Anderson, or Mr. Jasper Anderson?" Marge was taken aback.

"Well... That would be Mr. Theodore Anderson, of course! Mr. Jasper Anderson is a playboy who is constantly going through different girlfriends. Come on, why should we be curious about his girlfriend?"

Marge was startled by the answer. She could not help but glance at Ariana, who had a frosty expression on her face. Helen was sitting gracefully in the hall's rest area with a light touch of makeup. All eyes were on her, filled with envy. But Helen was unperturbed; in fact, she was relishing the attention.

Today, she wore the white dress that the media had captured her in with Theodore.

Chapter: 535 If everything went according to plan, when she arrived at Theodore's compan¥? people would assume she was his girlfriend.

She delighted in the idea of the misconception. Even though she wasn't his girlfriend at the moment, she believed that one day, she would be.

To Helen, she was the only woman worthy of standing by Theodore's side. No one else deserved him. Despite the chaos and turmoil inside her, Helen maintained a pure smile on her face and spoke softly to the front desk secretary. "How much longer until Theodore's meeting is over?" she asked.

"The meeting will be over in five minutes, Miss Clarke. Why don't you grab a cup of coffee while you wait? Mr. Anderson will be out soon," the secretary suggested with a warm smile. She couldn't help stealing glances at Theodore's enigmatic girlfriend.

Although Helen was gentle and had an angelic smile, she seemed homely. Maybe men just preferred this type of woman?

The five minutes elapsed quickly. The secretary escorted Helen to the elevator and pressed the button for her. Helen followed at a relaxed pace.

Upon arriving on the top floor, Theodore had just returned to his office and was engrossed in signing a contract. Two senior executives stood beside him.

Aknock on the door interrupted them. They turned to see Helen. Theodore's expression remained unchanged as he quickly signed the document and asked the executives to leave.

The two executives, who had heard rumors about Theodore in the past, couldn't help but take a few extra glances at Helen. They let out a silent sigh. How could a cold person like Theodore fall for such a homely woman? They predicted that he would soon get bored.

The two executives didn't dare to overstay their welcome and quickly made their exit, leaving Theodore and Helen alone in the Office.

"Theodore, | got you a tie. Do you like it?" Helen pulled out a gift box from her purse and handed it to him.

Without even a glance, Theodore took the gift and set it aside. He looked at Helen sternly and icily. "Why didn't you tell me that you were coming to the company?

You have an operation tomorrow afternoon, and yet you still went out?"

Earlier that day, he received a call from the hospital, informing him that Helen had snuck out. However, he was preoccupied with work and had forgotten about it.

He didn't anticipate that she would come to the company without his permission. He didn't like having an uninvited guest and was worried that Ariana would misunderstand if she saw Helen. Helen's eyes welled up with tears upon sensing Theodore's cold tone. "Theodore, I'm scared about the operation. I'm so

nervous. You haven't visited me for a long time, and I'm afraid that | won't make it off the operating table. That's why | came here to see you before the operation."

Perhaps it was Helen's fear that softened Theodore's heart. He spoke slowly. "The success rate of the operation is high. | have arranged the best doctors for you.

Nothing will go wrong."

He rubbed his nose wearily and then gave in, "Fine. | promise to visit you in the hospital before your operation tomorrow."

Chapter: 536 "Can you at least hug me now?" Helen looked up at him with pleading eyes. Theodore frowned and was about to decline.

"Can't you just give your sister a hug of encouragement?" Helen's voice cracked, and tears started to stream down her face. "If Marley were still alive, maybe | wouldn't be so scared. Marley was always there for me."

"Fine," Theodore reluctantly agreed. He knew that if he refused, Helen would likely avoid going to the hospital altogether. "You're the best, Theodore!" Helen beamed at him with childlike innocence. She was happy inside that Theodore always fell for it when she brought up Marley.

Who would have thought that there was a hidden camera in the gift she had brought? It would capture the perfect shot of Theodore hugging her. Helen chuckled to herself.

When Theodore opened his arms, Helen couldn't help but yearn to snuggle against him. However, just then, Theodore's phone rang unexpectedly. Ignoring Helen, he tumed to take his phone call. Annoyed, Helen bit her lip.

Upon seeing the caller ID, Theodore smiled. He was about to answer the call when he suddenly remembered something. Glancing at Helen, he motioned toward his phone. "I need to take this call. Could you step outside for a moment?"

Helen's face changed as she saw the caller ID.

Goddess? He actually saved someone's contact as Goddess? Who the hell was that?

She refused to let anyone else be Theodore's goddess! Could it be Ariana? She was the only one bold enough! "Helen?" Theodore appeared slightly displeased as he noticed her distraction.

Suppressing her anger, Helen forced a smile. "Alright, I'll step out for now."

After closing the door, Theodore answered the call, hearing a flirtatious female voice on the other end. "Brother Theodore." Wearing a smile, Theodore replied, "Could you call me 'hubby' instead? I'd rather not be called 'brother'."

"Hmph! | heard your girlfriend came to visit you. Where is she? How can you still take my call when you're so busy? Don't you need to be with her?" Ariana scoffed.

"Who's spreading rumors and causing my dear wife, Ariana, to misunderstand?" At this moment, Theodore's tone was sugary sweet as he continually referred to her as his wife.

However, Ariana wasn't swayed by his sweet talk. Pretending to be surprised, she retorted, "Mr. Anderson, you're a married man. Why pester me? Aren't you afraid your wife will become jealous and furious?"

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"Then you have to ask yourself, when did you change your caller ID on my phone?" Theodore countered.

"| can't do that? I'll do it again!" Ariana mocked.

"Alright, alright. | hope next time it's a normal name, otherwise | can't even find my dear wife's contact number in my phone." Theodore laughed.

Though Ariana remained uneasy, her anger subsided somewhat. She inquired, "Why is Helen here? Tell me the truth." "She's having a heart surgery tomorrow. She said she was scared and came here."

Worried that Ariana might misunderstand the situation, Theodore clarified, "I haven't visited her at the hospital for a while. After all, she considers me her brother. | may go see her with Horace tomorrow before she has the surgery."

He mentioned Horace's name, implying he wouldn't be alone with Helen.

Hearing this, Ariana's anger disappeared, and she didn't bring up Helen again. After all, after observing several times, she was certain that Helen had feelings for Theodore, but he didn't reciprocate them.

"Now, | need to get back to work. Remember to eat. Don't neglect your health because you're too busy. You'll be in trouble if | find out you haven't eaten." Ariana spoke sternly, but she genuinely cared for Theodore.

Awarmth filled Theodore's heart, washing away his fatigue. He responded softly, "I understand. When I'm done with work, I'll be there to be with you."

"alright. Bye, brother Theodore." Ariana giggled and hung up the phone as soon as she finished. Theodore put down the phone and shook his head in resignation.

Glancing at the time, he used the landline to call Horace in.

"Have someone escort Helen back to the hospital."

Horace replied, "Boss, Helen already left. She said she'd go back to the hospital on her own."

Meanwhile, Ariana returned to her office.

Marge was still there. Spotting Ariana, she immediately approached and asked, "How's it going? What's the deal with the woman in the white dress?"

"It's a misunderstanding. She's just a relative of Theodore's." Ariana responded, her mood lifted. Marge breathed a sigh of relief. "That's good. That's good to hear." After work, Theodore remained busy and had to return home late, so he instructed the driver to take Ariana home.

Glancing at her watch, Ariana saw it was still early and decided against asking the driver to take her home. She wanted to go to the supermarket to buy groceries and head home by herself. Without Theodore, she found it boring to be alone at home.

Chapter: 538 If it wasn't too late, she might even send Theodore a midnight snack.

Ariana leisurely strolled towards the subway, not expecting to run into Helen. Helen stood there, gazing at her as if she had been waiting for Ariana for quite some time.

"Can we have a talk?" Helen's sudden appearance caught Ariana off guard. Her demeanor was meek, not as domineering as Ariana had anticipated.

Ariana checked her phone and replied icily, "I'm in a hurry."

Helen was unsurprised. She smiled and said, "Do you detest me this much? I came to the company to meet Theodore as a cover-up. But in reality, 1 wanted to meet you."

"Well, | despise you, so we have nothing to discuss!" Ariana retorted, her disgust evident. She had no intention of pretending even for a moment.

Helen was not surprised by what Ariana had said, instead she covered her mouth and laughed out loud. There were even tears streaming from the corners of her eyes.

Ariana felt strange seeing Helen behaving like a lunatic and tured to leave.

Helen hastily approached and grabbed her by the hand. Helen's expression darkened, and her grin became more vicious. "If you didn't hate me, you wouldn't have blocked all of my contact info. | had no way of contacting you, so | had to come to the company to find you."

Helen stroked Ariana's hand, and it felt like a poisonous snake had bitten it. Ariana pushed Helen away. She stated icily, "| know that you are here for Theodore. We have nothing to say if this is a declaration of war. He is my husband. Neither will 1 surrender him to you or fight for him as a possession. Just forget about it!"

Asnarl formed in Helen's eyes as she said, "I know you are his legal wife. You needn't stress the point. But aren't you curious as to what may possibly be the reasons that Theodore doesn't want you to conceive?"

Ariana tumed around at that. She reexamined the woman in front of her while squinting slightly. "What are you saying?" Helen covered her mouth and smiled. "Are you always this inquisitive? Would you really want to find out? Sure, I'll tell you!"

Ariana flashed a grin and remarked nonchalantly, "In the past, Theodore didn't love me. Obviously, he didn't want any random lady to carry his child. Things have changed now. Love has blossomed between us."

"So what?" Helen's expression clouded as she heard the statement "Love has blossomed between us" and she struggled to maintain her composure. Theodore's love for Ariana stirred powerful emotions in her, and she felt an overwhelming desire to destroy everything in her way.

"Do you really believe that Theodore has developed romantic feelings for you? Wake up! | don't see how he could fall in love so quickly." Ariana scoffed inwardly. She couldn't imagine Theodore ever loving Helen if he couldn't even love her.

Before Ariana could retort, Helen cut her off. "Even if you think Theodore loves you, you are not sure he will accept your child, are you? | suppose you've considered Theodore's point of view. Otherwise, why don't you just come out and tell him you're expecting?"

Ariana's composure dissolved with that. Only a select few knew that she was expecting, and Helen found out about it somehow. Did Helen look into her?

She cautiously covered her stomach and questioned, "Who the hell told you?"

Helen's laughter became even more hearty as she said, "Of course | don't know. | was only testing you, you moron! Looks like I was right. You've been pregnant, and you just don't want Theodore to know it!"

Ariana hadn't expected Helen to be so cunning. It was absurd that Helen had even set a trap for her and she had fallen for it.

Chapter: 539 "So what's your purpose?" Ariana scoffed and held back the urge to slap Helen. After all, fighting wouldn't resolve the issue.

"What's my purpose? | just want to witness your misery." Helen casually brushed her hair back and said softly, "Well, | did suspect about your pregnancy. I've heard that you married into the Anderson family to bear their future generations. Yet everyone believed you failed. If the private detective | hired hadn't told me that you often went alone to the hospital for gynaecological check-ups, | wouldn't have even considered it."

"You've been investigating me!" Ariana tried to remain calm, but upon hearing this, she couldn't help but tremble with rage.

To be honest, she hadn't considered Helen a serious threat before this. It was because Helen harbored an unrequited love for Theodore, who saw her only as a sister. Even if Helen fell out with Theodore, it wouldn't significantly impact their relationship.

However, Ariana never expected that Helen would go as far as hiring a private detective to tail her.

"Aren't you curious why I'm so certain you haven't told Theodore about your pregnancy?" Helen wore a smug expression and a mischievous glint in her eyes.

Though Ariana loathed being manipulated, she had to admit that Helen's statement aligned with her own curiosity. Theodore's attitude toward the prospect of having a child was peculiar, as if he had some other secrets.

Seeing that Ariana was silent, Helen spoke in a seemingly compassionate tone. "I've known Theodore for over a decade. | understand him better than anyone. You've only known him for a short while. You're clueless about his past."

"What are you getting at?" Ariana clenched her teeth and forced out the words.

Helen was a master at hitting her where it hurt. Ariana had to concede that even if she claimed it didn't matter, she still cared about the decade-plus history shared between Theodore and Helen.

Helen scoffed, lifted her chin, and haughtily declared, "If Theodore learns that you're pregnant, he'll force you to abort it." "Whatever you say." Ariana didn't believe Helen's words and had no desire to entertain her any further. She turned to leave.

Ariana chose to believe that Helen was trying to sow conflict between her and Theodore, rather than accept that he would pressure her into an abortion. Although Theodore wasn't the most affectionate partner, Ariana couldn't imagine him being so heartless as to abandon their child.

Despite attempting to convince herself not to trust Helen's claims, Ariana couldn't help but tremble. Her heart felt as if it were gripped by an unseen force, inciting panic and unease.

"If you don't believe me, tell him and see if he pushes for an abortion," Helen taunted with a wicked grin.

Ariana wavered. Helen's confidence forced her to consider the authenticity of her statement.

Helen stepped forward two steps and whispered like a demon, "If you want the truth, come to the Anderson family's residence alone tonight at twelve past midnight. I'll reveal everything."

"| won't go," Ariana stubbornly retorted. She couldn't be sure if this was another of Helen's ploys. If Helen could hire a private detective to trail her, she might have other schemes to drive a wedge between her and Theodore.

Helen glanced at her calmly. "It's your choice whether to come or not. I'll wait until twelve-thirty. If you're a no-show, I'll leave, and you'll never learn the truth."

On the top floor of the Anderson Group building, Theodore finished another day's work and checked his phone, hoping to see a new message from Ariana. But after three long hours, the screen remained blank.

Theodore took one last drag of his cigarette before extinguishing it in the ashtray.

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He turned his chair to face the window, gazing out at the bustling traffic below. His thoughts drifted as he rotated the wedding ring on his finger.

He straightened his suit jacket and stood up, ready to leave. Horace was waiting for him outside with a wheelchair.

Theodore sat down and closed his eyes, taking a deep breath to calm his nerves. He opened his eyes as they entered the elevator and checked his phone once more, but still no message.

Frowning, Theodore glanced at his watch. It was not yet eleven o'clock. He dialed Ariana's number, but it went straight to voicemail.

Theodore scowled, his irritation growing. Had she forgotten to let him know when she arrived home today? "Let's head back to the apartment first," Theodore instructed Horace as he settled into the car.

As the car made its way through the busy streets, Theodore took the opportunity to rest with his eyes closed. Suddenly, his phone buzzed twice in his hand.

Opening his eyes, he glanced at the screen with a frosty expression, but then a gentle smile spread across his lips.

It was a message from Ariana. "I'm sorry. | didn't check my phone while | was in the shower. Did you finish work? Have you eaten?"

Theodore quickly typed a reply, his fingers moving with ease. "Yes, I'm finished for the day. I'm still a little hungry though. Would you like to join me for a midnight snack?"

Ariana responded with a rolling cat emoj into a pig!"

"No, I'm full. If | eat any more, I'll tum

Not wanting to push the issue, Theodore suggested, "how about watching a movie together later?" Without explicitly expressing his longing, Theodore attempted to set up a meeting,

But, as luck would have it, Ariana wasn't cooperating with his efforts. "Maybe tomorrow night?" she suggested. "I am feeling exhausted after a long day and want to get some rest. | will have a meeting with Director Joziah of Tietram Media tomorrow morning to discuss the contract. | hope to get Tyler to work with him."

Feeling a little disappointed, Theodore replied with a sad face emoji. "Okay," he typed.

Ariana tried to comfort him, "Good boy. Get some rest tonight. I'm going to dry my hair! Sweet dreams, kiss." Theodore replied with a simple "Good night" before ending the conversation.

As they arrived at the apartment building, Theodore stepped out of the car and settled into his wheelchair. Even though the night was quiet and there were no people around, he still made an effort to play the part of a disabled person with limited mobility.

"Boss, do you want me to grab some takeout? You haven't eaten yet," Horace offered from behind. Theodore was about to respond, but when he lifted his head, he noticed that the room where Ariana resided was dark.

"Is Tyler going to work with Joziah of Tietram Media?" Theodore asked with a tone as cold as the winter wind.