

Zillionaire 441

Chapter 441 Your Well-being Is My Priority

Linsey was taken aback by Collin's unexpectedly sweet remarks, causing her to blush deeply.

"Why are you being so sweet?" After a moment of silence, she finally found her voice to whisper back.

As he carried her towards the clinic, Collin chuckled, clearly amused by her flustered state.

He then said in a measured tone, "Sweetheart, I know you think tonight's Lawson family gala is a good chance for me to network with business magnates, but honestly, your well-being is my priority. I must be sure you're alright before I can think of mingling. If you insist on sending me off, trust me, I won't be able to focus on anything else."

Linsey's heart skipped a beat as she listened to his sincere declaration.

Collin had a knack for saying just the right thing to lift her spirits.

Yet, Linsey recognized the authenticity in his words.

A smile mixed with a bit of sadness crossed Linsey's face.

She gestured towards the elegant suit Collin wore. "I tailored this suit for you for the gala tonight. It looks so sharp, and yet here it is, not being shown off."

With a charming smile, Collin replied, "As long as it pleases you, wearing this suit and your effort in making it

were worthwhile."

Linsey playfully tapped his lips, teasing, "As a businessman, how can you afford to pour so much of your focus

into romance?"

Collin arched an eyebrow, pausing to consider before responding earnestly, "This suit is too well-tailored to wear just once. Since I skipped wearing it tonight, maybe I'll reserve it for another occasion?"

Linsey's eyes twinkled with amusement. "And what if someone notices you've worn it before?"

Their discussion took on an unexpected gravity over what seemed a minor issue.

With a depth of sincerity in his voice, Collin explained, "Who would even notice? Here in Grester, I'm hardly the center of attention. I could wear the same suit repeatedly without anyone batting an eye."

Contrary to his view, Linsey expressed disbelief, shaking her head. "That's not true! You stand out too much. As soon as you enter a room, all eyes are on you."

Now that Collin was no longer feigning disability, his striking appearance made him unavoidably conspicuous.

Linsey's observation was spot on.

Indeed, when Collin made a brief appearance at the Lawson family's gala earlier, he had made a memorable impact on everyone present.

Unknown to them, some attendees were still speculating about the identity of the enigmatic man who had

arrived with Jeffery.

After a moment's reflection, Collin grinned. "In that case, I might need the skilled designer Linsey to craft more remarkable tuxedos for me going forward."

Without any hesitation, Linsey responded, "Absolutely! Designing for you is something I cherish."

As they conversed, Collin had smoothly carried Linsey into the clinic.

"Doctor, could you please examine my wife's ankle? She seems to have twisted it earlier," Collin said as soon as they entered.

Chapter 442 Why Haven't

I Spotted Him

The doctor gave a nod, indicating that Collin should carefully set Linsey down on the examination table.

Holding Linsey's hand, Collin watched the doctor intently as he began the check-up.

Meanwhile, Linsey's focus was elsewhere, completely detached from her injured ankle.

Breaking the silence with a gentle squeeze of Collin's hand, she expressed her remorse. "It's unfortunate that you had to miss tonight's event because of my accident. I feel quite guilty about it."

Collin caught the faint trace of guilt in Linsey's eyes and, pressing his lips together, he leaned closer, locking eyes with her.

In a gentle, reassuring tone, he responded, "Darling, don't worry about it. Sure, tonight was a good opportunity, but it's not the only one. There'll be more events. Forget about this one for now."

He then tenderly caressed her cheek with his warm hand. "The priority now is your recovery. We can put everything else on hold."

Linsey found it hard to counter, touched by the depth of sincerity in Collin's eyes, though she still felt somewhat upset.

"Alright, I get it," she said with a soft nod, releasing her worries.

Observing Linsey's serene and accepting demeanor, Collin allowed himself a gentle smile and playfully tousled

her hair.

His main regret was not unveiling himself as the founder of CR Corporation at the gala, particularly in front of

Linsey.

Nevertheless, this was just a minor setback in his larger scheme.

Considering he had skipped the Lawson family's banquet, Collin pondered the idea of organizing a lavish event of his own. There, he could unveil his corporate identity and simultaneously make his relationship with Linsey

public.

This approach, he figured, would make a far more impactful statement than his original plan at the Lawson family's gala.

Collin was confident that when the moment arrived, Linsey would be both astonished and thrilled.

As silence filled the room, Collin meticulously formulated a new strategy in his mind.

Soon after, the doctor completed the examination of Linsey's ankle.

"First, I'll apply a medicinal spray to the affected area. Remember to use it consistently at home, limit your

mobility, and rest for the next few days. You should recover well," the doctor instructed.

Before Linsey had a chance to reply, Collin interjected, "Understood. Thank you, doctor."

Fortunately, the next day was the weekend, which meant Linsey didn't have to fret about work or taking time

off.

The doctor then exited the room to retrieve the medicinal spray for Linsey's ankle.

At that moment, a familiar voice echoed from the television's live broadcast.

"As the head of CR Corporation, I am proud to stand here at the Lawson family banquet tonight. We are looking forward to finalizing our partnership with Mr. Lawson and anticipate a fruitful collaboration between us

Linsey's gaze shifted to the TV where Dustin, looking sharp, was speaking on stage at the Lawson family banquet.

"Ah, so Mr. Wade is representing us tonight," she remarked, making the connection.

It was logical for Dustin to be there; he was the face that the public associated with CR Corporation.

However, Linsey's expression soon turned to confusion. "Hold on. Weren't they supposed to have the founder of CR Corporation here as well? Why haven't I spotted him?"

Collin, the very founder she was curious about, responded with composure, "He must have been detained by unforeseen circumstances."

Linsey accepted this with a thoughtful nod, though her voice betrayed a trace of disappointment. "That's unfortunate. I was quite excited about the prospect of meeting the founder in person tonight."

Chapter 443 It's Unlikely He's A Young Man

Collin's chest tightened uncomfortably upon hearing Linsey's words.

"You went to the Lawson family banquet just to get a look at CR Corporation's mysterious founder?" he asked.

With an innocent blink, Linsey replied, "I'm really curious! Aren't you eager to see what he looks like? It seems like everyone in town is."

A hint of suspicion crept into Collin's gaze as he said, "Rumors suggest the founder is both young and quite the looker, a real dream for many here in Grester. Do you find yourself among the admirers hoping to meet him?"

She was unaware of his true identity.

Even though he was the founder himself, he still felt a wave of jealousy in him.

Despite that, he wasn't ready to reveal his true identity yet.

Catching on to his subtle change in mood, Linsey laughed and said, "Oh Collin, your jealousy is showing. I merely wondered aloud about the founder's appearance, and here you are, making a mountain out of a molehill."

Collin's face grew even more serious. "You didn't correct me, Linsey. So, you do think that way!"

"I certainly do not!" Linsey responded swiftly. "Who said I believe the founder is young and handsome? He could well be in his late thirties, given his

achievements in building CR Corporation so quickly. It's unlikely he's a young

man."

Her unexpected perspective left Collin momentarily lost for words.

At last, she was denying it.

Yet, why did her denial seem so strange?

Linsey seemed convinced that the founder of CR Corporation was a middle-aged man nearing forty...

"And besides, the founder has always been secretive about his identity," Linsey paused awkwardly before adding, "Perhaps he's not very confident about his looks, and that's why he keeps his identity hidden."

Collin found himself speechless.

It would have been one thing if Linsey admired the young and handsome image of the CR Corporation founder; that might have sparked a hint of jealousy in him.

Yet, her depiction of the founder as an older, less appealing man left Collin feeling uneasy in a completely

different manner.

Regardless of her perception, Collin was unable to shake a nagging sense of discomfort.

He quickly diverted the conversation, glancing towards the hallway. "What's keeping the doctor so long?"

After a brief pause, Linsey realized that Collin's mood had soured due to her comments about the CR Corporation founder.

Seeing no other recourse, Linsey chose to let the subject go and shifted her focus to match his.

What else was there to do? She adored her overly protective man, after all.

Shortly after, Linsey and Collin collected their medication and exited the doctor's office.

They climbed into the car, heading towards Vista Villa.

As they drove, Collin drew Linsey close and murmured, "The evening is drawing

in. If you feel weary, you're welcome to rest against me for a while."

He recalled how exhausted she had appeared that morning and was concerned she might still be pushing herself too hard.

Linsey's memory was jogged by his words, reminding her of the morning's discomfort.

Yet, the symptoms of nausea and fatigue had vanished after work.

She shook her head, dismissing the need for rest. "No, I'm alright. I'm not really that tired."

Perhaps her recent fatigue was simply due to overwork and lack of proper rest.

As she nestled comfortably in Collin's arms, Linsey's mind suddenly lit up with a crucial thought.

Chapter 444 He's Got Cash

To Burn

"Hey, Collin," Linsey said, glancing at him with a warm, easy smile. "The other day, Gorman came to me. He wanted me to tweak a wedding dress design and get it made. But after everything that went down later, I never got it done. I called him today, figuring I'd cancel and return his deposit, but he wouldn't have it."

She paused, her brow creasing just a touch. "I still think I should send the money back, though. Could you help me figure out how to return it? I don't want to owe him-it's been nagging at me."

Collin's mouth tugged into a quiet smile, pleased by how firmly she was cutting ties with Gorman.

Apparently she didn't have feelings for Gorman.

"I'll take care of it and make sure his payment heads back his way," he said smoothly.

He turned to his assistant in the front seat. "Pull up Gorman's bank details and get that refund sorted for what he gave Linsey."

"On it," the assistant replied, already taking out his phone to get started.

A bit later, the assistant's face twisted in puzzlement. "Mr. Riley, I tried sending the money, but Gorman has

blocked us."

Linsey let out a short, frustrated sigh. Gorman was turning this into a hassle for no good reason.

"Let's drop it," she said, shaking her head. "If he's dead-set on rejecting it, he'd probably just find a way to shove it back at us. I'm not wasting my time on this."

Collin tipped his head her way. "So, what's your plan now?"

She pressed her lips together, mulling it over, then said softly, "The deal's still on, so I'll finish the dress and have it crafted. We'll get it delivered when it's done."

After a moment, she added, "If he doesn't want it, too bad. He's leaving the country soon anyway, and we'll be rid of him for good."

A sudden gleam sparked in her eyes as she broke into a grin. "And the money? I'll slip it over to a local orphanage on the down-low."

Collin raised an eyebrow, a smirk tugging at his lips. "So you're making Gorman an accidental d

oder?"

Her grin stretched wider, bright and mischievous. "You got it! He's got cash to burn, so it all shakes out perfectly."

Collin respected her decision. "If you're cool with it, I'm in. Just holler if you need help with anything."

Linsey's smile softened as she settled back into his arms, feeling the weight lift off her.

Over the next couple of days, she took it slow at home.

That weird fatigue and nausea from the banquet didn't creep back, and she soon pushed it out of her thoughts.

By Monday, her ankle felt solid-she could manage a few steps without wincing.

Collin fretted, but Linsey was itching to return to her usual groove.

"I'll drive you," he said, calm but insistent.

She brushed him off with a quick shake of her head. "No need to baby me. Your shoulder's still healing-stay

here and rest."

Chapter 445 Almost Forgot Your Morning Kiss!

Collin let out a light laugh, shaking his head before saying, "I've been cooped up at home long enough. It's just

a quick drive to your office-nothing major. What matters is that I get to be with you a little longer."

His voice carried warmth, and his gaze was filled with sincerity.

Linsey found herself wavering, her initial reluctance fading before she even realized it. After a moment of hesitation, she sighed in surrender and muttered, "Alright, you win."

When he saw her finally give in, Collin's spirits lifted. Flashing her a satisfied smile, he followed her into the car.

Before long, they arrived at the company entrance.

"This is good enough. Drop me

should head back now."

off here," Linsey said, addressing the driver before turning to Collin. "You

Collin nodded with ease, reaching out to smooth a stray lock of her hair. His voice was gentle as he said, "Okay. Call me when you're wrapping up for the day-I'll be here waiting."

Wait, was he planning to pick her up too?

Linsey hesitated. She didn't want to disrupt his day, but at the same time, she didn't want to dampen his mood. Choosing not to overthink it, she smiled and said, "Alright."

With that, she stepped out of the car and started toward the building.

She had only taken a few steps when something suddenly came to mind. Without missing a beat, she spun around and jogged back.

Collin raised an eyebrow. "Forget something?"

Linsey didn't reply. Instead, she leaned down through the open window and placed a soft kiss on his lips.

"Almost forgot your morning kiss!" she said cheekily before dashing off without looking back.

The driver, who had been silently observing, couldn't help but marvel at how deeply the couple's affection seemed to grow with each passing day.

Collin sat still, fingertips brushing the spot where Linsey had kissed him. A small, contented smile on his lips.

e played on

His eyes followed her retreating figure until she disappeared into the building. Only then did he reluctantly shift his gaze away.

"Let's go," he instructed.

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Just as the driver was about to start the engine, a sudden knocking on the window interrupted them

Collin frowned slightly and rolled it down, only to find himself staring at a familiar face.

"What brings you here?" he asked, his tone steady as he looked at Dustin standing outside the car

Dustin blinked at him before responding, "Isn't there a virtual meeting with the Lawson Group executives today It should be obvious why I'm here."

Collin paused briefly, then recalled the important meeting scheduled for that morning

Keeping his composure, he replied smoothly, "Right. That's why I'm here."

"Huh? That's odd. The meeting isn't until ten. Why are you here so early?" Dustin shot him a suspicious look, glancing at his watch.

Collin certainly couldn't admit he had just been dropping Linsey off.

If Dustin found out, Collin would never hear the end of it.

Besides, Collin still remembered that Dustin had once taken an interest in Linsey.

Even though it was all in the past, Collin had no desire to bring her up in conversation with him

The possessiveness he felt toward Linsey only seemed to deepen as time went

on.

Keeping a straight face, he answered smoothly, "I wanted to get ahead on some paperwork that's been piling up.

Without giving Dustin time to question further, he gestured toward the backseat and instructed the driver, "Unlock the door. He's coming with us."

Chapter 446 Your Secret's

Safe With Me

With a bright smile, Dustin slid into the car. "Are we using the back entrance again today?" he asked.

Collin affirmed with a nod. "Yes, I haven't disclosed my ties to CR Corporation to Linsey yet. I'd rather she remain in the dark for the time being."

"Your secret's safe with me," Dustin assured him with a wry grin, a touch of amusement in his voice. "I've kept this under wraps for you for quite a while now- no chance I'll mess up."

Suddenly Dustin recalled a critical point, and his demeanor shifted to a more somber tone. "However, Collin, it's crucial you let her know soon. You passed up a big chance at the Lawson family gala. If you procrastinate much longer, you might find yourself too anxious to ever bring it up."

"I'll manage," Collin responded decisively, his tone unwavering. "I'm aware of what I'm doing."

Before long, Collin and Dustin accessed CR Corporation via the back door and proceeded to the executive floors.

This section was restricted to only a select few within the company, safeguarding both CR Corporation's sensitive information and the mystery of the founder's identity.

Although access to this floor was tightly controlled, the buzz about the founder showing up with Dustin quickly permeated the company.

Linsey had just reached her office when she caught wind of the excited conversations outside.

"Exciting news! The big boss made an appearance today!"

Initially, the news didn't stir much excitement.

"Dustin's always around. What's so special this time?"

The initial bearer of the news quickly clarified. "No, not Dustin-I mean the actual big boss, the founder!"

With that revelation, murmurs of intrigue swept through the office.

"Is that really true, or is it just another office rumor?"

"No doubt about it! A buddy of mine was just in the underground parking lot and saw Dustin escorting someone impressive up the side entrance."

"That must have been the founder. Dustin was treating him with a lot of respect. Although my friend couldn't make out his face, the man's stature and aura left no doubt-he seemed like a big deal!"

An employee, unable to hide their enthusiasm, exclaimed, "That's incredible! Did your friend manage to snap a picture or anything?"

The excitement waned slightly. "Unfortunately, no. They were moving too fast for that"

"What a pity. I've worked here for years and haven't caught a glimpse of the founder even once

Overhearing the escalating buzz, Linsey decided it was time to intervene and remind everyone about to

priorities.

She was just about to exit her office when another coworker darted in, brimming with excitement "Hold on I've got some scandalous news! You're not going to believe this!"

The crowd's interest seemed to wane.

"More gossip? Is it about the founder's identity, or did you actually get a picture?"

The coworker dismissed their queries with a gesture. "It's not exactly about that. Well, it sort of is, but there's

more..."

This piqued everyone's curiosity. "Really? What's the scoop? Come on, don't keep us in suspense

The coworker leaned closer, her voice thick with intrigue. "Apparently, Miss Lawson is here today as well

Chapter 447 Find A Way To Turn Her Away

At the top-floor office of CR Corporation, Collin sat behind his desk, attentively listening to his assistant's report.

"Mr. Riley, we've been digging into the hotel where the Lawson family hosted their banquet, and we've finally identified the suspicious cleaning lady your wife encountered. But here's the strange part-there's no record of her in the hotel's employment files."

Collin's expression darkened at the revelation. "If she wasn't officially on staff, then what was she doing cleaning near the first floor that night?" he asked, his voice turning cold.

The assistant hesitated briefly before offering a possibility. "Given that the Lawson family was in charge of the event, their people were everywhere that evening. Could she have been one of them?"

Collin gave a small nod. "That's certainly a possibility."

The assistant's brows furrowed as he added, "If she is connected to the Lawsons, investigating further could be tricky. Any direct action on our part will definitely raise their suspicions."

Collin shared the same concern.

CR Corporation had just sealed a business agreement with the Lawson Group. Digging into their internal affairs at such a crucial time could jeopardize their partnership.

He pondered for a moment.

If he wanted to get to the bottom of this, he would have to confront the Lawson family.

"Alright, after this meeting, arrange an appointment with Jeffery Lawson-"

Before Collin could finish, a knock sounded at the office door.

His secretary's voice came from outside. "Mr. Riley, the reception desk just called. Miss Lawson is here and requesting to see you."

Collin's brows knitted together as he exchanged a glance with his subordinate.

Without hesitation, the assistant responded, "Tell her Mr. Riley isn't available. Find a way to turn her away."

Meanwhile, on the first floor of CR Corporation, Carol stood near the reception desk, surrounded by a few imposing bodyguards. Their sheer presence created an air of tension, making the receptionist visibly uneasy.

Moments later, the phone on the desk rang.

Carol's eyes lit up. "Hurry up and answer it!" she urged.

The receptionist silently picked up the call, listened, then glanced at Carol. "Miss Lawson, I'm afraid our boss isn't in today. If you'd like, you can meet with Mr. Wade instead."

Carol's previously composed expression soured instantly. She shot the receptionist a sharp glare. "Are you deaf? I said I want to see the founder of CR Corporation, not some random executive! Don't try to push me off on someone else!" she snapped.

Her gaze turned icy as she clenched her teeth. "My brother specifically told me that the founder of CR Corporation is meeting with our executives today. Are you seriously telling me he's not here?"

Snatching a pen from the desk, she pointed it at the receptionist in an intimidating manner. "Don't play games with me! We are business partners, and my visit today concerns our collaboration. If you keep feeding me lies, I'll make sure your boss hears about this-and trust me, it won't end well for you."

The receptionist paled instantly, clearly shaken.

She wasn't lying—she had received direct instructions from the top floor that Carol was not to be entertained. But how was she supposed to explain that now?

Chapter 448 Who Would've Thought They Knew Eac...

The receptionist was on the verge of breaking down.

She was faced with Carol's overwhelming entourage and fiery temper. How was she supposed to handle this?

"Miss Lawson, please hold on. I'll check again." Left with no choice, the receptionist reluctantly dialed the top

floor once more.

Not far from the commotion, Linsey found herself being dragged along by her overly eager colleagues from the Fashion Design Department, all buzzing with excitement.

Curious employees had also gathered, their whispers filling the air.

"It really is Miss Lawson! What's she doing here?"

"I heard she's looking for the founder. Who would've thought they knew each other?"

"Wait, does that mean she's actually met the founder in person?"

A new theory began circulating. "Think about it—could our company's partnership with the Lawson Group be because the founder and Miss Lawson are involved?"

The implication was obvious, even without being spoken aloud.

"That does make sense. The Lawson family is a powerhouse in town, and with their influence, a match between her and the founder wouldn't be surprising."

"But isn't the founder rumored to be married?"

"Rumors are just that-rumors. No one's ever confirmed anything. It could all be a cover-up."

The chatter grew more animated.

Carol, having overheard the last few remarks, felt a wave of satisfaction wash over her.

As expected, everyone believed she was the perfect match for the CR Corporation's founder.

That woman she had encountered at the banquet? She was nothing compared to her.

The more Carol thought about it, the more pleased she became.

She idly scanned the crowd-only for her gaze to land on a familiar figure. Her smugness vanished in an

instant.

Standing among the onlookers was Linsey. Carol's eyes widened in shock. Wasn't she supposed to be the founder's wife? What was she doing here?

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Linsey hadn't planned on joining the spectacle, but her coworkers had been too enthusiastic to refuse.

From afar, she spotted Carol at the reception desk, and memories of the strange encounter at the Lawson family's banquet resurfaced-how Carol had deliberately made things difficult for her.

Though Carol had ultimately let her pass, Linsey had sensed an underlying hostility.

Even now, something about Carol's presence unsettled her.

After observing for a moment, she decided it was best to leave. "I still have work to finish. I'll head back upstairs."

Her colleagues, too caught up in the drama, barely acknowledged her words.

Linsey didn't mind. She turned and walked away, unaware that Carol had already noticed her.

By the time Carol approached, Linsey had disappeared from sight.

But Carol knew what she had seen.

Linsey's striking features and graceful demeanor made her hard to forget.

The realization irritated Carol even more.

So, Linsey had used her beauty to charm Collin and secure her position as his wife?

Nearby, the Fashion Design Department's employees stiffened as Carol strode toward them, wary of having unknowingly offended her.

One of them, summoning the courage to speak, cautiously asked, "Miss Lawson, is there something we can help you with?"

Carol's expression softened into an affable smile. "I just noticed a woman standing with you earlier-she looked familiar. I was wondering if you could tell me who she is."

Chapter 449 Could You

Handle Her

Carol hesitated, then added, "She was wearing a plaid shirt."

The woman had a moment of realization. "Ah, you mean Linsey? She was here but left just a moment ago."

Maintaining her composure, Carol inquired, "Does she also work here?"

Considering Linsey's relationship with the founder of CR Corporation, she might be in a senior role.

To Carol's surprise, the woman responded, "Yes, Linsey leads the Fashion Design Department."

The revelation startled Carol. "Just a department head?"

The woman appeared confused. "Is there a problem with that?"

After pondering for a moment, Carol explained, "I've known her for some time. She's exceptionally skilled, so it's unexpected that she's not in a higher position."

The woman offered an awkward laugh. "Linsey is quite young, though. Achieving a department head role at her age is quite notable."

Carol might not realize, being from an affluent background, the difficulties ordinary employees faced in advancing their careers.

Curious, Carol asked, "Is Linsey from a well-known family?"

The expression of the woman subtly changed. "Not particularly. Most of our team members are from average backgrounds."

The only exception was Cynthia from the affluent Keller family.

The woman wondered why Carol was inquiring about these details.

Ready to end the conversation, Carol politely thanked the woman and walked away.

It appeared that nobody within CR Corporation was aware that Linsey was the founder's wife.

Even more startling was that despite her status, Linsey was merely a department head.

This led Carol to a conclusion-perhaps the founder didn't truly love Linsey.

The possibility began to solidify in Carol's mind, growing more convincing by the second.

As her suspicion turned into certainty, Carol's lips curled into a knowing smirk.

Here, perhaps, was her golden opportunity.

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Imagining CR Corporation's charismatic founder within her reach sent a shiver of anticipation through Carol

At the same moment, Collin stepped into the conference room, preparing himself for the imminent video call with the executives from the Lawson Group.

Before he could sit, Dustin hurried in with an anxious sigh. "There's trouble downstairs-the Lawson girl is making a fuss at reception, demanding to meet you. The staff looks ready to surrender. Could you handle her?"

Annoyance flashed openly across Collin's face as he answered bluntly, "I'm not interested in speaking with her."

Considering Carol's behavior at the banquet, he suspected today's visit would only lead to more headaches.

Dustin continued cautiously, "She brought a bunch of bodyguards, and employees have started gathering downstairs. At this rate, reporters might catch wind, and that would cause unnecessary trouble."

He then leaned closer, voice dropping to nearly a whisper, "What's worse is that Carol's aware of your true identity as CR Corporation's founder. If she openly says anything inappropriate, and it reaches your wife's ears, things might spiral out of control."

Collin's expression darkened further at the thought.

"I don't understand how the Lawsons-supposedly a family of manners and dignity-managed to produce such an entitled daughter. Since her brother can't handle her, I suppose it's my job now." With unmistakable authority, Collin instructed Dustin, "Bring her upstairs immediately before I start the meeting." Moments later, Collin's assistant relayed the message down to reception.

"Miss Lawson, the founder has agreed to meet you upstairs," the receptionist said politely, turning toward Carol with a pleasant smile.

Immediately, a wave of murmurs broke out among the people who had gathered around.

Chapter 450 I Came To

Deliver An Invitation

"Wow, the founder is actually in the office today!"

"That's not the real news-the real news is that he's willing to meet with Miss Lawson!"

"This definitely means there's something special between them."

Upon hearing the receptionist's words, Carol couldn't suppress a satisfied smirk.

Of course, she had known all along that the founder would want to see her.

After all, she was from the Lawson family.

The whispers around her only fueled her sense of pride.

"Got it," she replied nonchalantly.

Just as she was about to turn away, something crossed her mind. She shot an annoyed glance at the receptionist.

"If I remember correctly, you were the one who kept trying to stop me earlier, weren't you?"

The receptionist stiffened, her face draining of color. "Miss Lawson, I was just following orders from my

superiors. I meant no disrespect."

Was Miss Lawson really going to hold a grudge over that?

The thought sent a fresh wave of panic through her, making her heartbeat quicken.

Carol scoffed, her sharp gaze flickering with amusement. "I told you-disrespect me, and you won't have this

job for long."

The anticipation of finally seeing the striking man from the banquet again filled her voice with smug satisfaction.

"You'll understand soon enough. I doubt you'll even need to show up for work tomorrow."

With that, Carol tossed her hair back, smirking as she strode toward the elevator.

The receptionist, overcome with dread, felt her legs buckle beneath her, sinking weakly to the floor.

A sympathetic coworker quickly rushed over to help her up. "Don't panic. We'll explain everything to the boss." The receptionist trembled, her voice barely above a whisper. "I'm doomed."

A few other employees exchanged uneasy glances, sighing.

"As expected, the founder and Miss Lawson have been in contact for a while. Their relationship must be serious."

"At this rate, Miss Lawson might just become his wife."

Carol, now in high spirits after asserting her dominance, confidently made her way to the top floor.

Meanwhile, inside the conference room, Collin was reviewing the final details for an important meeting.

Led by an assistant, Carol stepped inside, her eyes instantly locking onto the man who had occupied her thoughts for days.

The moment she saw him again, her admiration deepened.

Her heart fluttered slightly.

"Mr. Riley," she greeted him with a demure smile, stepping forward gracefully.

Collin, not bothering to look up, spoke in an even tone. "What brings you here?" Carol wasn't discouraged by his cold demeanor.

A successful man like him was bound to be a little aloof-it only made sense.

Besides, with her beauty, she was confident that once Collin spend more time with her, he would recognize her

worth.

Winning his heart would only be a matter of time.

"Mr. Riley, I came to deliver an invitation." She handed him a sleek envelope. "My birthday is coming up, and my family is hosting a celebration. I'd like to invite you to attend."

Then, after a slight pause, she added in a softer, more expectant tone, "I would also love for you to be my date and share the first dance with me at my party."

It never even crossed her mind that he might refuse.

In her imagination, she could already see the elegant dance unfolding-Collin's strong arms around her, their movements perfectly in sync, her cheeks glowing with warmth. The thought alone made her heart race.