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Abigail regarded Karla, her curiosity mingled with a flicker of surprise. She had not anticipated such a confession, and her mind raced to decipher the meaning behind Karla's words. The room filled with a charged atmosphere, as the three of them stood, each grappling with their own emotions.

Finally, Duncan cleared his throat, drawing attention to himself as he spoke to Abigail. "Please consider Karla's apology," he said, his voice carrying a touch of authority.

Abigail adjusted her gown, straightening her posture, and flicked her hair in a dismissive gesture. The action almost provoked a hiss from Karla, but she managed to maintain her composure, waiting anxiously for Abigail's response.

"Well, I guess she only apologized because of you," Abigail replied, shrugging nonchalantly before returning to her seat. Her dismissive tone implied that she didn't consider Karla's apology to be genuine or sincere.

Rolling her eyes in frustration, Karla opened her mouth to retort, ready to defend herself. However, before any words could escape her lips, Duncan shot her a cautious stare. The intensity in his gaze served as a warning, causing Karla to quickly compose herself and hold her tongue. She understood that engaging in an argument would only escalate the situation further.

Silence settled over the room as everyone awaited the next development, tension hanging in the air.

In response to Duncan's encouraging signal, Karla mustered her courage and proceeded with her apology. She directed her words toward Abigail,

hoping to convey her sincerity. "Abigail, I'm truly sorry, and I hope you can forgive me for how rude I was earlier this morning," Karla said, her voice laced with genuine remorse.

Fixing her gaze on Karla, Abigail contemplated taking advantage of the situation to taunt Karla as payback for her earlier behavior. However, before she could utter a single word, Duncan's timely intervention disrupted her thoughts.

"Abigail, you've got a big heart, so forgive her," Duncan interjected, his words carrying an earnest plea.

A small smile formed on Abigail's face as she appreciated Duncan's compliment and recognized his desire for reconciliation. With a nod, she rose from her seat, indicating her willingness to let go of the grudge. "You're forgiven, Karla," she declared, her tone softened and her forgiveness genuine.

A sense of relief washed over the room as the tension began to dissipate. The atmosphere that was once charged with animosity now held a glimmer of hope for resolution and harmony.

With a sense of cautious optimism, Abigail walked up to Karla, extending her hand for a handshake. Karla hesitated for a moment but eventually accepted the gesture, aware that Duncan was watching their every move.

Duncan, relieved to see progress, spoke up. "So, it's good between you both now, right?" he asked, seeking confirmation.

Abigail nodded, though her smile seemed forced, masking any lingering reservations she might have. Karla mirrored the nod and returned the smile, attempting to convey her willingness to move forward.

Suggesting a way to further mend their relationship, Abigail proposed

having dinner at a restaurant. She offered to treat them both, acknowledging that they might have things to discuss. She turned to Duncan, implying that his presence would be welcomed as well.

Duncan, appreciating Abigail's efforts and seeing an opportunity for reconciliation, nodded in agreement.

"Let's go then. Please don't refuse," Abigail urged, her tone gentle yet insistent.

Duncan nodded once more, silently agreeing to join them. The prospect of a shared meal presented a chance for open dialogue and the potential for rebuilding their connection.

Karla trailed behind Duncan as they made their way to the grand restaurant in the hotel. Once seated, Abigail took charge and ordered one of the finest meals available, emphasizing her desire to create a memorable dining experience for the three of them.

As the food was served, Abigail dismissed the waiter, taking it upon herself to serve Duncan first, displaying an overt gesture of kindness. Karla observed this with a mixture of annoyance and suspicion, perceiving Abigail's actions as an attempt to portray herself as an exceptionally good person.

"Wow, she's really going all out to play the nice act. What's her game?" Karla thought inwardly, her eyes narrowing as she focused her gaze on Abigail. She couldn't help but shift her attention to Duncan, who seemed genuinely appreciative of Abigail's efforts. The fact that he couldn't see through her facade only added to Karla's annoyance.

Karla's skepticism grew, as she believed Abigail's behavior to be disingenuous. She felt frustrated that Duncan appeared to be falling for

Abigail's act, unaware of her true intentions.

Resolving to stay vigilant and protect herself from any potential manipulation, Karla maintained a watchful eye on Abigail, determined not to let her guard down. She knew that beneath the surface of Abigail's niceties, there might be hidden motives that she needed to uncover.

After Abigail finished serving Duncan, she gestured to Karla to serve herself, politely saying, "Please, help yourself."

Karla rolled her eyes, slightly annoyed by Abigail's continued display of niceties, and proceeded to serve herself.

Engaging in conversation, Abigail turned her attention to Duncan, asking, "So, why did you come to see me, Duncan?"

Duncan took a moment to gather his thoughts before responding, "One reason is to apologize, and the other is to seek clarification."

Curiosity piqued, Abigail inquired, "Clarification about what?"

Duncan's demeanor shifted slightly as he leaned forward, his voice carrying a hint of intensity. He dropped his spoon, focusing his gaze on Abigail, and asked, "What else did you do to Peterson besides taking his money?"

Abigail's expression remained composed, but a crooked smile slowly formed on her lips, hinting at a hidden agenda. Her response, however, remained unspoken at that moment, leaving an air of suspense hanging in the conversation.

The tension in the restaurant grew palpable as Duncan's question revealed that there was more to the situation than initially known.

Wiping her mouth gracefully with a napkin, Abigail leaned towards Duncan and responded, "I don't understand what you mean, Duncan."

Duncan continued to gaze at her, his expression revealing his skepticism. Unwilling to let him linger in suspense, Abigail released a brief, almost mischievous laugh, causing Karla to groan inwardly.

Finally, Abigail decided to reveal the truth. Inhaling deeply, she continued, "You asked me to wipe off the money in Peterson's account, which I did. I transferred it to your account, but..." She paused, a sly smile gracing her lips. "I thought he deserved a little punishment."

Her words hung in the air, leaving Duncan and Karla to process the significance of her revelation. While Karla's annoyance deepened as she realized the extent of Abigail's manipulations.

Duncan arched his eyebrows, a smile playing on his lips as he leaned back in his chair, folding his hands. "So?" he prompted, curious to hear Abigail's response.

Abigail, maintaining her composed demeanor, leaned in slightly and spoke in a near-whisper. "So, I had Xia hack his mobile bank app and take a loan," she revealed.

Duncan's smile widened, clearly intrigued by Abigail's audacious actions. He found her tactics fascinating, appreciating her resourcefulness and willingness to go to great lengths.

Meanwhile, Karla, still harboring a hint of contempt in her tone, couldn't help but question Abigail's motives. "Why would you do that?" she asked, her frustration evident. "Why do things without informing Duncan?"

Abigail shrugged casually, her nonchalant response suggesting that she had her own reasons for acting without full disclosure. "It's all for his good," she said, dismissing Karla's inquiry, implying that her actions were intended to benefit Duncan in some way.

The exchange revealed a divergence in perspectives, with Abigail seemingly driven by her own agenda and justifications, while Karla remained skeptical and critical of her methods.

As Karla continued to engage in the conversation, she felt increasingly annoyed by Abigail's initial response. Determined to address the issue, she pressed on, directing her words towards Abigail. "Abigail, it would be considerate to consult with Duncan before taking any action," Karla asserted, emphasizing the importance of open communication and mutual respect.

However, before Karla could fully convey her point, Duncan interjected, interrupting her. His interruption only served to further irritate Karla, as she felt her concerns were being disregarded. "It's fine, Karla," Duncan interjected dismissively, implying that Karla was making a bigger deal out of the situation than necessary. His response only fueled Karla's frustration.

Attempting to maintain her composure, Karla responded to Duncan, her voice laced with restrained irritation. "But if I were to do something without informing you first, I'm certain you would react strongly," she pointed out, acknowledging the double standard she perceived in their dynamic. Karla wanted Duncan to understand that her concerns were valid.

Duncan, however, remained calm and unruffled by Karla's remark. He reassured her that if she acted responsibly and avoided reckless behavior,

he wouldn't become angry. Duncan mentioned Abigail's assistance in a particular situation, suggesting that her involvement was justified and that it led to a positive outcome. This further exasperated Karla, as she felt that Duncan's reliance on Abigail's judgment only served to undermine her own opinions and contributions.

Feeling frustrated and unheard, Karla couldn't help but roll her eyes in disbelief. She turned her gaze away from Duncan, a visible display of her exasperation and disappointment.

Karla took a moment to reflect on Duncan's words, allowing them to sink in. After considering his perspective, she let out a sigh, realizing that perhaps her concerns were being overshadowed by her own frustration. She decided to let the issue go for the time being and shift her focus to something else.

"Alright then," Karla said, shrugging her shoulders. "She did great," she added, acknowledging Abigail's contribution to the situation. With that, she resumed her meal, choosing not to dwell on the matter any longer.

As Karla and Duncan continued their meal, Duncan's phone rang, bringing a smile to his face. He recognized the caller as Peterson.

"Peterson Rogers is calling again. He's desperate for my assistance," Duncan said.

Abigail, curious about the upcoming plans, asked Duncan about his next steps.

"What's your next plan now?"

In response, Duncan glanced at Karla before replying, a mischievous glint in his eye. "It's time to use Peterson to make my unfaithful wife regret," he stated with determination. "She needs to regret her action

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now and suffer dire consequences for it."

Locking gazes with Abigail, Duncan smirked, and Abigail returned his smile, seemingly sharing in his intentions. The exchange between them suggested a shared understanding and collaboration in their plans, potentially at the expense of Zinnia.

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