

## Chapter 176 Too Much Of A Coincidence

"Enough" Rupert interrupted Candace coldly. "Don't mention her." ①

"Okay. If you don't like it, I won't talk about her." Candace awkwardly closed her mouth.

Looking down at the broken glass scattered on the floor, she offered, "Ron, let me help you clean up."

"No, I'll ask the cleaner to deal with it later," Rupert replied calmly.

"Let me do it. It won't be good if you accidentally step on it. I'll feel bad about it," Candace insisted.

As she spoke, she crouched down and began to clean the glass pieces on the floor.

Rupert leaned back, his eyebrows furrowed.

He was a little upset when he thought of the online public opinion ①

He took his phone out again and reflexively opened his contact list. With one swipe of his slender finger, he accurately found Annabel's number.

When he saw her name on the screen, his handsome face darkened.

His finger hovered over her name. After hesitating for a while, he moved his finger away.

He did this several times, mixed emotions roiling through him, before he finally pressed on her name.

However, her phone was powered off.

"Shit!" Rupert cursed. His frigid demeanor caused the temperature in the office to abruptly plunge by several degrees.

Even Candace, who was cleaning, felt the chill sweep over her.

"Ron, are you okay?" Candace looked up and shot him a glance. ②

Coming to his senses, he replied indifferently, "I'm fine."

"Okay, I've finished." Candace got to her feet and tossed the glass pieces into the trash can.

Just as she was about to say something her phone rang.

"I'm sorry, Ron. I need to take this call," Candace told Rupert apologetically.

Rupert nodded coolly.

Candace answered the phone and said, "Sir, may I take a leave tonight?"

"No way!" The stern voice of the bar owner came through the speaker.

Candace said warily, "But I got injured today. My knees are heavily bandaged, so I won't be able to get up on stage and sing."

"Then twice your salary will be deducted!" the owner of the bar frostily shot back.

Candace pleaded pitifully, saying, "Sir, please make an exception. I'm really injured. I'm still in urgent need of money. Please don't deduct my pay, okay?"

"Angel, do you think I'm a philanthropist? If everyone asks for leave the way you did, my bar would shut down. If you can't accept these terms, just quit!"

"I see. I'll be there on time tonight." Candace's eyes were bloodshot.

After disconnecting the call, she looked at Rupert with misty eyes. "Ron, I should go now. I have to work in the bar this evening."

With a frown, Rupert remarked, "Aren't you hurt?"

"It doesn't matter. I can wear a long dress, so that my injury is not visible," Candace said in shaky and tear-filled voice, her lips pressed into a thin line as she pretended to be strong.

"Don't go to work. Candy, quit your job," Rupert urged her softly.

"No way. This job is essential for me. I have to work hard to earn money and pay you back," Candace replied with a shake of her head, putting on a strong and independent facade.

With a sigh, Rupert said, "Candy, I've already told you. You don't need to

pay me back."

"But I don't want to owe you anything," Candace lowered her head. "Ron, I'm worried you will look down upon me."

"How could that be?" Rupert shook his head. "Candy, how about this? Come and work for Benton Group." 

"Can I?" Candace instantly looked up, her eyes lighting up with joy.

Rupert smiled and affirmed, "Of course."

At the airport, Anika and Annabel boarded the earliest flight to Chilly Mountain.

Just as Annabel was about to switch her phone off, Rory called her.

"Rory?" Annabel greeted him with raised eyebrows.

His captivating voice came from the other end of the phone as he said, "Annabel, I went to East Garden just now, but you weren't there."

"Yes, I'm at the airport with Anika right now," Annabel replied.

Astonished, Rory exclaimed, "Airport? Where are you going?"

"I have some important work. By the way, there are rumors about you and me flying about the Internet. Please find a way to remove them."

"I will," Rory nodded. "Annabel, why don't you consider my suggestion? Making your true identity public might be the best solution for our current dilemma."

"Let's discuss it when I return," Annabel said, massaging the spot between her eyebrows.

The plane took off and soared into the sky.

Annabel was gazing out the window, lost in thought.

She didn't like to fly because she was afraid of heights.

The last time she got on a jet was with Rupert.

The disappointing events of the past popped up in her mind in rapid succession.

The jet had crashed. And Rupert had held her in his arms when he jumped

down wearing a parachute.

That was the moment she finally understood her true feelings for him.

Now, that incident felt like it had happened a lifetime ago.

It was ironic.

She had done everything for him and loved him with her entire heart. But he was in love with another woman. 

"Annabel, what thoughts are you lost in?" Anika's voice interrupted her reminiscing.

Annabel turned to look at Anika and said indifferently, "Nothing."

"Are you thinking about Rupert?" Anika pointed out, hitting the nail on the head. "You can't let him go at all, can you?"

Hearing her get to the crux of the matter so accurately, Annabel was stunned. "Why do you say that?"

"I have a strong intuition," Anika said with a smile after taking a sip of her juice.

More precisely, it was based on how well she knew Annabel rather than her intuition.

They had known each other for so many years, and the unspoken understanding they shared was something no one else had.

After a moment's silence, Annabel said softly, "I don't know."

Her mind was muddled up.

Although she had resolutely canceled her engagement to Rupert, she still couldn't stop him from occupying her mind most of the time.

"Stop deceiving yourself," Anika patted Annabel's shoulder. "I can see that you still have feelings for Rupert, and so does he."

So does he?

How could that be possible?

Annabel responded sullenly, "Don't joke, Anika. Don't you know that he only loves Candy?"

"I know. That's why you canceled the engagement without hesitation."

Anika put down her glass of juice. She turned her head to meet Annabel's eyes and said in a serious voice, "Because you pursue perfection, especially when it comes to love, you can't tolerate any flaws in love. But have you ever considered that this is too much of a coincidence?" 



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