

A Love Forgotten (Arianna and Elijah)

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Stas. Bryant hummed an acknowledgment.

When she saw me, she hat cumphed. "Isn't the Mrs. Linden? Thi

She directed hes paze toward Legan, In an instant, that chubby face of her lit She quickly asked, "W-Who is this handsome man?TM She had this gleam of greed in her eyes which made me really uncomfortable when I saw it.

Wille introduced, "This is Mr. Wood from Wood Group."

Max. Bryant extended a hand immediately, wanting to shake hands with Logan

Despite usually being well-mannered, Logan didn't seem to have noticed her. He lowered his volo and asked me, "Shall we go?"

Mrs. Bryant's hand was left hanging. Mrs. Acosta, on the other hand, realized that Logan hadn't taken them seriously from the very start. As such, Mrs Bryant, Mr Acosta, and Mrs. Acosta were left standing there awkwardly. They Seeing that Legan was about to leave, Willie urged, "Login, hold on and help out a little longer. I have a few art pieces I need to

I was perplexed What did her selling the act pieces have to do with us?

Legan inquired, "Has Jonathan

Willie answered. "He hasn't. He's speaking with a distinguished guest from the business field

Ingan took a quick glance at her. With a slight smile on his face, he remarked, 'li Inolis like Jonathan has gained quite a fair bit this time."

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A wide and attractive smile spread across Willie's face. She lowered her voice and said, "Everyone who comes to this art exhibition will gain something, it's a pity that all you had was a me Logan. Since you're already here, just stay a little longer. Who knows if there'd be

more surprises that await you?"

Logan gave it some thought, then nodded in agreement.

Seeing that Logan had agreed to her suggestion, Willis perked up instantly. She led us to an elegantly-decorated room on the second floor. The room was quite

My sharp gaze led me to spot a number of beautiful artworks being hu

Martly dressed

room was quite spacious. It looked like a sm

hung on display. Seated in front of the auction table were more than t

ten distinguished and wealthy guests who were

solo exhibition after

They were seated together quietly as they browsed through a booklet in their hands. They were also discussing among themselves softly.

Logan and rum at a spot on the right toward the front

After sitting down, she exhaled and parted herself on her chest. "This is really tiring fortunately, all preparations could be put together this time. Otherwise, my first s returning to the country would've been a mess." Logan preted at her calmly and said, "Ms. Gate, you did well. Everything is well organized."

Then, he suddenly said, "It's just that some invited guests are an issue."

followed his gate. I spotted the woman who was ring Logan earlier, Mrs. Beyant Mrs. Acosta, who spoke rudely, was there too I couldn't believe that they followed us da expected, sorte people were troublemakers. Wilte der out a sigh and apologized, "I'm sorry, Logan All sorts of people ended up coming to this art exhibition. My main intention was to make the art gallery famous overnight, but I didn't

tipon saying that, she looked at me nervously. "Ms. York, please don't be mad because that woman offended you earlier. It was my bad for inviting no

Logan looked at the having and remarked, "As a really understanding

now money like her."

in his eyes made my heart skip a beat from the look in his eyes, he did not look like for was line. After all, they had just humiliated me earlier. Knowing his protective personality, night de platting nude, Altaj Willie rundorted in overboder and pointed at the items that were to be auctioned today.

as truly amazing, Wathable explanation, she explained the poutives and gives of the items that were to be auctioned today. She also shared se insider

Man lupant walked ove us hapton distila sine.

Me unded sweetly at all. Mr. Wool, apples about earlier. This is my business and Might I have the privilege to treat you to a meal, Mr. Wood!"

Her buitens card was glattery di mati hand the chunky rings

at bed with grinstones that she had plugs. More than that, it give of a teeling that she was faunting her wealth.

Spin to Claim Your Surprise Reward!

twould dare ure that Twas almost blinded by all the sparkle Ms. Tryant had on her

Logan did not accept her business card He waved his hand nonchalantly and said, "Thank you for your invite, Mrs. Bayant. I'll have my assistant reach out to you if there's a chance," Ms. Bryant's hand froze in mid-alt. She was absolutely embarrassed in the end, she held herself back and said, "Mr. Wood, we're business prople based in the same region. Wouldn't it be a

În a polite manner. Logan replied. "To wouldn't."

Login added cold, "I come from a strict family, Lean't get acquainted with just anyone."

The muscles on Mrs. Bryan's face started twitching I could see that she was fuming Even her voice went up an octave. "Mr. Wood, I don't think you know who I am. Would you like to do yosat research betere reconsidering me?

I am a hundred jewelry chain stores and own assets worth billions of dollars. Even those people have to be courteous toward

She blurted the familiar-sounding names of big shots in the city

Even so, Lingan was unmoved. He acted like he hadn't heard her tooting her own hom. His indifference humiliated Mrs. Bayant

I looked toward Legen. Deep down. I couldn't help but pity Mrs. Bryant.

Logan, who was such a nie pry, could truly plus some off when he wanted to

Mrs- Bryant mood there awkwardly for a moment. Finally, she gave up on Logan. She glared at this charming and handsome man sitting here, wishing that she could skin him alive. Bady, Logan wasn't someone she could get her hands on Feeling hurt, Mrs. Bryant directed her gaze at me out of the blue. At that instant, I felt be a prey that was being watched by a preditas Iturrowed my brows slightly.

Nonetheless, Mrs. Bryant only took a brief glance at me before sitting down frustratedly a short distance-ampy,

I looked over, she and Mrs. Acta were whispering to one another. They would peer over at no from time to time

This gave me a really bad deeling because I was sure that they were scheating something. I shifted uncomfortably Realizing that weathing

miss with me, Logan asked. "Whatswrong?"

on the contrary, was quick-witted. She glanced over quickly at Mrs. Bryant.

a helpless vace, the said. "Um Logan, I think you've become someone's target. Mrs. Bryant is well known for chasing after man. Ever since her husband died and lett a huge inheritance 15 years ago, the has been going around and seeking out handhome men of all ages.."

1 really couldar 1 help myself but stile a laugh

Logan looked aduce at me kely, so shut my mouth

Apologetically, Wille lowered her voice and continued, "Hut she's truly wild when she hooks up with men. A few years ago, someone almost lost their life. It wasn't until that happened that she toned down a little. Even so, that Baler of hers in truly a pain in the neck "Tasty, Logan Treally do why she ended up setting her eyes on you, of all people"

Logan did not respond to Will. He samply took another glance at me. With a slight smirk on his face, he said, "You don't have to hold it in. Go ahead and laugh out loud"

I shook my head immediately and pinched my thigh as hard as could

Chad just bout my memories ldd not become dumb alter the fall.

No matter how brave 1 was, I would not dare to laugh at Logan to becoming a target of a cougar at alline ke this.

This man was added to lead wore a good lesson without baiting an eyelid. I know where I stood

When Logan saw that I was belting, he barreled coldly. Then, he said to Willie, "Get Jonathan come over here. I'm going to leave if he dilly-allies any further

Logan leaped in and held the booklet in front of me petice, he bed, "Bale, which a piece do you like?

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I had never heard Lapan address me with such affection re the

that he was really, really about to blow his top: Abri entile, fimathan rane meni belatedh. He undid his the casually and let mit a long estate. "Ter linally m Then be

supposed to meet

ally noticedesa, the asked, "Ari, are you still doing alright? 1.71 take you back to the hospital right now if you're not feeling well.

14, "hii in doing fine the wantsjasta hekast have a little more fun."

diste recuperate. Plus, these are so many people are here if you're out here...

do com ma in public names en later. Veccam's face Aufhide for the rest of her life

Then, Logan addedrelaxed. "Askej bumping into thater

kuni mitantly became infuriated. "Who are thone shaving prople? Did someone badly my sister again?"

Mitje tried to calm him desin immedanck "No, no per misbehaved. -

Logan trek a sip of champagne casually. He smiled slighch and urged, "Jonathan, you should protect your own sister. Don't allow others to trample over both of you the entire me Otherwise, the Tork Tamil 's reportarian is poleg to get crushed' Lithe guts to provoke our family!"

veter, he added. "These few years, our family has expanded in business overseas. Even so, we still have a lot of business dealings within the country. It's true when they say that

111) be better off than the average Joe even after making a loss. Besides, our family is still going strong."

The one who bullied you? Tell me!

Wood Lasalle himself knew how I should explain it to him...

man came for Baraat to start. The guests outside started entering after beating that the auction was about to begin. An important part of the art exhibition tonight.

news and the art gallery to let out the p

-pieces at high prices.

made off for tens of thousands of dollars.

Later, when he turned around, he was expected, they were 100 familiar with art. When he was looking through everything, there was only a painting that caught my eye. That painting was of the head. The navel nudged on the woman's body, outlining her figure vaguely.

was of a slender woman lying in between

the surface of the rocks.

„About the sea water was sed, creating a huge contrast with the woman lying limply on the shore

interrupted, "Ili Garent.

Why?

super to Jonathan. "The last five paintings are worth collecting. Those five paintings were done by an up-and-coming young artist from

approximately a hundred and you interested in it, Mr. York give it to you if you are

what you want to do.

really a painting I purchased from. Ions through his art well.

known artist from Daunt while I was on

was just drawn toward that painting for some reason. I wanted to buy it and hang it up at home

as the head of the art gallery. Of course, I will be glad that the gallery will

jual ba à possistart.

prior in po grand Lach is in 1,000 dollar increments'

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The moment the auctioneer announced the start of the bid, Traised my hand. "Thirty-five thousand dollars

No one else called any bids after all, they had not heard of the artist behind this painting, and it did not have any collection value.

All of a sudden, someone else shouted, "Forty thousand dollars!!!

I turned back to look 1 wasn't surprised to see that it was Mas. Acosta

She acted sorry as she said to me, "Oh, Mrs Linden, I'm sorry. I'm quite interested in this piece los."

Thunedhead once again. "Tilty thousand dollars."

1 frowned even deeper.

Jonathan looked over fiercely. "Who's that? Why is she bidding against you? Is she crazy?"

Thesitated for a couple of seconds before calling. "Seventy thousand dollars."

Another voice called out, "One hundred thousand dollars

frowning even harder, I turned to look Mrs. Bryant was interfering too. She shot me a smug look, then looked at Logan beside me and eyed him up Right away, I shouted. "One hundred and fifty thousand dollarsTM

Two hundred and try thousand."

"Three hundred thousand

your hundred and fifty thousand

Just like this, a bid of son dollars was being called for a painting by an unknown artist. No matter how dense one might be, one would have realized that this had become a

contest Mrs. Bryant and I were competing against one another. The other guests started talking among themselves.

"Why is Mrs. Bryant going against the Yorks? What is she getting out of this?"

My thoughts exactly. The Yorks and the Bryants are competitors, so why are they creating such a scene?" "Mrs. Bryant is usually an overbearing person. Perhaps the Yorks stepped on her toes."

"Oh dear. Why did she turn out like this?"

I did not know what to say and took a deep breath. 1.

Looking at the stage, I now that the

Wille immediately called for a short break

was coming close to 900,000 dollars

lowered her head to me, "Ms. York, maybe we should just let it go. Let her have this painting. It only costs tens of thousands of dollars. You don't have to spend up to hundreds of thousands of dollars just to outbid her." Before I even said anything, Joan chimed in coldly. "So what if she wants to go up against her? Are you saying that she can afford it, but Art can't?"

Jonathan said to me, "Call another bid! I'll fork out the remainder."

I took a deep breath. "One million dollars"

The entire crowd went into an uproar,

wasn't because this painting was too expensive. Rather, it was because it was bid at such a high price when its value was not as high.

It wasn't a painting by a famous artist that was particularly meaningful. We were spending so much just to get back at one another. The atmosphere in the auction room livened up

After I called a lot of a million dollars, Joan bid arrogantly 15 million

I was boring with my bid from William. Tavalley.co

"15 million dollars!"

I couldn't understand why Mrs. Bryant wanted to come at me. Was it because she was embarrassed in front of Logan Archer, so she was taking it

Alsai ralling out my tid. I used and gave the la

Manweir bad burk, indend

Laid-back Logana pretul plas

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Upon seeing the look on my face, Legan curled his lips upward slightly. He asked, "Are you feeling tired? Shall I call your bids for you?" I was being mal "No. 1 call my pon bids."

Two milion dollar, was it? When I thought about the balloner in my bank account, I felt confident again. "Thu ee million dollars!" I called out. paps were headanoss the room.

We were clearly going against each other. The bids were no longer called in 5,000 dolla on 10,000-dollar increments.

Mrs Payant saised her hand proudly. "Tour million dollars!"

"Woah, Mrs Bryant is such a spendthrift".

"What's up with Bus. Tryant? It looks like she might actually be wanting to teach the Yorks a lesson."

"Did you people pocoguze het? That's Elijah's wife. Thur. That...."

"oh" Why is #hjah's wile sitting together with Mr. Wood! Don't you think they look rather close

"Haven't you heard! She and Elijah are in the midst of a divorce. I heard that she's had enough of Elijas cheating on her, so she filed for divorce in a fit of anger."

11 she has endly tiled to a divorce, doesn't that mean that it hasn't been finalized? How is it that she already has a new partner.

"Who knows? Maybe it's because she's got the loolas."

Who knows

The people's chumer was so loud that could hear them from where I was. They made all conts of remarks. Nice oss, mean ones, weird ones. I felt numb. Humans were creatures who couldn't bear to see others doing better than them.

I just knew that as long as I showed up in this circle, these tumors would never end. Everyone would only know of me as "Mrs. Linden", and they would have fun discussing my dark past. !! a hand on mine

Terling stunned. I led my head

Loganhadatender look in his eyes. "Don't be afraid. You'd have to come out in public sooner or later. It wouldn't be right for you to stay in hiding the whole time.

I watched Mas Bryant, who was looking smug All felt was extreme disput

Lasked, "What should I do?

Calmly, Logan replied. "Defeat them with your own capabilities."

Junurban leated over to me too. With a grim look on his face, he said, "Call for another bid! You have my support."

I looked up immediately. "Tive million dollars."

Mrs. Bryant's face nittered up. She stared at me gloomily. "Ms. York, can't you just give up?

That had a double meaning

In a cold voice, I questioned her, "Mrs Bryant, why do you want to take something that someone else fancies?

Jused a douliranteide coo

The look on Ms. Bryant's face turned even darker. She harrumped, "Ms Linden, wouldn't Mr. Linden pel mad at your behavior? Just because of '

adjusted bei gaze at Logan

I became even miste enraged on the inside.

Mrs Linden"?

insane? Why was she humiliating me in public? She even daited her eyes toward Logan intentionally. Was she trying to humiliate me for cheating while I was still "M trying to say that I was fighting with her for that painting because of another man? He looked

completely unperturbed, but I could see that of gloominess in his eyes. From the looks of it, Ms. Bryant had pissed him off.

I was just about to argue back when someone suddenly said, "Ten million dollars. I'm getting this painting."

In an instant the air in the room became utili

Truined my beat sully, only to see Elijah strolling

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lah walked to the middle of the crowd Conlly, he said. "I plan to buy this painting and gitt it to my wife... Ms. Ariana York"

I looked toward me and continued, "I hope to get her forgiveness. I've made many mistakes and taken much of her love for granted. Right now, I'd like to ask for her forgiveness." Immediately, all hell broke loose in the auction rGONL Through the crowd, I stared quietly at Elijah, who had just rushed here. His face was pale, and he did not look too good. He looked completely different from that energetic, self-confident, and conceitedman whom I met after 1 lost my memories. Because he rushed here, the suit he was wearing had become crumpled. His hair was also in a mess. It looked like he had not styled it with any hair gol.

He stared fixedly at me, as if he hadtuned out all the chatter that was happening around him. I tried to sprak but ended up avoiding that fiery pace of his.

Jonathan stepped in front of me. He glared angrily at Elijah. "you jerk. What are you trying to do?"

Elijah walked through the crowd and arrived before Jonathan. In a deep voice, he explained, "I was wrong previously, so."

Before he could finish his sentence, Jonathan punched him in the face.

A number of people cried out, and some people started getting to their feet.

We quickly pulled Jonathan back and said, "Jonathan, don't hit him. Don't use violence. Use your w

Jonathan shouted, "What is there to say? Right now, I just want to tell everyone that we, the Yorks, don't accept your stupid apology, Elijah! You tricked my sister into saving

your family's financial situation when your family was almost done for back then "Fifty million dollars! Which land would've been able to offer you a million dollars? This money almost caused our family to fall apart. It wasn't that we couldn't afford to fork over this money. It was you, you jerk! You made Ari cut ties with her family!" Jonathan shot me a resentful glance.

I lowered my head. Although I did not remember this, I knew that I must have acted like I had been hypnotized at the time,

Then, Jonathan continued, "So, Elijah, you very well know what you've done. Now, you want to purchase a painting so casually to get Ari to forgive you? In your dreams! On behalf of the York family, I announce that the Yorks and the Lindens have irreconcilable differences.

"Arlan York has nothing to do with a Linden at all! Jonathan declared

Having been punched, Elijah wiped off the bloodstain on the corner of his mouth quietly.

Fixed my eyes on him. For some reason, so now filled my heart. I did not feel miserable, but just felt sad to see Elijah in such a state of helter-skelter. It still had my memories, I figured it would feel sad to look at him now

Elijah looked at me with a firm gaze. It was as if he was trying to look for any traces of my love for him from the look on my face.

Unfortunately, all he ended up with was disappointment.

I saw the gleams fade from his eyes.:

Elijah said, "This painting."

Wille stepped forward all of a sudden. "Everyone, since we have a dispute over this painting, please allow us time to discuss it. We'll proceed with the remainder of the auction."

After saying that, he instructed a staff member at the art gallery to lead us to another lounge. Even though this room was much smaller, it was properly furnished.

Everyone sat down unhappily. Max. Bryant continued staring at Logan.

She sighed sarcastically, she uttered, "I do have a liking for this painting it's just -

Elijah looked at her frigidly. "Mrs. Bryant, you don't have any use for this painting after buying it, do you?"

Elijah had made the last bid, so Mrs. Bryant didn't feel any pressure.

She beamed at Elijah, then gave him a wink "Mr. Linden, if you like it, I can give it up to you

Watching Max. Bryant's behavior, I finally believed Willie's description of her character. She truly was not picky with her targets at all.

It seemed as if Elijah hadn't noticed Mrs. Bryant. All he did was look at me and prompt, "Ari, say something"

I shook my head. "Jon has what I wanted to say."

Elijah sat in his seat, taken aback by what he heard. This time, I noticed that the look in his eyes had dimmed completely.

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In the end, thanks to Willie's mediation, Elijah purchased the painting for 360 thousand dollars. Then, he gifted it to me

Mel Bryant was excluded from the bid, so the price of the painting returned to its original value.

protistartim was witten all over Mas, Bryant's chobber face. That being said, jonathan, Elijah, and a silent Logan were in the room.

she was experienced in the business world. Naturally, she was aware that this wasn't the right time for her to kick up a fuss. She left right away and left the painting to Elijah.

After Elijah paid up, Willie handed the art piece to me on his behalf. He then left silently.

I spotted him turning backtake one last glance at me after he left. From that glance, I could see the same sadness in his eyes. Could it be... that he still loved me?

Logan put his hand on my shoulder, in a gentle voice, he urged, "Let's go, ALL"

I nodded then held onto his hand meekly.

When I got back to the hospital, I unwrapped the painting. The loneliness, desolation, and blood-red waves felt like they were tangible. I got the help of a nurse to hang the painting up on Logan frowned slightly. "This painting looks really dark and depraved. Are you sure you like it?"

I nodded "do."

Logan sighed. "Alright, as long as you like it just don't overthink things. It's over now."

Tunderstood what he was referring to I nodded and reassured him, "Don't worry. I won't try to take my own life again."

If my first attempt jumping at the second floor was to scare Elijah, my second attempt was because I found out about how I was being set up and humiliated. I wasn't able to accept that Besling of hopelessness

It worke't happen a third time. That ware har told mell.

Logan scrutinized me with a complicated gaze, one that contained complex emotions that 1 could not cu

Idid not want to analyse it at this moment, nor was 1 in the mood to do sa

Camden walked in. He turned on the Pad in his hands and said, "Mr. Wood, I've looked into Mrs. Bryant's financial situation. Her main business is in jewelry. She has close to a hundred chain shares in the country for her suppliers and jewelers, she inherited them from her late hulumt

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"I went years, the people's puccusing power has increased, so her jewelry business has been doing pretty well. The revenue of her business has been increasing for seven consecutive Logan nodded surftly. "Go on."

Canides continued. "That being said, last year, Mrs Bryant ether eyes on property all of a sudden. She invested in a small-scale property developer to develop a new building. That building is going to be used as a mixed-use property, which means it contains both commercial and residential units."

Logan sucked "She won't I to earn much by investing at this time. The property market is already saturated'

Canden pushed his glasses slightly and said, "You're right, Mr. Wood Thus, this project doesn't look promising to others. Not only that, there seans to be some problems with their funding

I was confused by their conversation, but I got the main point 1 asked, "Lopan, you want to goup aga Mrs. Bayant?

Logan stroked my head gently "illy part, why would do that?!-

I was puzzled "Why are you looking into live, then?"

Hended slightly and answered, "Just out of carbosity" He said to Camden,"

about the place the vested in. I member that our corporation has a plot of landmarty, which we haven't dev [developed

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Camden avspoded immediately. That's right. We were meant to turn that place into a top-tier office building. It's just that the board of directors Kain't learn able to Logan took the iPad from Camden and took a bral glance at it. He asked in a calm voice, "How much did

Mrs. Bryant invest?"

Camden quickly answered, "She invested 150 million dollars and owns approximately 20% of shares."

Logan smiled. "That's quite a fair bit. Call for a board meeting tomorrow. We'll decide on the development of that piece of land"

Camden queried. "Um Mr. Wood, does this mean that you have something in mind?"

Logan lifted the corners of his lips slightly. "Let's go with a top-tier mixed-use complex that uses modern technology for its tenants." Camden was stunned. "That

Logan umirked slightly. "Goon. I want the board of directors to agree on this proposal tomorrow."

With a nod of the head, Camden hurried out of the hospital.

After Camden left, I peered at Logan, who seemed completely harmless from the outside. "By doing this, Ms. Bryant's 150 million dollars will just go down the drain." Logan responded with a hum and then asked in a casual tone. "How would that be possible?" Trolled my eyes at him "With Wood Group's capabilities, I'm sure it's a piece of cake to build a top-notch mixed-use building However, the small-scale property developer invested in surely won't be able to achieve that When competition arises between the two, Sten diryant's project will definitely suffer a terrible To

Logan replied, "This is a business matter. I'm not targeting her."

Thad had no words to say.

It seemed that he had underestimated Logan's plausibility.

The next day, after Wood Group had their board meeting, they came to a unanimous decision to develop that land at Westside into a mixed-use complex worthy of being a Faton City Landmark. Meanwhile, the prices of its surrounding land fell, regardless of whether they were the buildings.

All the prices were greatly affected.

Some who had purchased properties there put them up for sale as quickly as they could out of fear that the prices of neighboring secondhand properties would be as construction on their plot of land. Some who had paid their deposits even decided to forfeit them. They figured that they'd plan to save up to use Wood Group's properties instead. Meanwhile, the

plot of land that Ms. Bryant invested in was done that

abandoned after Wood Group

Ms. Bryant stormed into the office. She pointed her finger at a scrawny look

She yelled, "I invested 150 million dollars last year. Even until now, only the founding has been shining. Didn't you say that you were all good news even after half a year?

to gather other investors? Why couldn't there be

1. Scrawny hung up his phone. In a dejected voice, he said, "Mr. Ziegler is with us, but investors want to withdraw their investments too."

investment of 10 million dollars

Mr. Layton is with me

Mrs. Bryant's temper hit the roof. "How could that be? Wasn't everything already agreed upon?" Mr. Scrawny gave Mrs. Bryant a glare of annoyance. "Why wouldn't that be possible? Wood Group gave a statement first thing this morning, saying that they're turning our project into a landmark mixed-use building. Many investors no longer see the potential in our project."

Mrs. Bryant stuttered, "It's just a statement. Are they mad?"

Nu. Saway became frustrated. "What do you mean it's just a statement? Men. Beyant, don't you know how capable Wood Group in When they say that they in they'll actually make it happen!"

Mrs. Hiyant couldn't help but age, "What does that have to do with us, though? We can just work on our project

In a sarcastic vice, Ma Scrawny replied, "Ms. Bryant, the project that Wood Group in doing overlaps greatly with ours We're competitors. They hav also way stronger than I am technique-wise and in other aspects. Not to mention that we haven't even gathered enogh funding Dui propert

I was only at this moment that Mrs. Bryant seemed noterize the seriousness of this

She raised her voice immediately and asked. To you mean that we're done for?"

Mary's Lace was full of hopeless "That's right. We're completely done for!"

Ms. Bryant screamed. "That's impossible vested over a hundred million dollars. We've purchased the materials and

Weakly. Ma, Strawy said, "We should cut our les while we still an Otherwise, we ll be laughingstocks

eloping the land next to

making than mo chì. They re

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Men. Bryani sat down, feeling dumbfounded. "How could this be? How could this be? That's impossible. That money..

Allen, she grabbed Str. Scrawny by his collar. "Gather more funds no matter what. We have to kick off this project. Otherwise, the project is going to get abandoned"

Mr. Scany had choice but to concede, "Okon, akin. I'll give it another pa

After the fuss that Ms. Bryant made, she stormed out of the place. The moment she got into her car, she received a call.

"stes. Bryant, I have bad news! One of our customers bought a gold bracelet that weighs four Troy ounces but claims that there was glue injected in it. The Consumers Association has sent their personnel to investigate us Mrs. Bryant was rattled. She roared, "Don't you people know how to handle a matter like this? Offer money to that customer and tell them that we'll compensate them threefold. Don't wreck this bawel"

"Alright, will do. But Mrs. Bryant, there are people from the Federal Trade Commission here too."

Mrs. Bryant froze as she sat in the car. Dear heavens, how did things end up like this? Was this the revenge of that extremely charming gentleman?

Mrs. Bryant shuddered. That could've, could it? Was that man such a cruel person? Did he lash out so hard just to teach her a lesson?

While an upheaval was happening out there, my day was passing by peacefully at the hospital.

The painting had been hung up on the wall. I would be able to look at it just by lifting my head. For some reason, though, I ended up staring at it an entire afternoon

My mind was blank. I couldn't remember anything, but it also felt as if I would be able to recall something I tried a little harder.

This was a really strange feeling. It felt like there was a thin, blurry film that covered my mind. As long as I tore through this film, I would be able to recall everything

Ar, what are you thinking about Don't look at it anymore. What's so interesting about it? It looks scary."

Teri was here. She showed concern for me the moment she awoke.

I shook my head. I explained, "I keep feeling like I'll be able to call something, but I just can't remember anything

Unhappily, Teri asked, "Why are you trying to recall? Must you torment yourself by remembering how Elijah betrayed you? Don't be silly."

I rubbed my swollen eyes I acknowledged her words with my silence

She said to me, "I came here today to share some news with you." I asked, "What is it?"

Teri replied "Elijah has apologized. He has made a public apology to you

I was taken aback. After he bought that painting for me as a gesture of apology last night, I assumed that everything was over. I was surprised to hear that he made another

public apology What was he trying to do? "He's not trying to compensate you by doing this, is he?" I verbalized the question while thinking.

I shook my head. "I don't know."

Teri tested, "Why don't you give him a call? Since he feels sorry, you should just get him to agree to an amicable separation. You can't just leave things in a stalemate like this." I pondered over it for a moment. I felt that Teri had a point. As such, I removed Elijah's number from my list of blocked numbers. I hovered my finger over that familiar number for a number of

seconds.

Teri urged, "don't. It won't do you any harm to ask. You won't have to waste your energy on going to court if you can settle this with an amicable divorce,

With that, I tapped on that number. Two seconds later, my call was answered

Elijah answered the call in a hoarse voice, "Ari, you're finally willing to speak with

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Elijah sounded very hoarse, and I couldn't help but ask, "Elijah, are you alright?"

He sounded surprised. "Ari, are you worried about me?"

I could only choose to divert the topic. "I wanted to ask you why you made that public apology."

In a deep and low voice, Elijah answered, "I was in the wrong so I felt like I needed to apologize to you

I sighed. "You don't have to do that. Elijah, you don't have to humble yourself like this."

In that same deep tone, Elijah replied. "Ari, I'm truly sorry. I didn't think that I would've hurt you so badly. It really broke my heart to see that look in your eyes at the beach that day-

It hurt you

Teri interrupted him immediately. "That's enough. I don't want to talk about that."

An awkwardity

around me because I was not mentally prepared to face that dark past at all. Even though so much time had passed, I still wished that I could disappear from this earth whenever I thought about that time. Elijah apologized, "Therey, ALI-

Feeling annoyed, I said, "You don't have to apologize. I don't need your apology"

in a dull voice, he asked, "What would you like me to do, then?",

ped, "Divorce me since you're aware that you were in the wrong, let's just have an amicable divorce and not go to couLL"

On the other end of the call, Elijah started guttowing all of a sudden. A he laughed, he started coughing intensely

I waited patiently

Finally, he was done laughing and coughing, in a low voice, he remarked, "Ari, so, it turns out that you're calling me to get me to divorce you."

I said, "That's right. Our relationship can't go back to the way it was before. Your apology isn't going to do anything."

It was an of Elijah hch't heard what I said. He asked, "Ari, you love me very much. Why did you change so quickly?

I didn't dare to blurt out just any reason. In a soft voice, I said, "I-I just don't love you anymore. I've been hurt enough. I don't love you anymore. Elijah—"

Heisterjected. "Ari, do you know? I teel that you've changed ever since that fight and after you came back from the hospital in the past, no matter how badly we fought or how mad you were, you would forge me within a week. We'd then be able to reconcile. Why is it different this time? Why must you divorce me? I don't get ir".

I really couldn't continue this conversation with him

I said, "Elijah, that's enough. I've given you my reason cimless times I don't love you anymore. I've had enough, and I w

want to leave you!

Suddenly, Elijah utteredcoldy, "Ari, you've lost your memories and forgotten. Because you forgot me, you no longer remember the fact that you love me. Is that right?"

I paused for a few seconds. Fould't focus on listening to what he said after that. Lended the call mercilessly, then blocked his number again.

Noticing that I looked upset, Teri inquired cautiously, "What did he say?"

After a while, I explained, "He knows that I've lost my memories."

Teri covered her mouth immediately. "How did he know!"

Anxiously, she continued, "Do you think you shouldn't have made that call? Webb told us not to be in contact with Elijah privately. Damn it. That cunning Elijah must have been trying to trick you into saying things you shouldn't say. Bloody hell!" Tell was completely repirital

After a moment of repit, I felt at ease,

I failed to hide the fact that I had lost my memories, but someone as bright as Elijah would have figured it out sooner or later. It was just that I hadn't expected him to figure it out so quickly. After calming myself down, I said, "Moving forward, you shouldn't be in contact with him in private either. Let's just wait for the court hearing"

I looked at my leg, which was in a cast, then let out a long exultant

This journey to getting a divorce was much, much more difficult than I had imagined.