

LEAVE ME ALONE, MR SHAFFER

Chapter 16

Chapter 16

Isabella was perched on the edge of the couch, her head spinning and her body in disarray. She felt like she was falling apart. A faint, cool scent enveloped her—Seth's preferred cologne. It used to be alluring, but now it was overwhelming.

"Miss Symons, Kate has a quick temper. Since I offended you today, let me offer you a toast. hope you can forgive her." Harold's tone was gentle as he reached for a bottle of wine to pour himself a drink. However, Caitlin interjected angrily, "What are you apologizing for? It's not your fault."

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"If it's not his fault, is it your fault then?" With Natasha in his arms, Dariel looked at Caitlin and spoke as though he were joking.

Caitlin opened her mouth to retort but met Seth's stern gaze. She shuddered and found herself unable to speak. In the eyes of her peers, Seth was like a tyrant from Hell. No one dared to provoke him unless they were seeking death.

"There's no need for apologies." Isabella got up from the couch and half-squatted in front of the coffee table before taking the bottle of wine from

Harold's hand. Her voice was hoarse and unpleasant to the ears. "It was my fault for standing in the wrong place and causing Miss Hunter to misunderstand. I'll make amends with a drink."

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The private room fell into complete silence, with only the sound of Isabella pouring wine.

Caitlin tried to retort but found herself at a loss for words. "Who asked you-"

Before Caitlin could finish her sentence, Isabella had already downed a glass of wine.

"Apologies for the disturbance, everyone. I'll punish myself with another glass, and let's put this matter behind us." Isabella poured another glass and drank it as if it were water.

Harold looked conflicted, wanting to intervene, while Natasha clenched her fists, and Dariel chuckled softly.

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only gave her a glance. It was like he never had such a lunatic for a secretary.

After two glasses of wine, Isabella felt better and asked Natasha, "Can I use your room to freshen up?"

Natasha was afraid she might collapse and wanted to accompany her, but Isabella insisted on going alone.

"Alright, go ahead. Wait for me in the room, and we'll leave together," Natasha said.

Isabella got the access code and left the room.

Just as she closed the door, she overheard Dariel's teasing comments.

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Chapter 161 Hope That 'stard Goes Bankrupt

"Why is she staying with you?"

"Someone was ruthless and kicked Bella out even after five years of hard work."

Then, the door closed, muffling Seth's response.

Isabella leaned against the wall to make her way to Natasha's room. As the door shut, a heavy silence settled, and she sank to the floor, her ears still ringing from the hurtful words piercing her.

She touched her flushed face, trying to calm the turmoil within her chest. Then, she clutched a nearby small table, finding a glass on it. A thought flashed through her mind, and she didn't hesitate

to throw the glass, its shattering crash echoing sharply in the still room.

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Chapter 16 I Hope That B'stard Goes Bankrupt

Isabella gasped for breath, her heart pounding. It took a while for her to regain her composure. She gave herself a sharp slap to snap out of it, then pushed off the wall and stumbled into the bathroom. Without bothering to undress, she

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turned on the shower, the cold water drowning out the ringing in her ears. Yet, the voice inside her

head kept taunting her. Oh, Isabella, you'd better make something of yourself, even if it costs your life. You have to return this beating, one way or another.

As her racing heart gradually calmed, a numbing coldness settled in.

Fed up with self-torment, Isabella started to undress but remembered she had no clean clothes. She sighed and, without hesitation, walked

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Chapter 161 Hope That R*stard Goes Bankrupt
back into the dimly lit room, completely naked. Her intention was to borrow some of Natasha's clothes temporarily.

While searching through the wardrobe, Seth's face and indifferent expression flashed in her mind. She couldn't help but start to mutter, "The Shaffer Family is full of lunatics. Why don't they have any physical illnesses? They should have some sort of genetic disease. That b*stard. I hope he goes bankrupt tomorrow!"

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Her curses provided some relief, but she failed to notice another presence on the nearby couch. The man deliberately let out a light chuckle, startling her. She froze, wide-eyed, staring at the dark wardrobe.

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Chapter 17 Do You Need My Help

If I go bankrupt, your two apartments will be gone too.”

Isabella gulped and quickly grabbed a piece of clothing to put on. Turning her head, she saw Seth sitting on the couch with his legs crossed.

Chapter 17

Chapter 17

Isabella was accustomed to being humble before Seth, so even though she was only wearing a thin shirt, she still walked up to him. Fortunately, there was a coffee table separating them.

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“You just left me, yet you’re already spreading rumors about me mistreating you?” Seth raised his head slightly and shot her a cold glare.

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Chapter 17 Do You Need My Help

She clenched her jaw and pretended to be

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composed while pouring a glass of wine for him.

“It’s just a misunderstanding. Perhaps Mr. Wallace didn’t renew the rent in time, and I had no place to stay, so I stayed with Natasha temporarily.” While saying that, she avoided his gaze and handed the

glass across the coffee table.

Seth shifted his position and leaned against the couch. He rested his elbow on his leg and leaned forward, getting closer to Isabella. Instinctively, she tried to move back, but his firm grip caught her wrist before she could retreat. Flustered, she looked up at him. "Mr. Shaffer-"

Before she could finish her sentence, he suddenly pulled her from the other side of the coffee table.

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Chapter 17 Do You Need My Hep

She instantly found herself on his lap, in an
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awkward position. She was only in a shirt, and their closeness allowed them to feel each other's body warmth.

Seth didn't make any further moves. Instead, he held Isabella and rested his chin on her shoulder. "I heard you did a good deed and told Fiona about my habits." His tone remained calm and devoid of emotion, making it hard to gauge his feelings.

Having spent five years with him, she understood him well enough. This was his way of expressing dissatisfaction, with a subtle hint of warning.

She stayed still, staring at the coffee table before her, and replied calmly, "Your stomach hasn't been in good shape lately. Skipping meals affects your

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Chapter 17 Do You Need My Help

work. And relaying my job responsibilities is part of my duty.”

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“You’re quite dedicated,” Seth commented with a hint of sarcasm. Suddenly, he reached out, brushed Isabella’s hair aside, and gently touched her cheek, tracing over the area where she had been slapped.

His movements were gentle, but she couldn’t shake off a sense of unease. Each touch seemed to send tingles and goosebumps across her skin.

“You’re so dedicated and patient that you can even endure being slapped,” he continued, listing her qualities as though he were genuinely praising her. Then, his tone shifted. “Women like you excel in selling cars and houses.”

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Chapter 17 Do You Need My Help

She tightened her fists and was baffled by his words.

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“Have you managed to sell a car?” he inquired. Taking a deep breath, Isabella responded, “I’ve sold just one car.” She couldn’t quite grasp his intentions. She wondered if he was probing her performance, perhaps concerned that she was excelling and wanted to make things more

challenging.

“Just one? What can you do with that meager commission?” Seth’s voice carried a somber tone

laced with an unusual undertone.

She felt his voice as if it were a feather, lightly

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Chapter 17 Do You Need My Help

brushing over every sensitive spot on her body,

causing her to tremble uncontrollably.

As she drifted into a daze, he took a strand of her hair and used it to graze her cheek. “Do you need my help?”

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Suddenly, a chord in Isabella’s mind quivered. A familiar scene from five years ago flashed before Isabella’s eyes, similar to the present but in the past. She was inexperienced and had been transferred to the president’s secretarial office without explanation. For some unknown reason, she had been bullied, and Seth had seemed to appear out of nowhere, asking her in the same soft voice, “Do you need my help?”

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As that voice echoed in her ears, she shuddered, and almost as if being electrocuted, she escaped from his embrace.

Chapter 18

Chapter 18

Seth had initially used his foot to hold Isabella in place. However, when she suddenly stood up, she stumbled over him and tumbled over. The shirt she wore only covered up to her thighs, so when she fell forward, more of her body was exposed.

Retracting his leg, he leaned back against the couch and unabashedly gazed at her. However, he remained unrelenting in his tone. "What's the meaning of this? Are you persuading me to help you by offering certain benefits in advance?"

Chapter 18 Letting Her Choose His New Secretary
Her face was burning, and she quickly got up from the ground. She stood upright in front of the coffee table. "No-"

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"No?" He let out a light chuckle and glanced at her.

"Then, what is it?"

"I'm no longer your secretary but an ordinary employee at Shaffer Group, so I shouldn't receive special treatment." Isabella managed to force out the words from her dry throat, word by word.

"Please don't trouble yourself on my behalf."

Meanwhile, Seth's gaze remained fixed on her face, tracing from her flushed cheeks to slightly pale lips. Suddenly, he turned his head and spoke in a tone devoid of warmth. "It appears you've developed some backbone."

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Chapter 18 Letting Her Choose His Secretary

She wisely chose not to argue, as confronting the
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tyrant head-on would be unwise. Patience was her best strategy when dealing with him.

“You mentioned handing over your work, right?”

Seth fell silent momentarily, seemingly thinking of another way to tease her.

Furrowing her brows, Isabella cautiously replied,

“Yes, I’ll pass on my work notes from the past few years to Fiona. I’ll ensure there are no mistakes in your day-to-day activities.”

“Do you think she can handle the tasks you do?”

The man’s body leaned forward slightly as he looked at the woman beside him with a smile that didn’t reach his eyes.

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Chapter 18 Letting Her Choose His New Secretary

Isabella wondered if he still desired a “personal” secretary to manage his intimate affairs. She silently cursed him for being driven solely by his sexual desires but maintained her calm exterior.

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“Mr. Shaffer, among the six secretaries in your

office, four have boyfriends, and the other two have more exciting love lives and personal matters than you do.” She lifted her head, a smile playing at the corner of her lips. “Who do you think would be suitable for the job?”

Seth resumed his expressionless demeanor, calmly remarking, “Even if they had no romantic

entanglements, I wouldn’t be interested in them.”

After hearing that, she took a deep breath. “Then, you should consider hiring a new executive

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Chapter 18 Letting Her Choose His New Secretary
secretary.”

“I already have,” he replied calmly as if discussing the weather.

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However, she briefly felt a wave of suffocation, though it passed so quickly that she barely noticed

1. it. All she experienced was a momentary daze.

Seth studied Isabella, catching a fleeting glint of determination in her eyes. Suddenly, he felt a

mischievous thrill. “How about this? Since you have the experience, I’ll let you handle tomorrow’s interviews.”

“Me?” She was astonished.

He nodded, and his eyes narrowed slightly. “You’ve

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Chapter 18 Letting Her Choose His New Secretary

been with me for five years, so you know best what kind of secretary would suit me. It couldn't be more fitting for you to choose one for me."

As soon as she heard that, she cursed inwardly, B*stard. She would have cussed him out loud if she hadn't gripped the hem of her clothes. Letting his former mistress select his new one—only he could come up with such an idea. Then, she maintained her composure and spoke honestly. "I have home and work matters to attend to."

"That's something you'll need to consider." Once he finished speaking, he stood up, hands in his pockets, expressing clearly that he wouldn't tolerate nonsense. Then, he strode out and said, "Tomorrow, 9.00AM. Don't keep everyone waiting for

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TUTUW, 9.00AM, Duntreep everyone woning for you,"

In the meantime, Isabella remained crouched, her feet feeling numb. Seth's words had stunned her so much that she hadn't even remembered to stand

1. up. After all, she had already resigned, so why should she work for him for free?

Chapter 19

Chapter 19

The following morning at 9.00AM, Isabella sat in the

Interview room and recalled what Natasha had said earlier in the morning, feeling both annoyed and amused. "You should go. Pick out some flawed candidates for him and see if he can bear it," she said.

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However, Isabella dared not tease Seth. She hadn't even dared to do so when she was his executive secretary, let alone now. As a mere salesperson, she had to consider Jonas' disapproving attitude even when they wanted to take the day off, so crossing Seth would be asking for trouble.

All her former colleagues from the secretary department were present. Their expressions varied when they saw Isabella, but they still greeted her nonetheless. Only Fiona wore her heart on her sleeve and didn't greet Isabella.

Isabella thought Fiona was probably upset that she didn't get the position of executive secretary, and she couldn't help but smile wryly. Even a hot potato like Seth had people fighting over him.

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"Isabella, shall we begin?" One of the secretaries, Ellie Gardner, asked for Isabella's opinion.

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Isabella sat in the main seat, a bit surprised. "Are you the only interviewer?"

Ellie replied with a smile, "Mr. Shaffer still trusts you.

You have the final say.

Upon hearing that, Isabella furrowed her brows slightly, feeling somewhat uncomfortable when she sensed something amiss.

She adjusted her glasses. "Let them all in, then."

"Okay."

Isabella usually didn't wear glasses, but her face

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still bore some marks from the previous night's incident. It couldn't be concealed, so she had to wear glasses. With her glasses on, she exuded a cold demeanor. No one could guess the emotions in her eyes, which were hidden behind those lenses.

Three women came in for the first round of interviews.

All of them were graduates from prestigious universities and had impressive educational backgrounds. They were not only smart but also attractive. With their distinct features and shapely figures, they looked lively yet captivating.

"Most of your information is already on your

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Chapter 19 Qualifications for the Chief Secretary resumes, so I won't ask about that." Isabella closed

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the resumes and interlocked her hands. "Do any of

you have boyfriends?”

The three women were momentarily taken aback but hesitated for a moment before answering in unison, “No.”

Isabella pursed her lips, a glint of sharpness flashing in her eyes behind the glasses. “How about ex–boyfriends? How many partners have you had before?”

Since her question was too direct, it made the others feel uncomfortable.

“We just graduated. How many ex–boyfriends can we possibly have?” One of the girls with long hair
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couldn’t help but frown. She sounded quite unfriendly.

Isabella’s expression remained unchanged. “Miss Celia Stark, right?”

The woman with long hair snorted but didn’t say anything.

Isabella continued coldly, “You had two ex–boyfriends in your freshman year. Then, during sophomore year, you hooked up with a wealthy man, almost driving his wife into ending her life. You went abroad during the last two years of college and had six boyfriends. Five were foreigners, and the last one was biracial.”

There were seven to eight people in the room, and
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they all couldn't help but click their tongues.

As soon as the first sentence was uttered, Celia instantly turned pale. By the time Isabella finished, the former's originally delicate and rosy face had turned as red as a beet.

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She shot up from her chair and pointed at Isabella.

"Did you dig into my background?!"

With a polite yet cold smile, Isabella responded, "Shaffer Group is one of the most comprehensive, leading enterprises in the country, and the value of the company's image is immeasurable. You are interviewing for the position of the president's executive secretary. If your private life is not in order and gets exposed in the future, people will go around saying there's a problematic president's

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Chapter 19 Qualifications for the Chief Secretary secretary in the Shaffer Group. Do you think that'd be appropriate?"

After she spoke, everyone from the secretarial office found it reasonable. Even the candidates interviewing alongside Celia moved a bit farther away from her, afraid of being associated with her.

"You're insane!" Celia kicked a chair, not bothering to explain, and stormed out of the room.

Isabella remained unfazed and instructed

someone to close the door.

“Deborah Barron, Madeleine Bradley,” she announced calmly.

“My private life is pretty boring, to say the least.”

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Chapter 19 Qualifications for the Chief Secretary

“Yeah, I’ve only had two boyfriends.”

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Those two had short hair and looked witty. When they spoke, they had a kind of delicate and gentle charm that was characteristic of southern women. Isabella smiled. “Both of you have gone under the knife, am I right?”

“Why does the company care if we’ve had plastic surgery or not?”

“Exactly. Is it wrong to make myself look prettier?”

Isabella remained composed and said calmly, “I assume you both have seen the recruitment advertisement. You know that the main body of this recruitment is not the Shaffer Group, right?”

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Chapter 19 Qualifications for the Chief Secretary

Although the tiny print at the bottom called for a personal assistant, it was noticeable nonetheless.

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Moreover, Seth's appearance alone was enough to attract plenty of young women, even without his current status.

Sure enough, after Isabella finished speaking, both girls blushed.

They were both graduates in secretarial studies, so they naturally knew the specific requirements for personal assistant positions.

"Mr. Shaffer has very high requirements for his executive secretary. He values both hygiene and the natural human body. As for situations like what just happened, the probability of hygiene issues

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Chapter 19 Qualifications for the Chief Secretary arising is too high. Therefore, we can't hire someone like that."

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With her arms crossed, Isabella leaned against the chair and lowered her gaze to Deborah's chest.

"Can both of you guarantee that the implants in your bodies won't deform due to vigorous activity?

Will it not affect.... suppleness?"

Pfft-

As soon as Isabella finished speaking, both interviewers from the secretary department

spewed out their coffee before the interviewees could start feeling anxious. Then, they looked at Isabella with admiration.

“We thought a large corporation like Shaffer Group

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Chapter 19 Qualifications for the Chief Secretary

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wouldn't be involved in such despicable dealings. You've proved us wrong. This has gone overboard!" The two girls who had undergone cosmetic surgery stood up in unison, indignant. Their words were filled with righteousness, claiming that they never had such impure intentions. They pointed at Isabella and delivered a moral critique before carrying their bags and storming away. Keeping her expression composed, Isabella efficiently marked Xs on the three resumes. Then, she looked up. "Bring in the next batch."

Chapter 20

Chapter 20

Inside the office on the top floor, Seth sat in front of

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Chapter 20 The Girl He Liked at First Sight

the screen, listening to Isabella straightforwardly dismiss three women. He let out a deep hum, but

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there was no sign of anger on his face. However, he started to feel a bit uneasy after a while.

That was because Isabella had completely painted him as a playboy with a messy personal life.

Perhaps that was how she had always seen him.

He furrowed his brows, and his thin lips pressed into a tight line.

Inside the interview room, Isabella marked off over a dozen resumes in succession and couldn't help but shake her head. Surprisingly, she couldn't find anyone suitable in terms of appearance or

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Chapter 20 The Girl He Liked at First Sight
character.

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Halfway through the interview, Ellie had come over to persuade her to pick someone decent.

However, Isabella smiled faintly. "We can't be too lax about Mr. Shaffer's quality of life."

Ellie's mouth twitched, and she returned to her seat.

Soon, it was noon.

Isabella persisted in reviewing the last two groups without taking a break.

"There are only two candidates in this group..."

Isabella pulled out a resume and took a look. Her gaze flickered; the young woman on the resume

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Chapter 20 The Girl He Liked at First Sight

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had a bright smile, a clean face, and a ponytail at the right height. Even from the photo, she exuded a comfortable sense of youthfulness.

As she was reading, the person from the resume appeared in front of her. The woman's appearance was above average, but her eyes were particularly stunning. They were big and bright. Combined with her fresh and natural demeanor, she left an unforgettable impression. "Hello, I'm Selena Winston."

As soon as she spoke, Isabella already had a premonition. "Please have a seat."

She flipped through the resume, contemplating, but she couldn't find a suitable question.

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Chapter 20 The Girl He Liked at First Sight

Ellie, who was beside her, suddenly received a phone call. She stood up.

"Isabella, Mr. Shaffer is on the line. He said..." Ellie glanced at Selena and continued, "Let's go with her."

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Isabella took a deep breath, and she met Selena's gaze. The woman seemed nervous while looking innocent and confused. As soon as Isabella opened

Selena's resume, she had an instinctual feeling that she was Seth's type. However, she didn't expect him to make a decision so quickly.

"Isabella, I'll be taking Selena upstairs. Would you like to report anything to Mr. Shaffer?"

Suppressing the emotions in her chest Isabella

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Chapter 20 The Girl He Liked at First Sight

Suppressing the emotions in her chest, Isabella

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took out the last batch of resumes. "It's fine. I'll meet with the last three and leave. You can take Selena outside and wait."

Ellie found it a bit unnecessary, but she didn't want to argue with Isabella, so she escorted Selena out.

Ten minutes later, Isabella finished interviewing the remaining candidates, packed up her things, and came out of the conference room.

"Isabella, is this really alright?"

Ellie was a bit puzzled; she thought Isabella just wanted to finish the process and didn't expect her to find another remarkable candidate among the last three.

1230 Wed 20 Dec G6

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Chapter 25 Fox Gate Likes of Free Sig

Carrying her bag, Isabella glanced at the person behind her. "Bring her along too. She seems quite

capable.

Ellie's expression was somewhat hesitant. "I'll take them to Mr. Shaffer."

Isabella nodded slightly. She had completed her task, and what happened next wasn't part of her responsibilities, so she exchanged brief pleasantries with the others in the secretary department before getting ready to leave the Shaffer Group.

The elevator stopped on the eighteenth floor. Isabella subconsciously moved to the side, but when the elevator doors opened, she looked up
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Chapter 20 The Gri He Liked at First Sight
and met a pair of deep, emerald eyes. Louis...

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She shivered almost instinctively, and the nauseating feeling that she had washed away suddenly crawled up her spine from an inexplicable place, making every defensive cell in her body scream.

Louis had brought several people with him, seemingly here to sign a contract. When he saw Isabella, his eyes lit up instantly.

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But before he could say anything, Isabella spoke first and even approached him. "Mr. Louis, it's been a while."
Her attitude was overly friendly, causing Louis to

instantly blossom with joy. He led his group into the

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Chapter 20 The Grite Liked at First Sight

elevator. “Miss Symons, I heard you’re now working in a higher position somewhere else, correct?”

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Isabella tugged at the corner of her lips, revealing a hint of embarrassment. “There’s no such thing as a higher position. It’s a bit embarrassing, actually.”

She approached Louis with a flattering smile. “Are you free today? Let me treat you to a meal.”

Upon hearing that, Louis raised an eyebrow, his pupils filled with excitement. “Of course-”

“Mr. Kessler, your schedule is quite packed for now,” his secretary reminded from the side.

Louis furrowed his brows, showing a hint of displeasure. After a moment’s hesitation, he

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Chapter 20 The Girl He Liked at First Sight

reached out and placed his hand on Isabella’s shoulder.

“Next time, I’ll treat you to a meal. You haven’t fulfilled our previous agreement yet.

He said the last sentence directly into her ear.

The elevator arrived with a ding.

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Louis released Isabella and led his group out of the elevator.

Isabella followed behind, smiling all the way to the entrance until Louis got into his car. Then, she calmly hailed a cab by the roadside.

Once in the car, the driver asked where she wanted to go.

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Chapter 21 He Found His New Sweetheart

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Upon parting her lips, she found her voice was trembling and clasped her hands together, telling herself to stay calm. Louis wasn't that difficult to deal with; she could do it.

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Just like what happened just now, she pretended to be in a hurry, causing Louis to let his guard down and letting it slip that he was busy. Otherwise, with Louis' style of doing things, she probably would have ended up in his clutches tonight.

Her mind was in a mess, so she simply had the driver turn around and head to Botanique Heights.

She needed to sort out the situation with her apartment, for staying at Natasha's place indefinitely wasn't a solution.

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