

Once Cast 154

Chapter 154 First Day at Work

A faint smell of tobacco clung to Tyrone, and Aella wrinkled her nose in discomfort.

When she glanced up and saw three figures at the window, Aella realized why Tyrone was holding her, not rushing to get in the car.

He wanted her parents and brother to see them acting like a loving couple.

Aella quietly pushed Tyrone away.

She said, "The Reids have been bankrupt for years. We're nothing like the Winters anymore. Even if you killed me now, my family couldn't do a thing to you. There's really no need for all this."

Tyrone stared at her, speechless.

He finally said, "Tomorrow's your first day at work. Go home and get some rest."

The next morning, Aella got up early.

She chose a simple winter outfit and put on some light makeup.

It was her first day at the Hills' private hospital. She wanted to make a good impression on her new colleagues.

Standing side by side in the dressing room, she and Tyrone quietly adjusted their clothes in front of the mirror.

Tyrone bent down to pick up a hairpin that had fallen at her feet.

Aella's gaze fell on the tie in his hands. She pulled it from his hand and quickly tied it for him, the motion easy and practiced.

Neither of them mentioned the painful things.

Aella grabbed her bag and headed for the door, but Tyrone caught her wrist and pulled her back.

They exchanged a long, silent look, and Aella understood immediately.

She stood on her tiptoes and kissed him on the corner of his lips.

Tyrone hugged her back.

Their routine looked perfect, but something about it felt all wrong.

At 8 a.m. Tyrone dropped Aella off at the hospital entrance, right on time.

Before getting out, Aella reminded him, "Drive safe."

Tyrone watched her walk away, not taking his eyes off her until she was out of sight.

The morning sun was gentle, bathing Aella in soft gold and making her look even more striking.

He didn't leave right away. He leaned against the car and lit a cigarette.

He thought back on everything—how Aella had staged a scene at the company party, what she'd done at the Winter Estate, and how she'd managed to get along with Zera at the hospital.

She'd done all of it so calmly, as if she were just a bystander in her own life.

She'd still tie his tie, remind him to drive safely, or give him a kiss.

But none of it felt real. It all felt like a show.

She didn't fight with him anymore. She didn't cry or say she was hurting.

Every time she smiled, the coldness in her eyes was impossible to miss.

He could tell she had stopped trying to make things work between them.

By the time his cigarette burned out, Tyrone flicked it away.

He sent Aella a message, then got in the car and drove off.

Aella and Daniel had just reached their department floor when her phone buzzed.

Tyrone texted her and said he'd pick her up after work.

Aella turned off her phone without a word.

Just then, a few doctors and nurses came to greet them.

After the introductions, Daniel led her to the office they'd set up for her.

It had a reception area, a pantry, an office, and even a break room.

Aella looked around, feeling a bit embarrassed. "Daniel, isn't this office a little much?"

Daniel tapped the cat figurine on the desk and smiled. "You're not just another employee. You're a partner of the Hills. Of course you get your own office and private exam room."

He called the front desk. Soon, a young woman in a white coat knocked on the door.

"This is Penelope Slater," Daniel introduced. "She'll be your assistant from now on."

Aella studied the girl, thinking she looked familiar.

She glanced at Daniel, but he just smiled.

Penelope leaned in to whisper something in Aella's ear, then nervously touched her earlobe.

Aella couldn't help but laugh.

She gave Daniel a grateful look. "Thank you, Daniel."

It turned out Penelope was Prunella's niece.

Daniel had learned Prunella was Aella's first violin teacher, and since she'd been close to the Reids for years, he gave Penelope the job.

The rest of the day was packed to the brim. Aella spent the whole day learning the ropes at the hospital and connecting with her new team.

She figured out what she needed to focus on next.

It was a busy, happy day for her.

Work had always been her best medicine.

Now she was determined to put everything else aside and help Sayer recover as soon as possible. That would help get the new department's name out there and set it up for success.

Near the end of the day, Daniel treated everyone to dinner.

The department was brand new, and as one of the leaders, Aella couldn't skip it.

But she also knew she had an agreement with Tyrone. She'd promised Tyrone she'd be home outside of work.

After work, they all headed to the restaurant for dinner.

Aella called Tyrone as she left the hospital.

She knew all his recent tenderness wasn't out of guilt for her getting hurt, or just because she was his wife.

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