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Chapter 36: I am married

In the meeting room of Grupo Durán.

-The Entertainment Department is positively supporting the promotion of Empress Santa. The response was mediocre at first, but as soon as the costumes were shown, it garnered a lot of positive comments on social media, this can be considered a major setback. The movie has already become popular before it was even released!

The person who stood up was Lucio Cabrera, the general director of the Entertainment Department, who was the organizer of the “Holy Empress” project, and the popularity of the film was something he had not expected at first, which made him feel much more confident in his speech.

Leopoldo, who was sitting quietly listening to the report, looked at Lucio in silence.

The assistant then stepped forward at the appropriate time and added:

-I heard that this time it was a designer named Mariana Ortiz who is in charge of the wardrobe. She seems to be very professional

After saying that, the assistant glanced at his boss and sat back in his seat.

-Yes, yes, yes, I have heard that this designer named Mariana Ortiz seems to be quite famous in the design field.

-These six sets of dresses are really good, eye-catching and atmospheric, and the workmanship is extremely fine, so it seems that this designer is very skilled in design.

-Mr. Cabrera, if we have this kind of cooperation in the future I think we can work with this designer more often.

Hearing this, Lucio also nodded his head repeatedly.

The man who had been sitting at the end of the long table lowered his long crossed legs and bowed slightly, hands clasped together, and looked in Lucius' direction before speaking in a deep voice:

-The meeting is adjourned.

With those words, Leopoldo got up and walked away.

Those present in the meeting room looked at each other in disbelief, not really understanding how nice the boss was today.

The assistant followed Leopoldo into his office and gave him a brief briefing on his upcoming agenda before saying apparently casually:

-Mr. Cabrera says that the film's shooting progress has stalled lately, so he is a bit worried that it might not be released on schedule.

Leopoldo raised his eyes to look at his assistant and asked coolly:

-What's wrong?

-It seems that due to the recent overwhelming workload, the lady, who is the wardrobe manager for the production, has fallen ill.

After saying this, the assistant clenched her fist with some nervousness and exhaled secretly.

-I see," a cold, indifferent voice replied.

He calmly raised his head to glance at the boss, only to see that he had already lowered his head to the paperwork at hand, not reacting much to what he had just said.

He was still as expressionless as usual.

The assistant sighed inwardly, turned around and calmly walked out of the office.

The next day, when Mariana opened her eyes, she felt a little dizzy and could not help massaging her temples.

When he arrived at the crew after getting well groomed, he found that they were all gathered together with excited faces, mysteriously discussing something.

Somewhat puzzled, she approached Ana's side, quietly pointed to the surroundings and asked in a whisper:

-What's going on here?

-Mari! You are here.

He stepped forward and gave her a tight hug before Ana looked at the confused Mariana with clear eyes:

-Mari! The boss is here to visit the crew!

-The Chief? -he frowned slightly, wondering about this name.

-Oh, that's Mr. Durán! Mr. Durán took the first flight to visit our crew first thing in the morning.

At that moment, an employee walked by, looking at the excited Ana, and couldn't help but scoff:

-What a visit to our set! It's obviously a visit to Miss Solis! Now Mr. Durán is already with Miss Solís.

"Leopoldo? Is he here?"

Mariana's heart was a little restless and she slightly lowered her head, hiding some strange emotions on her face.

Since that night of passion, she had been at work and had never seen Leopoldo.

"I didn't expect you to come here – do you miss Andrea?"

A tinge of bitterness spread from the bottom of his heart, and his eyes suddenly clouded a little.

His body shuddered slightly.

"What's wrong with me?"

The woman who was teasing a moment ago saw Leopoldo and Andrea walking arm in arm, and hastily tugged at Ana's sleeve, exclaiming:

-Look! Mr. Durán and Miss Solís are together!

Hearing these words, Mariana blinked and adjusted her emotions before raising her head to look straight ahead.

The petite and charming Andrea held him intimately by the arm, occasionally tiptoeing up to the man's ear and whispering something to him, looking very sweet and affectionate.

Naturally, Andrea noticed Mariana's look, and curved her mouth more proudly, her eyes full of mockery.

He wanted Mariana to know to whom Leopoldo really belonged.

-Leo, I'm so glad you came to visit me so early," said Andrea shyly, looking at Leopoldo with loving eyes, swinging the man's arm.

-Mr. Durán and Miss Solís make such a good couple!

-Yes, yes, Mr. Durán took the plane early to come to the set just to please Miss Solís, didn't he?

-When do I get such a handsome and considerate man? I really envy Miss Solís.

Withdrawing her gaze, Mariana closed her eyes and turned around to head for the dressing room.

The woman's slightly lethargic figure rested in the man's cold, stern eyes, and Leopoldo felt some distress, but it was fleeting.

"He seems to have lost weight."

Mariana was about to open the door, but someone blocked her.

When she looked up, she met Xavier's gentle, divine eyes. He smiled at her and asked:

-What? You're not happy?

The tone of his voice contained some mockery.

-I have work to do. May I please come in?

Lowering her head and avoiding Xavier's gaze, Mariana said in the calmest possible voice.

-Why do you have to be so formal with me? At least I helped you, you can call me Xavier.

Xavier's slightly gravelly voice rang in his ears.

-Mr. Bolaño, you should know that I am already married," Mariana raised her slender hand and he saw the silver ring on her ring finger.

After a moment of silence, Xavier gave way and said politely:

-Well, that's a pity.

Ignoring these words, Mariana opened the door openly and entered, then closed the door behind her.

After a long while, he leaned gently against the back of the door, and his cold eyes were now filled with confusion and helplessness.

The heart in his chest was beating more and more furiously, as if it was about to jump out of his throat at the next moment.

With mixed emotions, I no longer knew where I was at that moment, nor did I know which way to turn.

Until her emotions calmed down, Mariana exhaled slightly and let out a few bitter laughs.

Leaving the door to which he had glued himself as if it were the door his only support, he slowly made his way toward his place of work.

Since he had offended Andrea, he had endless work to do.

There was a sudden, sharp, urgent knock on the door behind her.

A trace of doubt appeared in her eyes and she pursed her lips slightly. Mariana raised her right hand and gently covered her left breast; her heartbeat seemed to have become irregular again.

He made an effort to calm his voice as he spoke:

-Please go ahead.

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Chapter 37: Rules of the game

The door opened slowly and Mariana did her best to calm down.

Then, she looked up to look at the person outside the door.

He was Leopoldo's assistant.

Obviously, sensing the strange emotions of the woman in the room, the assistant gave a professional smile and walked quickly to the front of Mariana, presenting the thermos in her hand.

-This is the tonic soup that Mr. Duran asked me to bring to you. She has been overworked on the set recently and is ill.

-Therefore, Mr. Durán specially commissioned the maid to simmer the soup for the lady, which is very nourishing. You should drink it to get better soon.

The assistant spoke quickly, as if afraid of being interrupted.

Hearing these words, Mariana was a little taken aback, her eyes full of surprise and joy. And then her clear cheeks that became flushed with shyness.

He glanced slightly down at the black thermos his assistant was opening, and his heart seemed to start beating violently again.

It was the nourishing soup Leopoldo had prepared for her.

-Do you know that I am sick?

Mariana took the tonic soup from the assistant's hand, stirred it gently with a spoon and casually repeated the question.

-Mr. Durán is actually very worried about you," the assistant answered seriously.

The tonic soup had a bright color, with a slight layer of fat floating on top, but it didn't seem very greasy, but rather appetizing. Mariana picked up the spoon and took a few sips. It was delicious.

It was chicken soup with mushrooms.

After finishing the soup, Mariana felt a warm sensation in her stomach and her mood improved a little. A happy smile that had been missing for a long time appeared naturally at the corners of her mouth.

He handed the thermos back to the assistant with a slight smile on his face.

-Please thank him for me.

-Of course," after saying this, the assistant turned and left with the thermos.

Sitting in a daze, with the taste of the soup she had just eaten slowly spreading through her mouth, Mariana smiled happily.

In the afternoon, due to the arrival of the chief, the crew finished their work early and went to a meeting.

The attendant had set up a private room and everyone was seated at the table upon arrival.

Naturally, Andrea sat down next to Leopoldo. Mariana glanced at him, then faintly withdrew her gaze and sat a little away from the two of them.

As soon as he sat down, Ana sat in the chair on his left, while the one who sat on his right was unexpectedly Xavier.

He smiled a sweet and kind smile.

Mariana only gave him a glance, then lowered her head and stopped looking at him, as if deliberately avoiding his eyes.

Such an action caused Xavier to chuckle playfully, and his low chuckle rang deep in his ears.

After a while, everyone was almost full, but it was still early, so Andrea proposed a game, and Leopoldo didn't say anything, so naturally everyone accepted.

Ana whispered in Mariana's ear and moaned softly:

-Look, she must want to take advantage of the game to have something with Mr. Durán! She really thinks everyone is stupid like her.

Shaking her head helplessly, Mariana reached out and gently pinched her friend's palm:

-Don't say too much in front of so many people.

But she was still a little uneasy in her heart.

-Since everyone is fine with it, then I'll tell you the rules of the game now," Andrea stood up quietly and gave Leopoldo a delicate smile before speaking.

-Let's go, let's go!

Hearing this, Andrea first glanced at Leopoldo, then looked at the crowd, blinking playfully saying:

-Here is a poker deck, I will draw the same number of cards as the number of people present. Among the cards there is a king, and the person who draws the king will stand up and say what he wants the participants to do, then he will call out two cards at random. And the people who have these two cards will have to stand up and complete the task meticulously!

When she finished speaking, the crowd became very excited, looking at the poker cards in Andrea's hands. Everyone was showing great interest in this game.

-Well, now I've pulled the cards, which turns out to be the total number of people in the room.

The poker placed in Andrea's hand had obviously thinned a bit, and with her long, slender fingers, Andrea casually held the black cards, creating a strong contrast that made her fair skin stand out.

Andrea then dealt everyone in the room a card.

Each held a poker card in their hand, and everyone moved around looking at each person, unconsciously turning away when they were about to touch each other's gaze, creating a slightly nervous atmosphere in the room.

Leopoldo cast his stern gaze towards a corner of the room where the woman was idly resting her chin with her hand, rather lazily, apparently uninterested in this exciting game.

He had his head down, hiding all his emotions.

But the man standing next to her at the time surprised the woman by reaching out his arm and gently bumping into her.

-What is your letter? -asked Xavier with great interest.

At the sight of this scene, a touch of fierceness flashed through Leopold's eyes, mixed with a touch of jealousy.

He slowly raised the glass in front of him and swirled the red liquid for a moment before drinking it in one gulp.

-Who has the King card?

-That, who has the King's letter? How come no one has said anything yet?

-Could it be Mr. Durán?

While the crowd was talking, Mariana looked at her number 4 card in her hand and felt a little bored. A meeting like this really didn't suit her.

Finally, a girl timidly stood up, held up the poker card in her hand and showed it to the audience.

He was the king of poker cards.

The room, which had been somewhat noisy a moment ago, was silent in an instant. The girl cautiously glanced towards the place where Andrea was standing, and found that Andrea was staring at her viciously. Involuntarily she trembled slightly and tried to open her mouth several times before saying in as soft a voice as possible:

-Then, let the person who gets the number 9 card and the person who gets the number 4 kiss each other.

With these words, the girl sat back and breathed a sigh of relief, as if she had accomplished something very difficult.

After looking fiercely at the girl with his head down, Andrea threw the letter of his that was in his hand on the table and frowned a little annoyed.

That girl was his assistant.

He had planned for the girl to name Leopold and her directly, on the condition that the two kissed, but to his surprise, the girl had erred in the instructions she had given him, making him miss this good opportunity for nothing.

How could this not make Andrea angry!

He raised his eyes and looked at the audience, because he wanted to know who had ruined his plan!

When she heard “number 4,” Mariana felt vaguely uneasy.

I didn’t expect the condition to be kissing in front of everyone!

The first thing Mariana did was to look at the indifferent man, and she became very anxious.

-Which of you have the number 9 and the number 4?

-That’s right, these two people who were drawn quickly introduce themselves, I still want to start the next round as soon as possible!

-Kissing! Sounds exciting.

Hearing these excited voices, Mariana felt annoyed, but she picked up her letter on the table and got up with some resistance.

He showed his letter to everyone and said in a weak voice.

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Chapter 38: The Man Was Jealous

-My letter has the number 4 on it!

Andrea’s face suddenly turned ugly as she glared at Mariana in anger.

“It’s her again!”

“It’s always this woman who ruined my plans!”

-It turns out you have the number 4 card! -the casual male voice came from next to Mariana.

Then, Mariana felt a light cool breeze blowing next to her.

As she suddenly turned around, Xavier was already standing next to her, and the poker card in his hand was: number 9!

Mariana’s pupils suddenly shrank, and she was very surprised.

She did not expect that the person holding the number 9 card would be Xavier Bolaño.

And the two needed to kiss in front of everyone.

Moreover, she could clearly perceive a cold and domineering gaze falling on her body, making her whole body freeze.

The letter in her hand had been crumpled and deformed by the grip, but Mariana remained oblivious, and just stared at Xavier blankly, not knowing what to do.

The next moment, the crumpled letter fluttered onto the table, and Mariana could not help but take a step back, full of resistance and reluctance.

-Since you are participating in this game, you naturally have to abide by the rules of the game. Mariana, you and Xavier make a great couple!

Andrea spoke, a hint of smugness shining in her eyes, then winked secretly toward the girl.

-Yes, the request made by the person holding the King’s letter must imperatively be completed,” the girl said these words in a low voice and did not speak again.

Seeing how cowardly the girl was, Andrea gave her another evil look.

Luckily, all the boys around them were thrilled to encounter such a scene, and in the next instant they shouted:

-Kiss her!

Amidst the screams, Mariana's cheeks reddened with embarrassment, like a ripe, somewhat tempting apple.

Xavier's eyes narrowed slightly as he spoke in jest:

-Well, well, beauty is shy. I kiss her right now!

-Wow!

-Well done!

Amidst the exclamations, Xavier leaned in slightly, holding the woman's slender shoulders with both hands, pulling her head closer.

Mariana felt Leopoldo's stern gaze become even more penetrating, and she stiffened even more. She opened her teary eyes wide unconsciously at Xavier's approach.

Leopoldo gripped the glass firmly causing the wine in the glass could not help but swirl gently.

There was an unpredictable gleam in his indifferent eyes, like an eerie calm on the eve of an impending storm.

Leopoldo looked at the two who were getting closer and closer, he drew a mocking smile. A smile like that made people cold and scared.

Just as she was about to touch Xavier's lips, Mariana closed her eyes and turned her head, so his kiss landed on her flushed cheek.

The thin, slightly cool lips pressed against the warm cheeks. The man's kiss was very strong.

Mariana only felt her cheeks flare even more.

Then Xavier gently released Mariana and said to the crowd:

-Everyone is satisfied, right?

Then, his eyes were fixed on the woman next to him who still had her eyes closed tightly, with a bit of tenderness and love.

-Leo, don't you know that Mariana and Xavier get along so well that even I misunderstood their relationship after the last party.

-And Xavier is really gentle and considerate with her. It's really the first time I've seen such a caring Xavier!

Gently taking the man next to her by the arms, Andrea leaned on Leopoldo and added fuel to the fire as she explained the relationship between Xavier and Mariana.

Mariana's cheeks were still red, like the red sunset in the distance. The shyness coming off of her enveloped the whole room, very striking.

Xavier looked at the woman very concentrated, as if Mariana was the only girl in the whole room.

Leopoldo's face was somber as he abruptly removed his arm from Andrea's hand and picked up the red wine in front of him and gulped it down, hiding the various mixed emotions in his eyes.

"You've done a good job. Mariana, you've done very well to piss me off."

In the end, the dinner ended early due to Leopoldo's sudden departure.

Mariana was finally able to return home.

During this period of time, due to Andrea's annoying demands, she almost took the locker room as her own home. She even spent several nights in the wardrobe room for working overtime.

Rubbing her sore neck, Mariana passed through the living room, but happened to see Leopoldo.

For a moment, he stopped in his tracks and stared at the man sitting cross-legged on the couch.

As she looked at Leopoldo, he also looked up to look at her.

But the piercing coldness in his gaze left her instantly paralyzed, as if she was petrified and couldn't move a bit.

Leopoldo stood up and took long strides towards the woman who remained frozen in place, looking at her indifferently.

As the man came closer, Mariana moved backwards, so little by little Leopoldo forced the woman completely against the wall and she could no longer move backwards.

The man in front of her looked at her coldly, and she froze against the wall, unable to move an inch.

She could do nothing in the face of this strong man.

The man in front of her just stared at her as if he wanted to devour her at any moment.

Somewhat at a loss, she looked away so as not to see the man's grim face, and only then did she relax a little.

His dry throat seemed to be blocked, and it took him several attempts to utter a sound.

-What are you doing?

The woman was trembling, a little panicked.

The woman kept her head low, showing her thin neck. Actually her poor and weak appearance was very attractive to the man.

The man's eyes grew increasingly somber as he looked at her.

-This is the kind of posture you use to seduce another man, isn't it?

When Leopoldo addressed these mean words to her, the woman looked up abruptly with wide eyes.

Leopoldo roughly lifted the woman's slender light wrist.

Lifting the woman's hand towards him, he gently caressed the silver ring with his fingers. In the man's gaze, in addition to the coldness, there was something threatening and pressuring about it

Leopoldo caressed the ring for a moment and squeezed it tightly.

Suddenly, an unexpected pain came to Mariana.

Mariana couldn't help but furrow her eyebrows, looking at the hand that squeezed the ring with fierce force. And tears were already welling up in her eyes out of control.

-You have to remember that as my wife you must learn to be faithful and cannot seduce other men.

The corners of the man's mouth curved slightly into a sneer.

-What nonsense are you talking, I don't do it! -Mariana struggled hard, trying to free herself from the man, but in front of this strong man, her strength was worthless.

Feeling deeply helpless, Mariana could not help biting her lower lip to hold back her tears.

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Chapter 39: Betrayal

He looked at Leopold stubbornly, but his trembling shoulders still betrayed his deep nervousness.

When she saw the shadowy face in front of her getting closer and closer, she closed her eyes in a bit of panic, but the next moment, a soft, slightly cold touch with a faint smell of tobacco lidded her lips.

Her eyes suddenly opened and Leopoldo had already straightened up, looking at her coolly as he asked:

-So, how do you explain tonight's meeting?

Suddenly remembering the kiss that Xavier had imprinted on her face, Mariana understood everything instantly.

But...

Mariana touched the lips she had just kissed, a little in a trance.

Leopoldo coldly hooked the corners of his mouth and spoke with disdain:

-Even though we are in a contract marriage, I don't want to see my wife doing such things and openly cheating on me.

After a pause, he continued his cruel and direct humiliation:

Are you a shameless woman? A woman who has no self-respect?

A shiver ran through her body and Mariana looked incredulously into the man's indifferent eyes, with a strong feeling of humiliation.

I didn't expect him to look at her like that!

The soft touch on her lips had just a little while ago seemed like a distant thing from the last century.

"So you're testing me with that kiss? You're kissing me just to confirm that I'm a brazen woman?"

"Or have you already identified me in your mind as a slut at first?"

-I'm not like that!

But his words were not persuasive at all.

Immediately afterwards, as if remembering something, Mariana closed her eyes in despair and her lips curved slightly as she let out a cold laugh.

-Since you know so clearly that we are married under the contract and you and Andrea can make out! Why can't Xavier and I be together?

The woman, in a full rage, spoke sarcastically, completely ignoring the man's instantly grim face.

But the tears could no longer stop, Mariana hastily lowered her head, pushed away Leopoldo who was standing in front of her, turned around and ran away.

She opened the door and ran out of the villa. She did not stop running until she felt exhausted.

His heart was beating violently and restlessly, and the beat was especially clear in the quiet darkness of the night, as if it were about to leap from his throat in the next second.

Feeling a sharp pain in her heart, Mariana couldn't help but crouch down, her right hand covering her left breast, and her face turned slightly pale.

The corners of his mouth couldn't help but hook faintly as he let out a bitter smile.

Couldn't even God see her like this, so miserable?

But he really thought she was such a woman?

Tears flowed relentlessly, sliding down her cheeks and falling to the floor.

"It must be because of the pain in the heart."

The next moment, a warm hand unexpectedly covered her head, and Mariana looked up overwhelmed.

Her blurred vision fixed on the person's face, and after careful discernment, Mariana finally saw the person clearly.

It was Xavier Bolaño.

Disguising her disappointment and bitterness, she slowly took the plain white handkerchief the man handed her, quickly wiped away her tears and stood up.

-Why are you here? -Her voice was hoarse from crying.

-It is probably by God's will.

Mariana looked at Xavier with teary eyes. Seeing her look so pitiful, Xavier didn't want to joke with her anymore, he hurriedly opened his mouth to explain:

-It's a coincidence, I had something to do and I stopped by.

Mariana looked around and couldn't help but frown. She was already in a residential area close to the villa, no wonder she was meeting Xavier.

-Do you want to sit there chatting for a while?

Looking in the direction the man pointed, she discovered that there was a square with several fitness facilities, and there were two swings there.

After hesitating for a few seconds, Mariana accepted.

It was already very late and he had just had a fight with Leopoldo, so for a while, he didn't really know where to go.

Setting the laptop down on the coffee table in front of her, Leopoldo couldn't help but reach out and lightly rub his forehead.

It was dark and quiet outside, and the night always hid many things from view.

"This woman!"

The glass clinked softly against the mahogany producing a crisp noise, and Leopold withdrew his cold, stern gaze.

The nanny put down the glass of water in her hand, looked at the man sitting on the couch with his legs bent, and sighed slightly.

Actually, she knew everything that had just happened between the two of them, and seeing the deep concern hidden under the gentleman's icy face, the nanny said:

-Sir, watching television yesterday, I saw a news item about a woman who went out late at night and was followed by a strange man and was dragged into a bush....

Noticing the piercing icy stare that hung over her, the nanny immediately shut up.

The next moment, a gust of wind lifted her hair around her ears, the nanny couldn't help blinking, and when she opened them again, her master was no longer there. A crisp snapping sound rang in her ears, and she was left alone in the villa.

She couldn't help but shake her head and headed to the kitchen with a smile on her face, ready to prepare some food for her mistress, as she would be hungry when she returned later.

Mariana had run off in slippers, so the maid supposed she should not have run very far.

Leopoldo ran looking around the villa area and finally spotted Mariana in a white dress behind a residential building.

However, she was not alone.

Xavier was at his side.

His running footsteps stopped, and Leopoldo stood some distance away with his hands in his pockets, his eyes slightly narrowed as he looked at the two people sitting on swings, laughing and talking.

The woman's face bore no trace of the pale appearance it had before, and her smiling, happy face dazzled in the dim streetlight.

With a soft snort, Leopoldo deftly opened his cigarette case, took out a cigarette and lit it.

In the swirling smoke he exhaled, their figures became blurred. After a long while, Leopoldo extinguished the cigarette in his hand and threw it into the wastebasket next to him, turning abruptly to leave.

"She really is shameless woman!"

The next day, the set started working and Mariana returned to the set early to work.

However, to everyone's surprise, Mr. Durán was still there.

Anne looked at the woman working with her head down, and her desire to share gossip with her was instantly extinguished.

He pulled Mariana with one hand, holding her shoulders tightly with both hands, and couldn't help but exclaim:

-Mari, what's wrong with you!

At that moment, the woman in front of me was pale, but under her eyes there were heavy dark circles under her eyes. She looked like she was very tired.

-How is it that after one night, you have become in this state?

Mariana looked at her friend's exaggerated facial expressions and couldn't help but open her mouth to retort:

-Even though I look bad, you don't have to exaggerate so much, okay?

After saying this, she shot a glance at Ana, pulled her hand away and went to continue with her remaining work.

But the next second he was interrupted by Anne again, who took the charcoal pencil from his hand, and said:

-The work is never finished. You'd better take a break first, I'll do this for you.

Ana took her aside and let her sit in the chair. Ana ordered her:

-All right, take a nap first, and I'll wake you up after I finish this.

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Chapter 40: Pressure

Ana then looked at her with feigned seriousness until she closed her eyes, before turning to the place where Mariana was a moment ago and continuing with what she had just done.

Her closed eyes opened again. Mariana watched her friend's busy back and a thrill rose in her heart.

Last night she didn't sleep, Xavier sat with her for a long time, and at dawn, the two arrived on set together.

It was good to have someone she could count on.

After a short break, Mariana got up and had the suits checked, folded them neatly and took them to the break room where Andrea was.

However, when she opened the door and raised her head, she saw the man standing next to Andrea, Leopoldo.

In an instant, the man's cold gaze rested on her, giving her an uncomfortable pressure.

Mariana kept her composure, holding the wardrobe in her hand and placing it on the table, she sketched a soft and gentle smile, looking directly at Andrea and saying:

-The dress is already well repaired, it has been altered, Miss Solis, you can take a look.

He paid no attention to the man's somber eyes.

Andrea looked at Leopoldo beside her, whose eyes were on Mariana, focused and serious, charged with complex emotions that she could not understand.

Instantly resentment washed over him. She curved the corners of her mouth in a disdainful smile, lightly picked up the suit on the table, glancing at it casually, then couldn't help but frown.

-Isn't this modification too hard? Is that what I told you last time?

Critical words were directed mercilessly from Andrea's tender lips.

A trace of dissimulation shone in Andrea's eyes, which soon disappeared.

-Or is it that Miss Ortiz thinks that with Xavier's backing, you don't even bother to do your job properly?

This sarcasm was really spicy.

The next moment, the man withdrew his gaze from Mariana, and began to play with the expensive cufflinks encrusted with expensive emeralds. His movements were casual, but implied his only indifference.

A trace of complacency flashed in Andrea's eyes as she cast a sidelong glance at Mariana and smiled coldly:

-Well, Miss Ortiz doesn't want to work on the set anymore, does she?

As long as Mariana was not in charge of the wardrobe work, she would no longer have the opportunity to see Leopoldo.

With this thought, Andrea looked at Mariana with a smile full of complacency.

-If Miss Ortiz does not want to continue with this work, I can help you talk to the director. I think with my help the director will agree.

Andrea's tone was very condescending, as if Mariana were a beggar.

Mariana frowned slightly, looking disdainfully at Andrea, and spoke indifferently:

-Thank you, but it's not necessary. Miss Solis, I'll leave this dress here.

After a pause, he drew a smile and continued casually:

-If Miss Solis is not satisfied with the dress you can go and talk to the director. If the director asks me to continue revising the dress according to your wishes, of course I won't refuse!

After saying that, Mariana completely ignored Andrea's angry face and turned to leave.

-A crazy woman!

Andrea pointed at Mariana's back cursing, but received no response.

The next second, she turned around and pouted at the man in a sweet tone:

-Leo, look! He's bullying me like this! Help me, please...

Mariana slammed the door behind her.

At that moment, the world seemed to be much calmer without the obnoxious voice of that Andrea.

That day passed quietly as well, Mariana shook her head, a bit helpless at her fussy mentality at the moment with Andrea.

"Since when did I become like this?"

After picking up her things, Mariana took her bag and left the office. She had just arrived at the entrance, a car pulled up next to her.

The car window rolled down and a handsome face peered out, and the corners of Xavier's mouth curved upward, looking very friendly.

-Why are you here?

Hearing these words, Mariana could not help but burst out laughing.

Last night he asked the same question when he met Xavier on the street.

Thinking of the comfort Xavier had given her last night, Mariana felt a little thrill in her heart, so she raised her head and gave Xavier a gentle smile.

-Get in, I'll take you back.

Hearing this, she frowned slightly and raised her head to look at Xavier, whose face still held a polite smile as before.

-Thank you, but it's really not necessary, I want to go back alone -after saying that, without waiting for Xavier to say anything else, she directly turned around and left at a fast pace, as if some demon was chasing her from behind.

Xavier felt a little helpless, thinking that this woman was really special, but in the end, he didn't reach out to her out of respect.

Xavier watched the slender back fade away before putting his sunglasses back on and leaving.

Actually, this scene of the two of them had already been seen by that indifferent and volatile-tempered man.

Leopoldo stubbed out the cigarette in his hand and threw it into the garbage pipe, somewhat intimidatingly.

Leopoldo climbed into the car, leaning back in the leather seat with his eyes closed as he ordered:

-Let's go.

The assistant looked in the rearview mirror at his boss's expression and hurried to start the car and drive away.

"How I always come across this kind of thing! How unlucky I am!"

It was already late when she arrived home, Mariana climbed the stairs silently in the dark. Soft slippers creaked against the floor, very evident in the quiet night.

As she passed by the man's bedroom, Mariana couldn't help but stop her step. There was a faint light filtering under the door, spreading across the floor like a scythe cutting through the darkness.

That light also left her feeling a little nervous.

“He’s still awake.”

Glancing at the watch on her wrist through the dim light, she discovered that it was already half past eleven midnight.

Suddenly, the door opened from the inside and white light spilled everywhere, enveloping Mariana’s body. The sudden bright light made her eyes squint slightly in annoyance.

Mariana slightly lowered her eyes, hiding all her emotions.

-What are you doing here?

An icy voice sounded above her head, as if it were whispers from the demons in hell, making her shiver a little.

-I just got back,” Mariana said after a while, slightly nervous.

There was silence all around him, and the only sound in his ears was his own breathing and heartbeat.

After a long silence, Mariana raised her eyes, looked at Leopoldo and said indifferently:

-I’m going to bed, good night.

After saying that, Mariana left.

-You can consider Andrea’s proposal.

Mariana stopped her hand on the doorknob suddenly, and then couldn’t help but squeeze it hard.

She turned around, Mariana looked directly at the man, whose figure was stretched far and wide by the light at her back. Against the light, the man seemed more stern, inaccessible and indifferent.