

Chapter 293

She'd made an extra portion, so after finishing breakfast prep, Autumn brought it over and knocked on Keith's door.

Moments later, he opened it—already dressed, his tall frame filling the doorway, every line of his profile sharp and clean.

No matter how many times she saw him, she still thought: damn, this man was easy on the eyes.

He was really, ridiculously good-looking.

Autumn handed him the food container. "I made too much breakfast by accident, and I figured you probably hadn't eaten yet, so I brought it over."

Leaning casually against the doorframe, Keith's dark eyes softened with a faint warmth.

He cut straight through her excuse. "If you want to bring me breakfast, just do it. Don't bother with stories you don't even believe yourself."

He had no patience for roundabout excuses, but he did like the way her care for him felt.

That kind of attention gave him a strange sense of belonging, something that made being with her unexpectedly comfortable.

Caught red-handed, Autumn dropped her gaze, cheeks heating.

Of course—lying in front of a man like him was asking for trouble.



The only outcome was her own embarrassment.

After breakfast, she drove to the office. When she arrived, people looked at her differently.

Autumn ignored the stares and dove into her tasks, not letting anything slip. Mondays were always overwhelming and today was no exception.

During her hospital stay she'd found fresh inspiration, and after hours of meetings, her team was buzzing with energy.

The trending gossip was already forgotten—online noise was a mix of truth and lies anyway, and no one could be sure of anything.

But Autumn's capability was undeniable. She was the one lifting the whole project to new heights.

Where overtime used to be endless, since Autumn's arrival they could finish everything during regular hours.

Suddenly, overtime wasn't needed at all.

Naturally, that stirred resentment in other teams. And those who once looked down on Autumn had all been proven wrong, one by one.

When the meeting wrapped up, Ethan asked Autumn to stay behind.

Walking over, he let out a sigh. "Autumn, the Carters and Lewises are clearly determined to come after you this time.

"With the way the rumors are spreading, and the deliberate pressure they're applying, plenty of people in the company have turned against



you.

"They've already sabotaged several of our partnerships," Ethan said grimly. "And they're dangling an offer—if we let you go, they'll restore cooperation."

What he didn't add was that some people inside the company, unaware of the full picture, had been pressuring him too.

They warned him not to risk the firm's stability over someone 'unrelated,' saying it wasn't worth the cost.

Only Ethan knew the truth: Autumn was the backbone of their project.

But for now, he couldn't say it outright.

Autumn wanted to prove herself through results, working quietly in the background without drawing attention.

That left his hands tied.

So instead, he reassured her. "Don't worry, Autumn. I believe in your ability. In a couple of days, you'll be sitting that exam.

"And since you're already Mr. Lee's chosen candidate, no matter the outcome, we'll be collaborating with the Medical AI division.

"Once that happens, do you really think we'll have trouble finding partners? You just focus on your part—I'll handle the rest."

Especially the Carters and Lewises—when they saw what Autumn was truly capable of, Ethan wondered what kind of expressions they'd have. 1



The thought made him look forward to it.

Autumn nodded. "Thank you for your trust, Ethan."

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