

Spare Wife 141

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Putting Joan in the Film Crew

He raised an eyebrow. "Are you jealous again?"

"Stop daydreaming," she replied, practically rolling her eyes, her expression cold.

He looked at her, saying, "It must've been tough on you to pretend to be a good wife for the past three years."

His words made Abigail feel embarrassed. Indeed, she had acted gentle and virtuous back then in order to make him fall in love with her.

Seeing her reaction, Sean knew that he had hit the mark. Her original personality wasn't what it used to be; now, this was her true self.

The waitress soon arrived, upon which Abigail handed the menu to her.

After the waitress left, Abigail fell silent. She started watching videos on her phone, deliberately playing them with the volume on.

Understanding that she didn't want to communicate with him, Sean also took out his phone and began reading the messages Kevin had sent him. Kevin had sent him countless messages in succession today, but he didn't like checking his WhatsApp when he didn't have to.

After opening Kevin's messages, he noticed that the man had sent him a link to a post on

Instagram. He tapped on the link, discovering that someone had photographed him and Abigail entering a hotel. There weren't many comments, but the post still made it to the list of trending topics... Obviously, someone was doing this on purpose.

'Did

you get us trending on Instagram?' he texted to ask Kevin.

Kevin didn't reply to his message, for he was probably busy.

As Sean continued to read the messages, he found that Joan had actually explained that he and Abigail were cousins. He frowned at this explanation. Joan's eager to explain, huh? Abigail and I haven't said anything yet, but she's already come forward.

"Do you know we're trending?" he suddenly asked.

Abigail looked at him and closed the video. "What's wrong?"

Abigail looked at him and closed the video. "What's wrong?"

“Joan said we’re cousins. What do you think?” he said, deliberately testing her attitude.

“Isn’t that convenient? It saves you from explaining our relationship,” she replied nonchalantly.

He looked at her and suddenly said, “I don’t mind making our relationship public.”

“Don’t. I mind,” she hurriedly replied. “Besides, we’re not public figures. Our marriage has nothing to do with the public, so there’s no need to explain anything to anyone.”

“Are you trying to leave a way out for yourself, or do you really just not want people to know about it?” Sean’s eyes narrowed slightly. He strongly suspected that she was thinking about being with Anthony after their divorce.

“Just what are you trying to say? Do you still want to enjoy this meal?” Abigail became irritated at once. She could easily guess what he was thinking—he probably thought she was saying that for Anthony’s sake.

Their conversation ended abruptly when a waiter brought a fruit platter to their table.

In the afternoon, Abigail completely ignored Sean.

As it was getting dark, Sean received a call from Kevin, who said Joan had accidentally cut her hand deeply.

When Abigail came out of the store and didn’t find him outside, she immediately figured out what had happened.

Sean got back into his car and called her several times, but she didn’t answer.

After being busy in Broham for a few days, Abigail got a phone call from Lewis telling her to get ready to join the film crew. She had to join the crew, take measurements of everyone, and sort out their sizes before making their clothes.

On the day of joining the crew, Anthony came to her studio specially to pick her up. “How’s the fabric selection going?” he asked with a note of concern in his voice as she packed the tools she

Abigail put the ruler into her bag and replied gently, “It’s going well. Some fabrics are being produced according to our requirements, and I’ll be able to get the samples in a couple of days.”

“You’ve been working hard these days. I heard you’ve been visiting fabric markets in person,” said Anthony, his voice filled with sympathy.

Abigail felt that his tone did sound a bit odd. Just when she was about to tell him that she was already married, she heard him continue, “Did you and Sean... go to Broham because you came across some difficulties and sought his help?”

“Not really. He tagged along on his own,” she explained casually. She quickly realized she couldn’t reveal to Anthony that she was married, or he might easily deduce that she was married to Sean. She didn’t

want anyone to know about her marriage to him. She hoped that their past relationship wouldn't become fodder for gossip after their divorce.

"Joan said he's your cousin. In that case, your cousin seems to care a lot about you," Anthony teased.

She replied indifferently, "Let them say whatever they want. I'm not a public figure, and it's best not to respond."

Anthony nodded in agreement. "You're right. After all, online attention is a double-edged sword, Being mysterious to the netizens is a way of protecting yourself."

"That's exactly what I think. Let's go. Everything's packed," said Abigail with a smile. She did feel much better talking to Anthony. He was far more pleasant compared to Sean, who only seemed to add to her troubles.

As they both got in the car, Anthony suddenly asked, "A few days ago, some media outlets reported that Sean had taken Joan to the hospital. You're his cousin; do you know what's his relationship with Joan?"

Abigail didn't feel like answering the question. "Why are you asking?"

"Oh, I heard from Director Lewis that Sean arranged for Joan to join another film crew, so we're going to meet at Millstone," replied Anthony before smiling faintly."

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I'm Just an Employee

Abigail looked at him in surprise, but she shifted her gaze forward soon after that. "Oh, well, it has nothing to do with me," she replied impassively. Even if there were still emotions in her heart, these emotions would always fade away after spreading. She calmly accepted that she couldn't immediately let go of the three years she had devoted herself to Sean.

After hearing her reply, Anthony instantly wore a satisfied expression. "That's true."

Upon entering the film set, she immediately became busy, taking measurements of everyone from the helpers to the leading actors and even the seasoned actors. Of course, she had to match the leading actors' costumes to their skin tones, temperaments, appearances, and makeup. After more than a month of hard work, L.Moon completed the basic costumes, except for the ones planned for the very end of the production.

After the filming started, she mostly stayed in the hotel arranged by the film crew.

One morning, she planned to help Laura Martin, the leading actress, with her costumes. Just as she was about to enter Laura's private dressing room, she heard the woman's arrogant voice coming from the inside. "What kind of costumes are these? They're so gaudy and in garish colors. They

look awful!”

Hensey Lockheart, her assistant, chimed in, “I heard they looked up a lot of references and even consulted some professors, and yet they ended up designing this heap of ugly stuff, talking about clothing invasion by foreign cultures. Some male characters would even bare their chests in the middle of production. What a disgusting sight it’ll be!”

Laura sounded displeased. “I heard my makeup is going to look like that of a hostess, and it’s her who suggested it to the stylist based on the costumes. It’s really ugly. In my last fantasy drama, the costumes and jewelry were as gorgeous as they could be. But here, she has me dressed up like this!”

“They say Alana handpicked her, but I heard she’s close to Mr. Booker, who got her connected with Director Lewis. I guess the director is unhappy about it, but he probably doesn’t dare to say anything,” Hensey muttered.

Abigail quietly took a deep breath and knocked on the door.

Hensey came to open it. Seeing it was Abigail, he immediately greeted her with feigned enthusiasm. “Miss Quinn, you’re here so early.”

Abigail nodded before walking into the dressing room.

The moment Laura saw her, she rolled her eyes and stood up. Glaring at her, she warned, “If you don’t know how to match costumes, don’t do it. Are you inserting your own ideas? If that hostess- like makeup gets aired on TV, the entire show will be condemned by netizens until it goes off the air!”

“You may talk to Director Lewis about it,” Abigail replied flatly while walking toward the rack of costumes.

Lewis’ screenplay depicted foreign powers’ invasion of Central Plains, showcasing a stark contrast between traditional attire in the southern region and the clothing in the northern region, which were gradually influenced by foreign cultures. Laura’s character initially lived in the southern

region. Still, the scenes featuring traditional attire would only be completed near the end of production, so the traditional costumes were still in production.

After the collision between the northern and foreign attire, the colors and styles of the clothing became extremely mixed. Additionally, some peculiar clothes also emerged due to the turbulent situation of the time. These clothes reflected the plight of people during that era, who were forced to abandon traditional attire to survive the wars and foreign oppression. It wasn’t until later, when the chaos of the war gradually subsided, that a new divergence occurred between foreign attire and traditional attire. This eventually led to the emergence of the unique clothing culture of that

period.

Upon hearing Laura's comments, Abigail realized that the actress didn't understand the brutal history faced by the ancient dynasty during the foreign invasion period.

The evolution of clothing was also a crucial aspect of this brutal history. For example, the attire mentioned by Hensey, which exposed the chest, reflected the passive and negative cultural mindset of the people who were pushed to the brink during that period. They were forced to wear these clothes just to survive.

Laura stared coldly at Abigail. "You talked to Director Lewis about this makeup style. Why does he listen to you so much? Just what is your relationship with Anthony?"

Abigail brought out a set of costumes for the day and turned to look at her. "We were classmates in university. What's the matter?"

Laura was about to speak, but Hensey quickly stopped her. "Miss Quinn, shouldn't you consider what the audience wants to see? Your costumes are already like this, and now your makeup... Let's just say that netizens will criticize it. And besides, look at Laura. Her online image isn't like this at all" Hensey said with a smile trying to negotiate with Abigail

Laura instantly flew into a rage. "Do you think your close relationship with Sean and your being classmates with Anthony makes you special? You're just someone who got here through the back door! What history are you talking about? I think you're trying to insert your own ideas!"

Abigail frowned. "Now that I've picked the costume for you, I'll work on costumes for other actors."

Laura kicked her chair away in anger. She stared at Abigail's back, saying, "You're just an assistant. What are you being so cocky for?!"

"Calm down..." Hensey quickly tried to soothe her.

Meanwhile, Abigail closed the door and took a deep breath.

Laura had a stunning appearance in her previous fantasy drama due to her makeup and clothing style, which made her one of the top actresses able to play the role of the top beauty. This time, the peculiar makeup and clothing style would affect her online reputation, so it was natural for her to be furious. However, Abigail remained faithful to historical accuracy and would not change her stance.

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Still Thinking About Him

Laura expressed her dissatisfaction with her costume by repeatedly making errors in the first scene.

Infuriated, Lewis slammed the script he was holding onto the ground. "Laura, do you even know how to act?! I asked you to portray the grief and anger of losing your loved ones, but what are you. doing?! All I see is your anger! Where's your grief for your deceased family members?!" he roared furiously, his face flushed.

With reddened eyes, Laura pursed her lips in silence.

Hensey immediately stepped in, saying to Lewis, "Miss Quinn upset her quite a bit this morning, so she's not at her best right now."

Lewis instantly shifted his gaze toward Abigail. "How could you do that?! She's the leading actress!" Can't you choose your words more carefully?"

Abigail, who was huddled in a nearby corner, was startled for a moment when she became the target of his wrath. She promptly replied, "I got it,"

"Let's shoot the scenes with the male lead first!" Lewis darted a glance at Laura and then turned around to instruct others to get ready.

Hensey took Laura aside, comforting her tenderly as they sat down.

Laura cried, tears running down her cheeks.

It was thought that the incident would just end like that, but someone from the film crew

deliberately released it as a behind-the-scenes clip. Laura had numerous fans in the first place, and they were in an uproar when this clip was released.

A fan commented, "Who the hell does Abigail think she is?! Can she do whatever she wants just because she's the assistant to L.Moon's Alana? If she dares to bully the leading actress on set, she

must think she could be the leading actress in this drama! Laura, even if you end up offending Director Lewis, the Dumplings will always stand by you!"

Another commented, 'If Abigail wants to play the female lead role, she can. After all, Sean Graham is her cousin, while Anthony Booker is her senior at university. With these two bigwigs backing her, even if she tramples on the director on set, the director has to put up with it, let alone publicly

trampling on Laura on set.

Another fan commented, 'L.Moon is really giving itself airs. Alana should have personally designed the costumes and led her team to serve Laura. Why would she hire such an incompetent assistant?!'

Someone else commented, 'If Alana doesn't fire her immediately, we'll bombard L.Moon with messages. I don't believe that L.Moon's co-branded brands won't be afraid of getting implicated! Dumplings, let's boycott Abigail and L. Moon!'

Soon, a trending search topic appeared-Abigail bullies leading actress and punches Director Lewis on set.'

Right after that, another topic appeared-Laura's fans demand that L.Moon fires Abigail.

Following that, 'Boycott L.Moon' also made it to the list of trending topics.

As for Abigail, she was on the f set and still unaware of what was happening when she received a call from Luna. "How did you offend Laura, the leading actress, on set? Now, the whole internet is filled with criticism against you. L.Moon is suffering huge losses this time!" Luna said in a serious voice.

"What happened?" Abigail was still puzzled.

"The brands we were in talks with have backed out at the last minute, and even our previous partners have informed us that we need to clarify the situation on the internet today, or they might sue us," Luna explained, sending links to the three Instagram posts to her.

Under these Instagram posts, Laura's fans were viciously insulting Abigail with extremely foul language, which made Abigail's blood boil. However, she understood the situation now. "I see. Let me talk to the director first-

Luna quickly interjected, "No, I think you'd better ask Anthony. Both of us are unfamiliar with the entertainment industry and have never worked on a film set before, so we don't know if there are any unspoken rules in the industry. Anthony is a professional, so he might know better."

"Okay," Abigail replied. As soon as she hung up the phone, she actually thought of Sean first.

However, recalling his previous opinions on her work, she decided to call Anthony instead.

Anthony had expected her to call him. He answered the phone and said at once, "I just learned about your situation. I helped you ask Lewis about it, and he said he didn't expect the fans to react so strongly. He only said something out of anger, but he never thought it would cause you so much trouble"

"How should I handle this, then? Many brands L.Moon is working with are demanding that we issue a PR statement today to explain this public outcry. Otherwise, they're threatening to sue us for breach of contract," Abigail stated in an extremely polite manner.

up on

Anthony replied, "At this point, you have to stay calm and make sure that Sean doesn't show the film set, or things will get even more complicated. I can't come over right now, but I'll handle it for you from behind the scenes."

"Okay," Abigail responded. She was still hesitant, wondering if Sean would show up on the film set.

"It's normal to release behind-the-scenes footage, but it's clear that this footage seems intentional. Just how did the grudge between you and Laura come about? She's got a nice reputation, and I heard she has a good temper," Anthony asked, sounding puzzled.

Abigail couldn't help but wonder if this was the public's perception of Laura from outside the entertainment industry. They say many celebrities treat their staff like dirt but have a good public image online, and now I'm experiencing this firsthand. She explained all of Laura's dissatisfactions to Anthony.

While Abigail was on a long call, Sean tried calling her for nearly 30 minutes, but the call couldn't get through. It made him so angry that veins were bulging in his temples.

"The online comments are getting out of control," Cameron reminded him gingerly.

Sean slammed his phone down on his desk. "Abigail must be innocent. That Laura lady is definitely targeting her intentionally. Dig up any dirt on Laura and release it online within the next two hours. It's better to focus on how she treats her staff."

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Unconditional Support

Sean had encountered quite a number of people in the entertainment industry. Some who seemed clean on the surface turned out to be even wilder than some wealthy heirs behind closed doors.

Then there were those polite and well-mannered actresses who treated their assistants like dirt. When the cameras weren't rolling. It was all too common.

Sean couldn't help but think that if Laura could see Abigail's capabilities, her assistant Hensey wouldn't have spoken about her to Lewis in that manner.

Unable to reach Abigail on the phone, Sean decided to call Lewis directly.

At that moment, Lewis had just finished another call. Seeing Sean's call coming in, he braced himself and answered, "Mr. Graham..."

Anthony and Sean were two tough nuts to crack.

"What's going on between Abigail and Laura? Can you give me the lowdown?" Sean's tone was surprisingly amicable.

Lewis wiped the sweat from his forehead, his tone somewhat weak as he explained, "It's still under investigation. I asked Miss Quinn, and she said Laura wasn't satisfied with the costumes, but Laura denied it. Now, both sides are at a standstill. Laura's assistant is unhappy and even posted on

Instagram, accusing Miss Quinn of lying... It's driving me crazy."

"Why cast a young actress in a historical drama with such profound cultural significance?" Sean immediately questioned.

"It's what the investors wanted. I'm caught between a rock and a hard place. Getting this investment for the show was already a miracle." Lewis sounded helpless.

Sean tapped his desk. "Is it her company's demand? How much did they invest?"

"They invested sixteen million." Lewis sighed.

Historical dramas, especially ones shot on location, were certainly costly affairs.

"Director Lewis, all you need to do is stay on top of this situation. Today, I'll keep Laura occupied so you have some breathing room. Find the right moment. Whether you can assert yourself is up to you, understand?" Sean concluded and promptly ended the call.

Laura's dissatisfied with her costume? That probably means she didn't find it flattering enough to enhance her ordinary looks.

After Abigail finished discussing things with Anthony, the latter suggested using another artist's scandal to divert attention, temporarily stalling public opinion. Then, he would have Lewis quickly release a statement, suggesting it was a misunderstanding. He would also discreetly pressure Laura's company, hoping she wouldn't make things too unsightly and let the matter blow over. If things didn't work, Abigail should reveal herself as Alana.

But Abigail couldn't shake the feeling that this wasn't the right approach. It was like planting a time bomb.

If Laura finished filming and later privately leaked something, L.Moon would be irreparably damaged. Besides, bringing up Abigail's identity as Alana at this point would be a deliberate act of suppression.

She declined and decided to speak with Laura herself.

Just as Abigail was about to go looking for Laura, her phone rang.

Seeing Sean's call, she couldn't help but think, Sean sure is persistent.

Upon answering the call, Abigail was quick to say, "This is my issue. Stay out of it."

"If I stay out, can you handle it?" Sean asked angrily, "You've been on the phone for so long. Did you and Anthony come up with some earth-shattering plan?"

"How do you know I was on the phone with him?" Abigail instinctively asked.

Sean scoffed at that. "I just know. So, did you come up with a plan?"

"No plan. I'm going to talk to Laura myself. If that doesn't work, I'll step down and let another assistant take over," Abigail replied.

After all, she didn't want to put Lewis and Anthony in a tight spot.

"You had the guts to face challenges when you were on my show. Don't tell me you've turned into a shrinking violet just because you've switched lanes?" Sean taunted Abigail.

“Yeah.

His words made Abigail feel uncomfortable. She was already annoyed, and Sean’s jab stung. so what? You’re my husband. Do I need to be afraid of messing things up for my own husband?”

With this statement, Abigail immediately pleased Sean.

The anger he had been holding onto disappeared in an instant.

“Well, if anything happens, I’ve got your back. You don’t have to do anything. I’m already taking care of it. Soon, I’ll have Laura begging you to stay on set!” As Sean spoke, his tone turned icy.

Abigail hesitated for a moment. “How are you handling it?”

“The entertainment industry isn’t exactly squeaky clean, and since netizens are saying I’m your cousin, I’ll show them how your isin deals with someone who’s wronged you.” Sean’s voice carried a resolute tone.

Abigail’s emotions swirled inside, but she quickly said, “I can handle it myself...”

“What do you mean by handling it yourself? Focus on your job and leave this to me. When it’s all said and done, Laura will be on her knees, begging you to stay on set!” Sean concluded and promptly hung up.

Cameron, who had been out investigating, had returned. He didn’t have time to waste on Abigail.

Sitting down in her room, Abigail held her phone, her heart beating unusually fast.

As she reflected on the three years they had spent together, she often felt like she had been wronged. But looking back, Abigail wondered if she had had a serious talk with Sean.

Perhaps if she had dropped the act sooner, Sean would have recognized the issues between them. sooner.

Abigail’s thoughts raced, but she soon calmed down.

Joan is still in the picture... Sean is just trying to save his own reputation. If Abigail, someone related to him, was mistreated, he obviously wouldn’t be pleased.

re in Abigail’s shoes today, Sean would be just as indignant.

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Sean Takes Matters Into His Own Hands

In less than two hours, Sean personally stepped in to confront Laura.

First, it was revealed that Laura had once used her high heels to step on her assistant, and then it was disclosed that she had slapped a low-level extra on set. There were videos, and the evidence. was backed up by the posts of the unfortunate extra.

Abigail saw Sean lambasting Laura on Instagram himself and immediately called him.

As soon as the call connected, Sean's tone was upbeat. "How's it going?"

"Why did you personally post on Instagram? People might say you're helping me..." Abigail started, her voice tinged with concern.

"What's wrong with me helping you? Laura dares to bully you because she has her powerful backers and a legion of mindless fans." retorted icily.

"But this might not be good for you in the end," Abigail said, her tone firm.

Sean sneered at that. "Is Anthony helping you any better?"

"He didn't intend to help me like that, and regardless of your involvement, I would have handled this matter myself," Abigail replied calmly

"Is your solution to leave the production?" Sean asked, to which Abigail answered coldly, "Yes, it is.

My job here is almost done. With the capabilities of L.Moon Studio, once the show airs, the audience will know the truth."

"Do you think I'm overstepping by resolving these troubles this way?" Sean countered.

"No," Abigail immediately responded.

She just felt that Sean wasn't a part of the industry, and there was no need for him to get deeply involved in public opinion.

Sean's voice softened as he murmured, "Abigail, all I need is for you to genuinely accept my help."

Abigail's heart raced a bit and she licked her lips. "Thank you."

She hadn't expected Sean to be so straightforward.

Sean's voice carried a hint of satisfaction. "Alright, then. Focus on your work. As long as you want to stay on set, no one can make you leave."

"Okay," she replied softly.

After hanging up the phone, Abigail furrowed her brows and contemplated for a while.

A moment later, she opened Instagram.

Sean's Instagram post, where he personally defended her, had already become a trending topic.

Abigail saw the title but didn't click on it.

'Laura, come out and apologize to Abigail!' This was the kind of headline that Sean would definitely come up with.

After looking at the post, she scrolled down to read the comments.

"Laura, the pure and innocent flower. It seems Dumplings are truly biased. Every time something

happens, it's always the poor, innocent Laura who's being bullied. I never expected the innocent flower to be so ruthless in hitting others. That's why her previous assistant suddenly changed, right?"

'Abigail has connections. She can fabricate evidence, for sure.'

This comment was at the top because Sean had replied to it.

Sean tagged and replied to the user named RoundDumpling, I've saved your comment. You're spreading rumors about me, so get ready for a court summons."

Below were a bunch of applause emojis.

'Laura's evil little Dumplings, please don't delete this. Let your idol sue Sean and make him. apologize to her.'

'Sean is so bold, and I love it. I wish I had a cousin like him!'

Instagram was in complete chaos.

After reading through the comments, Abigail stood up and went to the door. Lewis was standing outside, looking apologetic as he gazed at her.

"What's wrong?" she asked.

Lewis rubbed his hands together and mumbled awkwardly, "This morning, I accused you without asking for the reasons, and I'm really sorry. I didn't expect them to maliciously spread those rumors about you."

Abigail fixed Lewis with a cool gaze. "I'm quite curious. Is this how you always treat the regular crew members on set?"

Lewis hesitated for a moment.

Abigail continued, her tone even, "I'm an outsider to this industry, so I might not understand all the norms. But when it comes to the regular crew members being unjustly accused, you default to blaming them without discerning the truth. I find that very unsettling."

"You're right. I should have asked a bit more back then. It's just that tempers can flare on set... Lewis explained, to which Abigail calmly interjected, "In reality, this is your industry's practice. The leads hold a high position, and you agree with whatever they say. You didn't even bother to ask me. why Laura was upset with me."

"I already had Laura apologize to you," Lewis said, a hint of awkwardness in his voice.

In this industry, those with higher status tended to gradually see themselves as superior. This meant that the quiet, hardworking crew members were often overlooked.

"I don't need her apology. I just hope she'll admit whether she truly disliked L.Moon's designs. Just one word from her is all I ask," Abigail said, locking eyes with Lewis.

Lewis couldn't help but say, "She's a new rising starlet; she's bound to be conscious of her appearance. As for our show..."

"Our show is perfectly fine. She wants to film something glamorous yet also demands a high- quality historical drama. Whether she qualifies for that challenge is her own deal," Abigail stated calmly.

She had designed haute couture for international leading ladies. What right did Laura have to criticize her designs?

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A Half-hearted Apology

Laura and Hensey were taken aback.

Abigail's voice was cold. "You don't have to apologize to me either. Just admit it openly: were you dissatisfied with the clothes designed by L.Moon? Did you think the Roman makeup looked like a geisha's? Did you think I sneaked in some personal items?"

"Was I wrong in saying that? If L.Moon can't design clothes, then why bother consulting authoritative professors? This is the result they produce? The real Roman makeup isn't even that bad!" Laura stood up, visibly upset.

She just couldn't respect Abigail, considering her nothing more than an assistant. If it weren't for Sean and Anthony, would Abigail even have a place in this production?

Lewis, hearing this, coldly retorted, "You don't know history, so stop talking nonsense."

"I don't know history? In historical dramas, there are portrayals of Roman characters from the Roman Era, and their makeup looks beautiful..."

"You know that this is from the Roman Era. This is how the makeup was done. Are you even interested in acting?" Lewis asked, clearly displeased.

He was firmly on Abigail's side in this.

Laura looked at Lewis. "Director Lewis, I'm telling you this as a favor. Don't complain on Instagram when my company withdraws its investment."

Abigail was surprised. So, her confidence came from the fact that her company was investing in this production.

"I'll discuss this with your company," he said, his expression turning cold.

With that, he turned and left.

Abigail followed Lewis. "I didn't know her company was investing in your production," she remarked.

"I didn't want her originally, but the company insisted. I only accepted because of that. Even without her, we would have found another investor," Lewis explained.

In truth, it would be slightly more difficult. Historical dramas were challenging, especially ones that focused on wars and costume changes.

Back in her room, Abigail took out her phone and saved the recording.

Lewis spent considerable time but eventually replaced the person responsible for releasing behind-the-scenes footage.

After this incident, Laura posted an apology on Instagram.

DiligentActress Laura tagged the users named L.Moon Studio, Alana, and

Troubled Times OfficialAccount. 'I really didn't expect a misunderstanding to cause the Dumplings to hurt an innocent person. This morning's incident was a misunderstanding, and it's all cleared up now. I've privately apologized to Miss Quinn. Please, Dumplings, don't be angry anymore.

She didn't mention her past mistreatment of assistants and extras.

She had explained these incidents before, so the company chose to ignore them.

This whole affair could only be resolved in a hasty and confusing manner.

That evening, as Abigail lay in bed, she called Luna.

"I saw Instagram. Are you satisfied with how things turned out? I thought Sean might kick her off the production," Luna said, sounding dissatisfied with the outcome.

"Since he personally intervened, that's already quite something," Abigail replied, her tone calm.

In her opinion, Laura wouldn't let things slide so easily.

Laura's temper wasn't something she developed overnight. Everyone around her had indulged her, so she had long since become uncontrollable.

This time, she had kicked a hornet's nest. Her leg wasn't hurt yet, so how could she easily let Abigail off the hook?

Luna sighed. "I never wanted to take jobs in the entertainment industry. I knew these celebrities were hard to handle, and it seemed I was right: It all comes back to Sean."

"What did those brands we're working with say?" Abigail asked, steering the conversation in a different direction with a smile.

Luna sounded somewhat disinterested. "They won't bring up the breach of contract anymore, but I feel like when the contracts expire, they might not renew because they want me to let you go. It's quite laughable."

Abigail calmly responded, "That's one advantage of hiding our identities. We can choose better brands. I think we should also start our brand. Even with fame, we still depend on others to make money if we continue this way."

"Running a store is headache-inducing enough, not to mention our studio, where it's just the two of us managing everything. Expanding would be too draining, and we might even end up in the red," Luna said.

They lacked experience in this area, and Luna didn't want to take unnecessary risks.

"We'll see. Get some rest. You've worked hard," Abigail said, her voice warm.

After hanging up, Abigail noticed that Sean had sent her a message on WhatsApp.

She immediately opened it.

"Are you satisfied with how things turned out with Laura?"

"Yeah, it's not bad."

Abigail replied.

In any case, she knew she'd have to deal with the aftermath herself.

"You didn't even have a chance to brew the floral tea I brought last time before heading to the set."

Sean's message had a gentle, reproachful tone.

Abigail quickly touched her face, then typed her response: "I had to get to the set as soon as I got back. It's been a while since I've been home. Work is tiring. I'll rest for now."

Of course, Sean knew. He had been staying in Abigail's rented house while helping with the cleaning

Of course, Sean knew. He had been staying in Abigail's rented house while helping with the cleaning.

Living alone in a house she used to live in, he realized even a tiny place could feel lonely without company.

The production continued shooting as usual.

At lunchtime, while Abigail was eating her boxed meal, one of the handsome supporting actors sat beside her, smiling. "Could you help me with a chicken leg? I've been on a diet recently?"

Abigail glanced at him. "Don't you have an assistant?"

She recognized him as Jonathan Wind, a talented actor who didn't have much financial support.

His fans often worried about him.

Jonathan smiled and said, "My assistant is on the heavier side. He doesn't need to eat any better.

You're too skinny. You should eat more."

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Another Wave

Abigail found him rather too slick, and talking behind the backs of those around one wasn't much different from stabbing them in the back like those treacherous friends.

"No, thanks. I think I'm perfectly healthy." She politely declined the offer.

Jonathan could only leave with his boxed meal.

Abigail thought this was just a tiny incident.

However, in the afternoon, after finishing shooting, Sean called her.

Abigail pressed the answer button and heard him ask in a displeased tone, "What's going on with you and the male actor?"

"What's wrong?" Abigail inquired.

Before she could finish her sentence, she heard Anthony's voice behind her. "Abby, look at me."

Abigail turned around and saw Anthony approaching, along with Luke.

Before Sean could say anything, Abigail spoke up. "I'm busy with something. I'll call you back when I'm done."

Without giving Sean a chance to respond, she hung up.

"Luke, why are you here?" Abigail approached Anthony and Luke with a respectful expression.

Anthony, feeling slightly overlooked, responded, "I called out to you first, but you only noticed. Luke?"

Hearing this, Luke chuckled at Anthony's possessiveness. "Why are you jealous?"

Abigail was a bit awkward. She forced a smile and said, "He sometimes jests."

Anthony smiled but didn't say anything.

Luke spoke up at that. "Shall we continue this conversation at the restaurant?"

"Sure, my treat!" Abigail warmly offered.

The three of them then headed to a restaurant outside of Millstone. Anthony commented.

solemnly, "There's negative news about you online again. I knew things wouldn't be over when Sean acted that way."

"I figured as much, but what are the comments about me online?" Abigail didn't pay much mind to these things.

“You should check for yourself once we get to the restaurant, alright?” Anthony advised, to which Abigail nodded in response.

Once seated in the restaurant, Luke began, “I heard from Anthony that there are doubts about your designs in the crew. I’ve come as a special advisor.”

“Did Mr. Booker deliberately bring you in?” Abigail asked with a smile.

Luke laughed. “I really like Lewis script. I think it’s very profound. If it’s done well, it will fill a gap in historical TV dramas. As someone who studies history, I feel a responsibility to pass on our culture.”

Abigail was moved by his words but couldn’t put into words the emotions she was feeling at the moment.

Anthony ordered the food. He then stated in a warm tone, “Let’s hope we can all work together to present this production in the best possible way.”

Abigail immediately agreed.

She knew that Luke was brought in by Anthony to support her.

Laura simply belittled her for being young and having the role of an assistant, so she didn’t take her seriously.

Abigail was genuinely thankful to Anthony. Even without Luke’s help, once the show aired, everyone would recognize the quality of her designs.

While they were waiting for the food, Lewis was also summoned.

Upon seeing Lewis, Luke immediately pulled him aside along with Anthony to discuss history.

Abigail took this opportunity to check Instagram.

There, she came across a rather bizarre trending topic-Discussing How Abigail’s Looks Suit. Anything and Anyone’

Puzzled, she clicked on it. Under the Instagram post was a photo of Jonathan squatting beside her, engaged in conversation that afternoon.

However, the caption was quite outlandish.

The

‘Abigail’s looks not only rival Laura’s, but the chemistry with Jonathan is off the charts. This kind of versatile chemistry is truly a rare sight! Who do you think has the best chemistry with Abigail? Sean, Anthony, or Jonathan?’

Under this post were all negative

ments.

“Is Miss Quinn not even trying to hide it anymore? Pulling her cousin into a fake relationship is bad enough, but now she’s ensnared both Jonathan and Anthony? Goodness, any man who talks to her gets lumped together with her. I think I’m starting to hate her!”

“What is L.Moon even doing? Using an assistant to stir up controversy and trample on others for publicity? It’s making me sick. This so-called versatile chemistry, what a ridiculous new term. Is she buying her own trending topics? It’s making me so angry!”

“She’s not even in the entertainment industry, yet she’s trending more frequently than those in the industry. Is this assistant so desperate for attention? At first, I was blinded by her relationship with Sean. Now, she’s even comparing herself to Laura in terms of looks. Can’t she see how unworthy.

she is? Poor Jonathan, getting stuck with this dirt.”

“Suddenly, I feel like all the previous dramas with Laura were because of Abigail. She used her cousin’s and senior’s connections to get into a first-tier crew, never focused on her studies, and is now constantly stirring up fake relationships. She’s so thirsty for men. I don’t even know where this wild chick came from. She’s so annoying!”

All of them were hateful comments.

After reading them, Abigail quietly closed Instagram.

Anthony sensed that something was wrong and immediately asked, “What are you planning to do about the situation on Instagram?”

“Do you have any idea who might be behind this?” Abigail held her phone tightly.

“The entertainment industry often uses this tactic. Whoever they hate, they’ll buy marketing to push negative comments about them online. Netizens, separated by the internet, don’t know who’s behind it, so they naturally vent their anger on the victim.” Anthony tried to comfort her.

Just as his words trailed off, Sean’s voice came from the entrance of the private room. “Mind if I join?”

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Sean’s Diligence

Abigail turned her head to look at him, her expression one of surprise, but she quickly composed herself. “Why are you here?”

Sean walked straight into the private room, standing beside her with his hand on her shoulder. “Of course, I came to help my cousin overcome difficulties.”

Luke, who was sitting next to Anthony, stood up on his own initiative. "You young folks should sit together and sort out all the messy things online."

Lewis was aware of the online situation, but even he had no way to handle such matters.

Sean sat beside Abigail. He gave Anthony a cold glance as he muttered, "Your crew is really something. Is it worth it for an actress to target a mere assistant like this?"

"We don't have evidence-"

began, to which Sean interrupted coldly, "By the time you find a solution, it'll be too late. We've all been in the entertainment industry, but you don't even know when to do crisis PR?"

Abigail bumped his arm lightly. "Can you not talk like that?"

"If I don't talk like this, will you teach me?" Sean looked at her with a cold gaze.

Luke watched Sean with a smile. "Sean, you really stick to your principles. Only someone who is not in the industry can be so carefree. You and Anthony are both impressive. One helps her deal with troubles outside the crew, and the other helps her within. Haha!"

Abigail thought to herself that Luke would have been better off not speaking.

This comment only made Sean's expression darken.

Anthony noticed Sean's expression and smiled meaningfully. "As a cousin, you're indeed very diligent. I'm just worried that your sweetheart Joan might treat Abby the same way Laura did."

Sean's face showed a touch of indifference. "What makes you think that Joan is my sweetheart?"

"Oh, isn't it because you gave her such an expensive bag and forced her into a major production even though she lacks acting skills?" Anthony feigned curiosity.

"There's no need for me to explain things to you," Sean responded calmly.

Anthony picked up his glass of water and took a sip, saying nothing more.

Abigail chuckled awkwardly. "You guys go on talking about historical anecdotes. I find it quite interesting."

She planned to ask Sean privately later about how he planned to handle the online situation.

Lewis also didn't want to participate in the heated exchange between Sean and Anthony, so he quickly pulled Luke aside to chat.

Abigail took out her phone and sent a message to Sean.

'Can you please stop talking like that? How will you handle the online situation?'

Sean's phone buzzed, and he to

out. Seeing the message from Abigail, he said, 'Abby, I'm sitting right in front of you. It's not appropriate to message privately. If you have something to say, say it out loud for everyone to hear,

This made Anthony and the others immediately focus their attention on Abigail.

Abigail forced a sour smile, feeling like she wanted to disappear.

"You guys continue," Abigail said, putting her phone back in her bag.

Then she reached out and pinched Sean's thigh hard.

Sean gasped in pain.

Abigail was about to withdraw her hand when Sean tightly grasped it.

She struggled a bit and looked up to see Anthony staring at her. She quickly froze, not moving.

"Mr. Booker, do you have any intentions toward my cousin?" Sean asked directly.

Abigail wished he would just shut up.

"Of course I do. I liked Abby a lot in college, and I still do now," Anthony said without reservation.

Sean nodded, his smile turning cold. "So, you have ulterior motives for my cousin. That's why you've been deliberately treating her well."

The undertone of his words was clear—Anthony's intentions weren't pure.

Anthony looked at Abigail with a smile. "Liking someone is the most innocent thing. Mr. Graham, the way you say it, it's as if liking someone is a heinous crime."

The two of them went back and forth. Abigail tried to free her hand while holding her water glass, silently drinking.

"Speaking of which, there's a makeup style that Laura isn't very satisfied with. She says it's like a hostess and accuses me of having a personal vendetta," Abigail chimed in as Lewis and Luke, discussed enthusiastically.

Sean watched Anthony with a cold gaze.

Anthony raised his teacup, smiling with equal coldness.

"Is it hooker makeup?" Luke asked Abigail.

She nodded.

"Nowadays, young actors really don't cut it. They don't understand, but they insist on criticizing. They lack confidence in our style," Luke said, sighing heavily.

Lewis wore a troubled expression. "Yes, the industry has changed. It's difficult for me too."

“Aren’t you going to ask me how to handle the online situation?” Sean suddenly leaned closer to Abigail, speaking to her in a low voice.

His posture was ambiguous and intimate.

Anthony narrowed his eyes, feeling uncomfortable. He leaned back in his chair and started playing with his phone.

Abigail gritted her teeth and squeezed out a sentence. “Let go of my hand.”

She spoke especially quietly.

Sean looked at her with deep eyes but still released her hand.

Sean looked at her with deep eyes but still released her hand.

She breathed a sigh of relief. “How will you handle it?”

“Just find out who bought the trending topic,” he replied.

“You’re quite proficient in handling these things, aren’t you?” Abigail sneered.

Sean turned his head to look at her. “I specifically looked it up before.”

Abigail suddenly understood. For Joan’s career, he was very diligent.

[Chapter 149](#)

Different Addresses

Anthony glanced up from his phone to look at Sean.

“Can we really find out? The entertainment industry operates in secrecy. Once you expose them, your own career could be ruined,” he cautioned. He had considered this method before, but he had. asked industry professionals who had told him that if it was Laura, it must have been her company pulling the strings behind the scenes. With a big company involved, they wouldn’t leave any evidence, and they had already found a scapegoat to shoulder the blame, leaving themselves and Laura spotless.

“We just need to find out the evidence that Abby didn’t buy the trending topic for herself,” Sean replied, his tone less gentle when speaking to Anthony.

Anthony nodded and lowered his gaze back to his phone.

At that, Sean reassured Abigail. “Leave it to me. Focus on your work on set.”

Abigail’s emotions were all over the place. If he had realized this sooner, she wouldn’t have had to go this far. If he hadn’t let Joan run wild, she wouldn’t have had to join this crew and get into so much trouble.

Anthony’s gaze shifted between Abigail and Sean. After a while, he noticed that Sean cared a lot. about Abigail, but she was very indifferent to Sean.

Hundreds of years ago, it was normal for cousins to marry, but in modern times, it wasn’t acceptable.

Sean's feelings for Abigail were obviously abnormal.

During the meal, Lewis suddenly said to Sean, "Even if we find out, it might not make much of a difference. Many people face this kind of thing. Even if it's eventually cleared up, the impact of negative news can't be completely erased."

"Exactly, because some netizens read the negative news but won't bother to look at the clarification. In their memories, they'll only remember the negative information about this person." Luke nodded in agreement.

Abigail calmly added, "Since we're in this industry to make money, we're bound to encounter such things. As long as it doesn't affect our earnings, it's fine."

The entire entertainment industry thrived on exposure, but exposure itself was prone to backlash. Trying to thrive in this industry while staying unscathed was too difficult.

If it was indeed Laura and her company behind this, L.Moon would take action too.

After the meal, Sean pulled Abigail aside. When Anthony, Luke, and the others left, he spoke with a serious expression. "Can you stay away from Anthony?"

"Anthony just arrived on set today. Do you think he, as an investor who's trying to make money, has nothing better to do?" Abigail asked calmly.

"So, you're saying I have nothing better to do?" Sean became displeased at that.

Abigail merely stared at him. "I'm happy when you help me, but even if you don't, I have my ways. to handle things."

Sean smirked cynically. "Your way is to let Anthony help you. You want to let another man assist you."

His words ignited a fire within Abigail. She bit her lip and remained silent for a moment before asking, "In your eyes, am I really that useless?"

Sean quickly thought of Abigail's previous actions on the show, which had caused problems for him. and Joan.

Even now, Joan's foray into the entertainment industry couldn't be openly publicized, no matter which set she went to for a guest appearance.

"Well, not quite. You're the first one to put me in such a predicament." Sean's gaze turned icy.

Abigail looked at him before letting out a long breath. "I appreciate your help, but if you don't help me, I can handle it myself. It's Anthony's personal choice to do what he wants, just like you. You didn't ask for my opinion either."

"You know that Anthony and I don't get along--"

"Sean, are you kidding me? What does your relationship with him have to do with me? I don't get along with Joan either, but you also shipped her off to the neighboring set in Millstone. Do you think I don't know?" Abigail coldly interrupted Sean.

Sean was displeased at being cut off. "Can't we have a decent conversation?"

Abigail couldn't help but laugh. "You're quite amusing. Do you think we can have a decent conversation? I have things to attend to. If you want to come to Millstone to see Joan, you don't have to go out of your way and use me as a decoy."

Sean caught up with Abigail and grabbed her wrist. "Why do you think I'm here to see her? Abigail

"You're quite good at pretending. For the sake of preserving the little dignity you have as a man, call me 'Abby' in front of Anthony, but behind closed doors, you use my full name!" Abigail

said, then shook him off.

you

She ran off quickly.

Sean did care somewhat about his image, so he couldn't sprint after her. He could only watch her

1. Frustrated, he tugged at his tie. "She's so ungrateful!"

Abigail returned to the set, patting her chest. Just as she turned, she was startled by the sudden appearance of Anthony in front of her.

"Is there a wild beast chasing you from behind?" Anthony feigned curiosity and glanced behind her.

Abigail put down her hand that was patting her chest and gave a wry smile. "No, you... Aren't you busy?"

Upon hearing this, Anthony immediately showed a hurt expression. "Are you trying to chase me away?"

"You're saying it like-" Abigail's expression was tinged with helplessness.

"I'm an investor coming to inspect the set's environment. Such a situation has already happened twice. If we don't nab a case and deal with it decisively, and if the crew has too many problems, it will leave a very bad impression on the audience," Anthony frowned as he explained.

Abigail looked at him and suddenly asked, "Do you want to replace Laura in this role?"

[Chapter 150](#)

Conflict Erupts

Anthony looked at Abigail as if seeing her for the first time.

After a moment, he chuckled. "You really are the woman who challenged Mr. Graham on the show.

Come, let's talk in my place."

Anthony had a separate room, which was relatively secure.

Once inside, Abigail's gaze remained calm. "I've got something in my hand that's enough to make Laura leave this production. I was originally struggling with how to do it, but bringing Luke in gave me a direction."

She finished speaking and took out her phone, thereafter playing a recorded file.

As Anthony listened to the recording, he saw Laura complaining sharply about the costumes and makeup. His expression darkened.

In a historical drama, costumes and makeup had to be meticulously designed based on existing historical records and murals. Laura's dissatisfaction with them indicated a dissatisfaction with the core message of the show.

If an actor couldn't fully immerse themselves in the turmoil of that time and only cared about how they looked in the show, it also meant they couldn't do justice to the role given by the director.

"If we let her go and lose her company's investment, we'll need someone to cover it," Anthony said with a serious expression.

Abigail looked at him and smiled. "I consulted with you because I'm hoping you could help a bit."

Anthony pointed at her, wearing an exasperated yet indulgent smile. "You've really planned this out, haven't you? You've included me in it."

"Who told you to bring Luke? If you hadn't come, I wouldn't have thought of how to release this recording," Abigail muttered with a slightly embarrassed smile.

"I'll inquire about the investment right away. Keep this confidential. How do you plan to proceed?" Anthony asked Abigail.

Abigail looked into his eyes. "Luke might not be effective in reining her in anymore. Laura will surely clash with him. After all, she's a star nurtured by capitalists, with arrogance and a disdainful attitude as her trademarks."

"Then I look forward to your performance," Anthony said with a smile.

He didn't stay long; after all, six million in investment wasn't easy to come by.

The market impact of historical dramas was tricky. Many big-budget historical dramas had both high quality and good reviews, but they struggled with viewership. Thankfully, they didn't operate at a loss, but if they did, it would be even harder to find investors for such projects.

As the show continued filming, Abigail watched the actors on set.

A major highlight of this show was a stunningly handsome male character, a real historical figure whose fate was tragically documented.

The actor playing this character w

ned Eric Davidson. He had a slightly feminine appearance

but with a well-toned physique and an exceptionally handsome face.

From the start of the production until now, Eric was a laid-back actor. However, Abigail did a little research privately and found out that Eric was undoubtedly a skilled actor.

Still, today Luke pointed out a few emotional nuances that Eric wasn't getting right.

Luke, who had a deep understanding of historical dramas, could spot whether an actor was portraying the role accurately better than Lewis.

Soon, it was Laura's turn. Unsatisfied with her appearance, Luke shook his head as soon as she spoke. "No, she can't perform like this," he announced.

Laura's character was fictional but still crucial. Therefore, the complex and conflicted emotions of sorrow had to be portrayed accurately.

Lewis had been getting impatient with Laura's inability to keep up with the others, but since she brought in investment, he couldn't be too harsh.

Luke looked at Laura, his brows furrowing with annoyance. "Have you studied this period in history?"

"The script lays it out pretty clearly, doesn't it? I've got all my lines memorized," Laura replied, suppressing her irritation.

She caught a hint of disdain in Luke's eyes. Where on earth did they find this professor? Even his appearance is repulsive.

"Young lady," Luke spoke gently to Laura. "Being an actor isn't just about memorizing and reading lines, especially in a historical piece like this. You should delve into that era of endless warfare and immerse yourself in the chaos and oppression inflicted by the barbarians."

Laura's patience had worn thin at that point. "Who's directing this play, anyway? Actors should just stick to the script. Who says we have to study history? Do you think actors have all the time in the world?"

Luke frowned but didn't respond.

It was Lewis who replied gravely, "If you can't deliver what we need, you should put in the effort to improve. You're holding back the re production and disregarding everyone else's hard work. It's making things difficult for everyone."

Eric, who was still in his costume, moved to the side and opened a bottle of water, thereafter taking a few sips.

Some veteran actors were waiting to shoot their scenes. Laura wasted a lot of time during every take, leaving them frustrated.

However, Laura brought in the dough.

“This professor came to help Abigail, right?” Laura suddenly brought the conversation back to Abigail.

Abigail raised an eyebrow ever so slightly, not saying a word.

Laura decided to stop acting and continued, “Since you’re an authoritative professor, I’ll pose this question to you-can I change my makeup and hairstyle? I don’t like them.”

Luke looked at Lewis. “This actress won’t work. If you don’t replace her soon, the entire production will be ruined.”

At these words, Laura burst into laughter. “Replace me? Have you put a single cent into this production? Who gave you the authority to boss me around?”