

The Epic BD 311

Chapter 311 I'm Willing to Step Down

Dexter's chest burned with raging fury. His tone turned icy cold, "Why are you here?"

"To get your signature." Josie touched his chest and helped him button up his shirt. She showed no reaction to the hickeys on his chest. "I didn't mean to interrupt. You should have a good talk with her later. or she will be sad..."

Dexter grabbed her hand before she could finish speaking. He narrowed his eyes. "Doesn't it bother you?"

Josie looked at him and asked, "What should I be bothered about?"

Dexter leaned down slightly and was momentarily stunned as he looked into her sparkling eyes. She's right. *What do I want her to be bothered about?*

He frowned and replied calmly, "Ask me, and I will explain."

Josie closed her eyes before opening them again. She looked alluring as she said, "But I'm not interested to know."

Dexter/knew what she was feeling. "What do you want me to do then?"

"I'm willing to step down from my position if needed," Josie answered frankly.

"What did you say?" Dexter growled.

"I'm willing to step down if needed..."

"I dare you to say it again!"

"I'm willing to..."

A strong masculine scent suddenly assailed Josie's nostrils. Suddenly, her lips were forcefully sealed by a kiss.

He bit her lips and pushed his tongue against her teeth, forcing them to open. Then, his tongue dived in, filling her mouth with a familiar taste. However, she immediately pushed him away.

Their chests rose and fell from exertion. At the same time, they glared at each other fiercely as if seeing their most hated enemies.

Josie breathed in. Her head felt dizzy. She was unsure why she pushed him away. All she knew was that she felt disgusted in the brief moment they kissed.

"Josie, are you jealous?" Dexter opened his eyes and asked earnestly.

Josie shook slightly as she looked at how stern Dexter was despite being in a ladies' room. He leaned down slightly and seemed serious about his question.

Seeing him like this struck a massive blow to her confidence. She laughed in anger. "Excuse me, Mr. Russell. Why would I be jealous about that? You were only making out with a woman in the ladies' room. It didn't develop beyond that. All that happened was that she kissed you. I'm not that petty."

Dexter pressed a hand to his forehead upon hearing *her*. He took a few steps closer and explained, "A business partner tried to scheme against me. He sent the woman to trick me into coming here. I didn't know she would be here."

Josie calmly retreated a few steps. "Is that so? With your level of intelligence, you must have known that it was a trap, right? Yet, you still chose to come here."

How far would they have gone if I hadn't shown up?

Josie was usually not that quarrelsome. She would normally tone down once he explained. However, she did not do that this time but disputed with him.

Dexter did not think he had done anything wrong, and his patience ran thin. He narrowed his furiously gleaming eyes. "Josie, have you had enough?"

I've only just started. He already can't stand it?

Josie wanted to laugh. Hearing his harsh words against her made her determined to argue back. "I suppose I can stop now. If I were to bring up all your scandals, it would take days. There would be no end to it. After all, you have so many female companions."

On the other hand, I, his legal wife, am as insignificant as an ant to him.

Her words caused Dexter to burst into fury. He almost cursed out loud. "Josie, why are you still holding it against me? I've dealt with the plagiarism matter for you. You didn't lose anything."

Dexter still thought he had done a great service for her. That made Josie feel even more dejected.

Chapter 312 Divorce Agreement

"I wonder whether my father will scold me for marrying you rashly if he finds out how unhappy I am now."

Her words were like needles stabbing straight into Dexter's heart.

He hated such feelings and retorted harshly. "I've told you back then. Our relationship is purely contractual. I grant you status as Mrs. Russell and provide your father with medical treatment in exchange for your help at

that time. It's a fair deal. Why are you angry? You can pretend to be pure and innocent before me but don't expect me to cherish you as if you are."

His every word wounded her heart.

You can pretend to be pure and innocent before me but don't expect me to cherish you as if you are.

Josie could not help but tremble as she looked at him. She had always known he was harsh with his words. It turned out he could be this vicious when angry and shattered all her hope with mere few words.

“Dexter!”

Dexter continued harshly, “Speak up if you have something to say. Don’t waste my time.”

His expression was cold as ice. There was not a hint of compassion.

Josie shut her eyes tightly and fought hard against the desire to faint.

I’m truly an idiot. Why did I expect him to be merciful with me? Why did I think of waiting for him to come around? Now, it seems I was stupidly naïve.

His heart is hard as stone. I’m afraid he will never turn gentle for me, not even for appearances.

Josie could hardly breathe. “Dexter, I wish to request something. I wonder if you are willing to grant it.”
Dexter sneered, “What do you want?”

Josie felt words on the tip of her tongue, but she opened and closed her mouth repeatedly, unable to say anything.

She never dared to unleash her full anger at him. She feared he might leave if she told him to. Moreover, she knew how insignificant she was to her, so she never dared to throw a tantrum.

Dexter was still smiling. He mocked her inability to speak, “What is it that you can’t even tell me?”

Josie looked into his eyes and answered, “A divorce agreement.”

Did she cause all this fuss to ask for a divorce agreement?

Josie witnessed his smile stiffen.

Although she was afraid, she felt satisfied seeing him like this.

“Why?” His voice turned cold.

“You’re asking me why?” Josie looked at him, opened the folder, and handed him a pen. “I thought you wouldn’t care about divorce.”

Dexter did not accept the offered pen. He felt gloom shrouding his heart. “Is it because of Arnold?”

Josie forced him to take the pen. “Please sign the document so I can begin work, Mr. Russell.”

She behaved as if they were already divorced and their relationship was that of an employer and employee.

In that instant, Dexter sensed they had returned to being strangers. After experiencing many things and their physical intimacy, he could never see her as only an employee.

“Is it for Arnold?” Dexter raised his tone. Anger grew in his eyes.

“You think?” Josie slammed the folder shut and stood up against Dexter. “Right, I did it for Arnold. I’m in love with him and want to be with him. I want to marry him! Are you happy now?”

Why does he keep refusing to believe that there’s nothing between me and Arnold? Dexter keeps running away from his problems and can never empathize with my hurt.

Chapter 313 Threaten Her

Dexter looked at her and nodded slightly.

Suddenly, he grabbed her wrist and dragged her out by force. Moses was waiting before the car. He was so stunned by the sight that he did not notice ashes falling off his cigarette.

Josie tried to break free but was helpless as he was stronger than her. He opened the door, pushed her into the car, and shut it immediately. The door slammed shut loudly.

Josie fell onto the backseat and felt pain in the back of her head.

Dexter suddenly pulled out an envelope. It contained a thick stack of photos. Then, he pulled out one by one and said, "You think I don't know. I have photos from your first meeting with him till now. Do you need me to refresh your memories?"

He threw the photos at Josie. The sharp edges scratched her face, causing the wound to bleed.

Josie picked up the photos and found that Dexter was right. He knew everything and was aware of all her meetings with Arnold..

"You stalked me?" Josie looked up in astonishment.

"Why would I do that?" Dexter sneered and leaned close to grip her chin. "You are nothing but an accessory to me. Why would I bother sending someone to follow you? You think too highly of yourself."

He understood her so well that he knew what to say to hurt her the most.

Josie looked at him and shuddered all over her body.

"Arnold had always arranged for someone to send the photos to me after your every meeting with him," Dexter said uncaringly, causing her to break down quickly. "Do you know why he did it? Arnold and I have been rivals for many years. Everything he did was to hurt me. That's why he approached you."

"Josie, it's not good to take yourself too seriously."

Dexter was an expert in striking people where it hurts. All her defenses were useless against him. Tears fell against her will. She shoved Dexter away and screamed, "What am I to you? A tool? You knew I had met him, yet you said nothing. Did watching me running around for you make you feel accomplished?"

There was no escape from the cramped interior. Dexter glared at her in the darkness with eyes filled with hatred and disdain.

His words became even harsher in his disappointment. "He won't be interested in anyone I discarded, so I advise that you stop dreaming about becoming Mrs. Carter. I'm telling you this out of good intentions."

You call that good intention?

Dexter had long driven her to a mental breakdown. She screamed, "Why don't you kill me. Dexter? You might as well kill me!"

Dexter was shrouded with hostility. He opened the door and let the cold wind rush in, causing Josie to shiver.

Without looking at him, she said, "I will send you the divorce agreement."

Dexter paused but did not turn around. "Whatever. You can do that if you want your father's. treatment to stop."

He slammed the door again. Josie shuddered, and her lips were pale.

Moses must have received his order and cautiously got onto the driver's seat. He did not dare to look at the backseat. "He... He told me to send you home."

Moses turned around when Josie did not respond even after some time. Suddenly, Josie said, "I'm not going home."

Moses frowned. "It's not the time for you to throw a tantrum. You stand no chance against him."

Anyone could see that, but Josie refused to heed his word. "I'm not going home. Didn't you hear?"

Moses had nothing to say.

"Take me on a drive."

Moses could not kick her out of the car. He had no choice but to drive around Wavery. They spent the whole night traveling all over Wavery. All this while, Josie leaned against the car window in a daze and watched the sceneries pass.

Chapter 314 White Underwear

Josie seemed numb and unresponsive, like a zombie.

She was still wide awake at dawn but was a little tired. Still, she did not feel sleepy at all..

On the other hand, Moses was exhausted. However, he did not show any annoyance toward Josie but asked, "Would you like to have breakfast?"

Josie had no appetite. "You go ahead."

She played with her phone for a long time before turning off airplane mode to call Arnold.

Arnold seemed to have just woken up and sounded hoarse. "Josie?"

Josie fell silent. She was unable to interact with him as she usually did.

"I would like to request your help."

What Josie liked about Arnold was that he would not ask unnecessary questions. He agreed. readily.

"I want to investigate Laura and learn about her background and private life. At the same time, I want evidence that she plagiarized my drawing. I will never let her escape," Josie continued.

She stood in the fresh morning air and felt the mist against her skin. Although her voice was soft, it was unmistakably determined.

Arnold fell silent.

Josie added, "I know you and her are considered allies, so you can choose to protect her. But if you're willing to help me, I will repay you. It's your choice. Also, feel free to investigate Dexter."

After listening to her, Arnold asked, "What happened between you and Dexter?"

Josie did not answer but closed her eyes and hung up.

Moses returned with a paper bag full of breakfast. Josie asked him to send her to the hospital. Upon arriving at the hospital, she suddenly noticed something as she was about to exit the car.

It was stuffed in the corner of the seat.

The thing was white and had a lacy hem.

Josie's hands shook. She could not believe what she found and asked, "Moses, where did you pick up Dexter from yesterday?"

Moses appeared troubled. He pursed his lips and seemed apologetic. "I'm sorry. I'm not permitted to reveal this."

He could only watch as Josie pulled out a white bra from the corner of the seat. The bra looked sexy and had a big cup size.

Moreover, Josie was sitting in the same spot Dexter usually sat.

Moses wanted to say something, but Josie pushed open the car door and ran out to vomit into a nearby trashcan.

He remained stunned and did not know what to say.

The hospital was filled with the smell of antiseptic in the morning.

Josie sat before her father's bed and appeared pale. She looked at him and said slowly, "Dad, I'm unhappy..."

There was no response except the beeping noises from the equipment.

It was still early, so Matthew had not come to work yet.

The nurse came to check on Josie's father and was surprised to see her. "You're here early."

Josie nodded but remained silent. After another half an hour, Matthew came to check on her father and frowned upon seeing her. "Jo? What's wrong?"

He instantly noticed something unusual about her.

Then, he went to her and touched her forehead, but her temperature was normal.

"I'm fine. I just finished working through the night, so I thought to stop by to see Dad."

Matthew's eyes flashed with concern. "Don't you have him? There's no need to work that hard, right? Your health is more important."

Don't you have him....

Josie replied tiredly, "Matt, do you also think I'm his arm candy?"

Matt was stumped. "I didn't mean it that way."

Josie smiled bitterly and shook her head. "Didn't you say my father's condition has improved a lot? Why hasn't he woken up yet?"

"He's much better now, Josie. I believe he will wake up after a little more time." Matthew glanced at the man lying in bed and encouraged Josie. "Trust me. He will wake up soon."

"Really? How soon?"

Chapter 315 You Can Always Rely on Me

Matthew pursed his lips and sensed her pressure. "Did something happen?"

Josie's eyes became welled up with tears again.

She was on the verge of a mental breakdown. "I want to know how long exactly. I've been. waiting for three, no, four years. Matt, how much longer do I have to wait."

Dexter's words replayed in her mind. He would stop her father's treatment if she divorced him.

"Jo, Jo...." Matthew did not hold back and hugged her. "It will be soon. I'm telling the truth. You have to trust me."

Josie suddenly crumpled after having finally found someone she could rely on. She latched. onto Matthew's shirt hem and wept.

She was so exhausted that she could barely walk. Thus, Matthew brought her to his office and let her rest on his couch. He guessed something had happened to her but did not dare ask.

Josie could not help but fall asleep. She seemed peaceful as she slept and looked adorable as a child. Matthew watched her in a daze until the head nurse rushed in. "Dr. Sander..."

She stopped in her tracks. "Is she..."

Matthew stood up immediately. "Is there anything wrong? What's the matter?"

"Yes, please sign this. The nurse was older and instantly understood the situation. She glanced at Josie and said, "If I'm not mistaken, she's married, right?"

Matthew's expression turned grim. "Yes."

The nurse sighed. "This is not proper."

"My sister has a daughter. She is beautiful and attends medical school. Would you like me to introduce her to you?"

"Forget it." Matthew signed the form. "I'm not interested in going on a blind date."

"Don't keep pining for the impossible. A man like you can easily have any other woman. Please heed my advice and let her go."

As a bystander, she could see how this would end badly.

Matthew put

the pen away and seemed at a loss. "I can't let go."

Josie woke up in the afternoon and felt sore all over her body. She opened her eyes and saw Matthew working at his desk. The sunlight shone on him, putting a halo over the crown of his head as if he were an angel descended from above.

Matthew sensed her gaze and asked with a smile, "Why are you staring at me?"

Josie massaged her neck. "I wondered how it felt to be an angel that saves lives and heals the wounded."

"You should eat something. I ordered takeaway. The soup is still warm." Matthew smiled and brought the food over.

"I won't be eating it. I don't have any appetite." Josie still seemed depressed. "I should leave. Matt, thank you for letting me stay here."

"Jo!" Matthew shouted after her. "You mustn't face everything by yourself. You can come to me if you're in trouble. You can always rely on me."

Josie smiled. His words were a shot of encouragement in her present state.

She did not return to Mason Garden but checked into a hotel. Surprisingly, Dexter did not send anyone to drag her home. He probably knew she could not leave Wavery and decided.

to let her be.

The sky darkened earlier at the beginning of spring.

However, the city remained busy. Time seemed to freeze as the long lines of cars stuck in the traffic jam below.

The light in the hotel room was dim. Josie hugged her knees and sat before the bay window. Her hair flowed down her shoulders and concealed half of her face. One could still see her beauty even under the dim light.

Josie turned to the window and saw a vast expanse of scenery outside.

She suddenly recalled when she was angry with Dexter and went to a movie with Kevan. After leaving the cinema, she used Dexter's card to go on a shopping spree. Yet, he was not

angry

but raised her credit limit. She even invited Arnold to the hotel to make Dexter jealous.

After everything, Dexter let her press him onto the bed and have her way with him. She was most moved by him at that moment. It was because she could feel he cared for her, at least a little. (2)

Chapter 316 A Friend from University

Perhaps her love for him made her feel elated whenever he was a little nice to her. However, if he were even slightly mean to her, she would wonder whether she had done something wrong.

Thus, she yielded to him over everything and was constantly afraid that she would lose him anytime.

Unfortunately, Dexter would never understand such feelings. After all, she was not someone he cherished.

Josie waited for Arnold's call for the next few days. However, all she received was Matthew's invitation.

He invited her to meet at a revolving restaurant on top of a building. Josie searched for the table based on the description in his message and soon saw him seated at a table with his back facing her. She calmed her thoughts and slowly approached the table. Suddenly, she sensed something was wrong. There was a woman seated opposite him.

Josie paused immediately.

The woman was petite and had a shy smile on her delicate face. While she was not considered beautiful, her eyes were bright and charming.

Josie was stunned.

This woman was her best friend during university, Nancy Stewart.

Nancy was not originally from Wavery. She returned to Rivodia, her hometown, after graduation. They each became busy with adult lives and gradually lost contact.

Nancy bit on the drinking straw and looked up to find Josie stunned at her spot. She called out softly, "Josie?"

Josie shut her eyes to stop herself from tearing up. As she walked to the table, Matthew stood up and looked at her apologetically. "Jo, you seem down lately. I happened to see your friend's comment on Facebook and asked her to see you. Please don't be angry.

He intended well.

Josie smiled. "I'm not angry."

"Jo, Nancy called her name tentatively.

Josie turned to her with a genuine smile. "Nancy, it's been a long time."

She sat beside her and patted her hair. "What brings you to Wavery? Are you here alone?"

Nancy instinctively glanced at Matthew and seemed concerned about something. "Yes, I'm a high school teacher.... but it's not a school in Wavery." She added the latter part for clarification.

Josie was surprised. "A teacher?"

Nancy smiled and explained, "I later decided to study hard... but I'm still far from your level. The tutor always liked to talk about how brilliant you were back then."

Matthew saw her smile and was glad that he had called Nancy here.

The waiter soon served the food. Matthew took Josie's bowl and filled it with soup. Then, he placed it before her and said, "You look pale. Are you not feeling well?"

Matthew spoke gently and comfortingly, calming Josie's frustration instantly. She rested her head on her propped hand and answered, "Yes, a little."

Matthew frowned. "What happened?"

Josie looked down.

Matthew did not relax his frown. "Jo, I want to know why your mood changed so drastically. Did something happen?"

Josie remained silent. She did not want to talk about it.

"It's not the time to talk about this. Let's eat."

Nancy noticed something wrong halfway through the meal and left the table with Josie with the excuse of going to the washroom.

A Friend from University.

Her glory during her university days was all in the past.

Josie sighed and believed Nancy had probably let go of the matter. At least she was able to talk about the topic calmly.

Then, Josie and Nancy talked about their present lives. Josie mentioned she recently faced slander and plagiarism. Nancy slapped the table furiously and nearly jumped up from her seat. "How dare they do this. to you!"

Josie smiled and was touched by her concern.

Chapter 317 He's Not the One

Once alone, Nancy asked softly, 'I can tell from his words and actions that he's a sincere man. Furthermore, he has a good job and cares tremendously about you. So, are you....'*

Joste looked at her and replied solemnly. "There's nothing between us. If I must describe our relationship. he's only a friend."

Nancy frowned and was stunned. Suddenly, she understood something. 'Are you in love with someone else?"

Josie looked down, unable to deny her words. I'm already married."

Nancy widened her eyes at the shocking revelation. Her tone instantly changed. "What did you say?"

She's married? How could she be married?

Josie considered. Even though her disappointment toward Dexter grew, she still could not get him out of her mind or forget the things that happened between them.

"I got married last year."

The sudden revelation left Nancy breathless. Her chest heaved and fell as she asked incredulously, "Does Matthew know?"

"He knows. Josie shook her head helplessly. "Matthew is a calm person. However, the calmer he is, the more difficult it is for me to say anything to him. I feel guilty whenever he is being nice to me. I hope you can help me to advise him."

Nancy looked at Josie bewilderedly. "Who did you marry?"

Josie looked into Nancy's eyes and slowly shook her head. "It's not who you think."

Nancy gradually stepped back. Her brow furrowed tightly. "I thought it would be...."

"He and I will never be together."

At the same time, the lights were switched on in another spacious room. It seemed like a warm and cozy home.

A man sat cross-legged on the floor. He looked down slightly, casting a shadow on his gloomy but exquisite face.

His slender fingers were beautiful under the light. They held a high-resolution photo that showed a meek-looking woman.

The woman looked down as she walked along a well-illuminated street. Her white dress fluttered slightly as she walked. She looked stunning against the night scenery.

More photos covered the floor near the man's feet. One of them showed her walking; another showed her entering a hotel. There was also a photo of her sitting before the bay window and one showing her slumped over the table, crying. Each picture showed a different action or scene but was about the same woman.

Someone knocked on the door and came in, holding an envelope. He offered it to the man. "Mr. Russell. Mrs. Russell went out today."

Dexter accepted the envelope expressionlessly. He quickly tore it open and took out the photos, still warm from printing. Then, he looked at them one by one. His expression gradually turned grimmer than it had ever been in the past few days.

He violently threw the photos on the floor. Josie, just you wait!

Nancy stayed in Wavery for two days. When it was time for her to return to Rivodia, Josie and Matthew sent her off. Before entering the security checkpoint, Nancy said, "Let's meet again someday."

Matthew hugged her and thanked her.

Then, Nancy came to Josie. Her voice sounded cold and stiff as she said, "Let me know if you ever come to Rivodia. I'll bring you around."

"Sure."

"Did something happen between you and Nancy?" Matthew asked as he drove. "Something seems off."

Josie lied without thinking. "We hadn't met for a long time. It's bound to be a little awkward."

Matthew grunted and asked casually, "Do you feel better after talking to her?"

Josie had a bitter taste in her mouth upon hearing him. She adjusted her tone and took a deep breath before answering. "Thank you, Matt, for working hard to help me. However, my trouble is not something friends can easily resolve."

Chapter 318 I Love You

Matthew focused on driving and did not speak.

"I'm a selfish person and have many flaws. People who get too close to me usually don't end well. Matt, you..."

Matthew pursed his lips as he listened to her. He placed a hand on his forehead and interrupted her.

"Do you remember the situation of our first meeting?"

Josie considered. "Yes, I worked in a bar then and got into a dispute with another girl. The dispute turned physical, but thankfully, you arrived to restrain her... Otherwise, I could have ended up severely injured."

Matthew smiled and replied, "I never get involved in strangers' matters, so think again. Where else have you seen me?"

Josie looked at his face and frowned. She could not remember anything. Then, she came clean. "I forgot."

"It was in a physics class at Wavery University. You rushed into the classroom with a cup of Frappuccino. and bumped into me, spilling it all over me." Matthew smiled as he recalled the past.

"We were in the same university?" Josie was surprised, but she could not remember anything. Then, she asked, "What was my reaction?"

"You seemed distraught and gave me the cup with some Frappuccino left, saying it was a gift for me. Then... You ran away. Matthew replayed the memory in his mind and could not help but smile with amusement. "Later, I found out you're the person who surpassed me and took first place in my major."

Josie understood what he was talking about, but she had no memory of them. She ruffled her hair and replied. "I was only lucky that time."

"I didn't expect us to be connected through so many things later." Matthew looked at her and continued, "I did not expect to remain in contact with you because of your father's condition."

Josie said, "I feel life should not have become like this. It feels like something went off the rail along the

way.”

Matthew asked, “What is your ideal life like?”

It was a good question. Josie smiled dreamily. “In my ideal life, my father would be healthy, and I would have gone overseas to study design. My life would have taken a completely different turn. I would travel to numerous countries to see the world and meet people from different walks of life. Perhaps we would meet at a different place and time. We might have a drink before going our separate ways. There wouldn’t have been so much entanglement...”

“What would happen next?”

What would happen next? Josie’s smile froze. Her mind suddenly went blank. She subconsciously felt that the life she imagined did not interest her.

Matthew stopped the car once they arrived at the destination. He unfastened the seatbelt and turned to Josie. His heart suddenly thumped nervously. Then, he said, “Josie, I felt fear when I listened to you talking about your ideal life. Instead of yearning for the ideal life, I feel our life now is better. Despite all the challenges and troubles, I’m thankful and glad to have met you”

Josie took a deep breaths and remained dazed for some time.

“Matt...”

I prefer our life as it is. I will do my best to save your father so that it will make you feel that life is worthwhile

“Why?” Josie was stunned.

“It’s because I love you.”

Josie pursed her lips and could not speak. Even now, there was only one man in her mind. That man was Dexter.

She could not imagine how her life would be without him. All she knew was that it would be dull. It would not be as eventful as now and be filled with joys and disappointments.

But Matthew’s confession told her she was what he looked forward to in life.

She thought it would be unfair if she didn’t tell him the truth.

“Matt... I’m sorry. I’ve fallen in love with him.”

Chapter 319 Make Him Give Up

Josie saw Matthew’s expression gradually turn grim, but he soon appeared normal again.

“I know.”

Josie was surprised by his response. “You knew?”

Matthew rested his dominant hand on the steering wheel and seemed exhausted. "Jo, there's probably no one in the world who understands you better than I do. That includes him. I have witnessed your joy, anger, and tears for three years. You are terrible at hiding your emotions."

He understood her too well. Josie knew it was pointless to put up a front before him. She had no choice but to show him her true self.

"When did you find out?"

Matthew smiled bitterly and looked at the setting sun. "It's in your eyes whenever you look at him."

Josie thought she hid it well. In actuality, her affection for Dexter was so evident that any bystander could see it.

Silence followed. Josie looked down and said, "I'm sorry. Honestly, I knew you had feelings for me since - long ago."

Matthew smiled slightly. "How did you know?"

She did not want to tell him that it was Dexter who kept reminding her.

"There's nothing to be sorry about. You only can't return my feelings. That's nothing to apologize for," Matthew replied without looking at her. His hands shook slightly on the steering wheel. "Is he good to you?"

"Good?" Josie muttered, "Sometimes, he's so good to me that it feels like he's willing to bring down the stars for me. However, when he's mean..." He could be cruel.

"A prominent man like him must have plenty of ways to deal with someone. Matthew was a good judge of human character. He pitied Josie and felt helpless about her situation.

Josie could not deny that Dexter had many methods at his disposal if he wanted to punish someone. Still, he had not done anything to her. However, even his scolding was enough to make her depressed.

"Jo, you need to take good care of yourself. Let me handle the matters concerning your father, okay?" Matthew patted her shoulder and encouraged her. "You can call me whenever you need my help"

Josie retreated from him. "Matt, I'm sorry. This would be unfair to you. I shouldn't do this. Let's not meet outside the hospital from now on."

Matthew's hand hovered in the air. His gaze seemed even more forlorn than before.

"I only see you as my brother. Furthermore, you deserve a good woman by your side. That woman is not me."

Josie opened the door and left.

The best way to make someone give up was to cut off all contact.

Josie knew it was cruel to do this, but she was unsure whether she could avoid taking advantage of his feelings for her.

Her conscience could not bear it.

Bonus

Four days had passed since Josie spoke to Arnold, but he still had not contacted her. She could not stand not doing anything while waiting and decided to return to Russell Group.

The employees in the design department were used to her coming to work late. As the superior, she had freedom in choosing when to go to work. However, that did not stop people from discussing her. They wondered why she had recently become careless about work and behaved as if she did not fear anyone.

Josie's phone rang while she reviewed a project during the daily meeting. She glanced at the screen but did not answer it. However, everyone stared at her curiously, so she had no choice but to excuse herself. She answered the call before she could get out of the meeting room.

"The first prize?" Josie whispered in disbelief.

Alice could not resist her curiosity and leaned closer to listen in. "Is it the first prize for Interior Design Awards?"

Those words sent the meeting room buzzing with excitement. "My goodness!"

Josie is the first prize winner for this year?"

Chapter 320 Bankruptcy

Alice saw Josie's aloofness after hanging up and complimented her non-stop. "Jo, you're brilliant. You won Interior Design Awards' first prize at only twenty-three years old! Do you know what this means?*

"My goodness. Why isn't Laura here? I need to make her regret looking down on you!"

Winning the prize was an incredible achievement for a twenty-three-year-old woman. One should know that the youngest winner was twenty-eight before Josie broke the record.

As the winner, she would become the new standard in the design industry for the following year.

"Say something? Are you in shock?" Alice tugged Josie's arm.

Josie glanced at the anticipating crowd and said calmly, "Let's continue with the meeting."

"Huh."

"D"mn, why is she acting like she's better than everyone."

Josie did not have the mind to care about the whisperings around her. Her mind was preoccupied with what the committee had told her on the phone. After telling her about her winning, they added. "We have blacklisted Claire from the competition for life for committing slander and plagiarizing your work. The -whole industry will soon boycott her, so don't worry."

Such swift action could only mean a certain someone had a hand in this.

Just now, Josie desperately wanted to scream that Claire was not the instigator. Instead, the real culprit was Laura, who won second prize.

However, she could not say it.

After the meeting, Josie stopped Alice and asked, "Did Laura come to work recently?"

"I've never seen her even once. I thought both of you arranged to be late and skip work together. The design department is having some difficulty without its two key figures."

Josie felt guilty upon hearing that. "Something happened recently, I won't be late again."

She had relied on wise sayings to sustain her for three years while her father was severely ill.

Men are unreliable, so one might as well depend on oneself. Moreover, one can afford to lose a man but not work.

Unfortunately, Dexter is my boss. He can fire me from my job whenever he wants.

No wonder the company doesn't allow office romance....

Josie could not help but feel afraid after his cruel words to her. She could not yet hand in the divorce agreement for her father's sake.

After leaving the company, Josie hailed a taxi to bring her somewhere. She instructed the taxi driver to send her to the house Dexter had brought her to apologize to Laura. She believed it was the Brandel family's home.

She never expected to visit there again on her own.

After getting out of the car, no servants came to greet her. Instead, she saw people moving all kinds of things from the house. It seemed something had happened.

Josie frowned and asked, "Sir, what are you doing?"

The man looked at her vigilantly. "What's your relationship with the people in this house?"

Josie answered tentatively. "Employer."

"What the heck? The Brandel family has gone bankrupt. How can they be an employer?" The man laughed mockingly and instructed people to move things from the house.

Bankrupt? Josie widened her eyes in shock.

She realized these people were creditors who came to demand payment.

The Brandel family was likely unable to pay, so they moved everything from the house as collateral.

Josie sensed something was wrong and hurried into the yard. She saw a broken and tired woman seated in the living room. The woman seemed to have given up and did nothing as people moved things past her.

Josie was shocked by the scene. She came to the woman and realized she was Laura.

Are you also here to demand money? I don't have it."

Laura did not even bother to look up.

“What’s going on here?” Josie asked coldly.

Hearing her voice, Laura looked up at Josie blankly,

“Why are you here? Did you come to mock me?”

It seemed Laura had suffered through scorn and contempt recently.

“Mock you? I don’t have time for that. Where’s your father?”

Laura laughed and looked heart-wrenchingly pitiful. “What do you expect? He has always been an irresponsible man. He abandoned my mother and me once. What’s stopping him from abandoning us again?”