

Unconscious 441

Chapter: 441 The duo looked more like they were going to the grocery store than to the film festival.

After finding the entrance and signing their names, Ariana and Jayson were about to enter the lobby when they saw Jasper. The latter was all glamorous tonight in his pink suit. In fact, he looked like a peacock.

Next to Jasper was a similarly flashy dressed man. The man was wearing a leather jacket and leather pants. His half-rolled-up sleeves revealed arms with flowery tattoos. He additionally wore a large gold chain and a piercing on his lower lip, nose, and eyebrows.

This man looked like the big boss of the underworld.

Ariana didn't pay much attention to the man, but she recognized at a glance that he was Edgar Benton, the new director who had risen to fame quite quickly for his excellent romance movies.

It was when she was trying to find the information about Jayson that she learned about him. Edgar and Jayson were about the same age and the themes they had covered before in their films were similar. They had even often been compared by the media.

Edgar was someone who knew how to analyze situations and had no trouble following the trend. He was able to find the backer shortly after entering the showbiz industry. As a result, his director's journey was much smoother than Jayson's.

Coincidentally, he also directed a short film this year, which was a strong favorite to win the short film award at this year's film festival.

Jasper hadn't seen Ariana in a long time. He didn't get to see her often, so he rushed over and stood in her way. "Why did you end up with Mr. Nobody recently? You could do better," Jasper said casually.

Ariana had initially wanted to ignore him, but Jasper had always been a handful. Seeing that Ariana didn't say anything, he got excited and asked, "What's wrong? Are you admitting defeat? You don't have the nerve to speak, do you?"

Jayson couldn't stand it and chimed in, "The reason we came to this film festival is to win an award, not to make things difficult for a lady."

Hearing this, Jasper snapped at Jayson, "You're so useless and yet you want to protect her? You're actually hoping for Ariana to be your backer, right? | think you better run away from here ASAP, lest you make a fool of yourself. You refused to cooperate with me, but know that many people are ready to do so. The director I'm cooperating with now is Edgar. The lead actress in his next film is none other than the popular Brielle Edwards."

"Brielle has nothing exceptional apart from her filthy scandals. You better choose your actresses more carefully instead of being the stupid playboy the Anderson family had the misfortune to raise. Your taste is as bad as your breath!" Ariana was no longer the same person she used to be. After staying with Theodore for a long time, she had learned how to be mean and sarcastic.

Jasper was so angry he almost cursed her. Luckily for him, Edgar was ruder. He immediately cut in, "You're Ariana Edwards, aren't you? You are a new agent, yet you are so arrogant?"

Edgar gave Ariana a ferocious smile as if he was trying to scare her.

Then he looked at Jayson and said defiantly, "Jayson Spears, you're nothing now.

You can't even afford your wife's medical bills. You should change careers ASAP."

Ariana was so pissed that she immediately retorted. "Mr. Benton, you are no better.

For the sole purpose of getting the funds for your movie and winning the award, you promised to cast a terrible actress like Brielle as the lead in your movie. That woman only gets her popularity because of all kinds of publicity stunts, but her acting sucks. Not to mention the tons of dirty laundry she has to deal with! | addressed you as 'Mr. Benton' just because I've got good manners, not because | respect you. You are just a puppet."

Edgar was so angry that his eyes were bloodshot.

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Jasper sneered and spoke for Edgar. "What's the use of being stubborn? Making money is the most important thing. What qualifications does a no-name like Jayson have? Can he be compared with Edgar? He is such a loser he can't even get his film funded! To think he hopes to make a splash with you, an unknown new agent.

Come on, stop daydreaming! No matter how good your script is, it won't have any success in your hands." After saying that, Jasper glanced scornfully at the two people in front of him.

Ariana was furious. Just as she was about to say something, Jayson suddenly spoke.

"There's no need to argue with them, it's not certain who will win."

His words managed to calm Ariana. She smiled again and sneered at Jasper. "Let's wait and see. We will know which director is the best after the winner of the short film award is announced."

Ariana then left with Jayson.

Jasper stood there speechless. These two had also made a short film for the film festival?

Looking at Ariana's receding figure, Jasper frowned. How could this woman be so confident? Was their short film really special? Edgar noticed that Jasper was worried and he confidently reassured him, "Mr.

Anderson, don't worry. I'm confident my short film would definitely crush Jayson's.

"Are you sure?" Jasper asked calmly. He actually thought Ariana was probably bluffing. This film festival rewarded films of the greatest quality. If Ariana and Jayson won the award, Jasper would be humiliated.

"Jayson's life is in a mess now. His wife's illness and the pressure to pay her medical bills are way too much to take and with that, I doubt he could be able to concentrate 100% on making a movie. I've had someone to investigate the short film they submitted. They'd shot the film and done the editing in just

two weeks. Do you think such a project can be of any quality? You really shouldn't mind them." Edgar clearly didn't take Jayson seriously.

Jasper felt a little relieved. However, he was still a little worried when he thought about how Ariana had miraculously made Sarah popular before. Jasper let Edgar into the hall first while he went backstage to talk to the chief executive of the film festival.

The chief executive was a lean, easily influenced man. When he saw Jasper, he dared not hide anything and told him all the information he knew about Jayson's short film.

"Are you sure the two actors who starred in Jayson's short film are new in the industry?" Jasper asked seriously. Jasper thought it was so funny. He would have laughed out loud if it weren't for the staff coming and going. Ariana was really so full of herself! Did she really expect to defeat him with such a script and ordinary actors? That was such a big joke!

The chief executive adjusted his glasses and confirmed again, "Yes, they are new in the industry. I've never seen them in any movie before. The leading actor is someone called Tyler Brewer. As for the leading actress, the name was left blank."

Upon hearing that, the smile on Jasper's face froze and he felt something was off. He asked to have a look at the short film and was stunned to see that the leading actress was actually Ariana. This time, he couldn't hold back his laughter. Those poor guys were probably broke.

That was the only explanation as to why they let a new agent like Ariana, take on a lead role in a movie when she knew nothing about acting.

Chapter: 443 Jasper was completely relieved now. He put on a proud look again and went to the hall.

Jasper sat in the middle of some unknown actresses who had long since debuted in showbiz. Some of them recognized him and they looked at him from time to time, as if they wanted to start a conversation.

Of course, Jasper knew what these women were up to. He sat leisurely and enjoyed the admiring looks they gave him. At this moment, he suddenly felt that there would be a lot of beautiful women waiting for him when he dumped Brielle.

In the past, when he was with Ariana, he frequently cheated on her with unknown young models and actresses. But he had ultimately decided to bond with Brielle in order to compete for the assets of the Anderson family.

Thinking about that, Jasper suddenly felt bored. All those who had ever wanted to sleep with him were only interested in his money and the prestige of the Anderson Group. Few people really loved him for who he was.

The hall was suddenly very noisy, which pulled Jasper out of his thoughts. He looked up and saw Ariana sitting diagonally across from him. At this moment, her innocent face in the short video began to reappear in his mind, and he felt heat rush up and down his groin.

He frowned at the thought of the unique opportunity he'd missed. He didn't have sex with Ariana when they were dating. Now it wouldn't be easy for him to find such an opportunity again.

Ariana was aware that Jasper was staring at her and she got goose bumps and felt sick.

Fortunately for her, the event soon began. The host took the stage to deliver a motivational speech. Ariana was focused on what was happening on stage and she didn't want to worry about anything else.

There were many awards at this year's film festival, and the short film awards were in the latter half. It was halfway through the event that the awards began.

The host was reading the winners when he suddenly stopped and looked around the stage with a smile, deliberately keeping the tantalizing suspense.

Edgar was so confident that he would win the best short film award that he had already prepared an award-winning speech. He adjusted his clothes and was ready to stand up at any time.

Jasper also showed a confident smile.

With a smile, the host said loudly, “The award for the best short film for this year goes to—The Missing Body directed by Jayson Spears!”

When Jasper heard the winner’s name being called, his face turned dark with anger.

Edgar, too, refused to accept the result. However, they couldn't cause a scene as the event was broadcasted live. Even Jasper knew better than to act so insensibly.

One of the awards presenters was a senior filmmaker in the industry, while the other was a famous director. The two had only praise for The Missing Body, commenting on how it was the underdog in its category this year.

Everyone acquainted with Jayson was congratulating him on his win. As one of his peers, Edgar should be joining in. However, his face was as black as thunder. He suspected Jayson resorted to some dirty tricks to have won the prize.

“The award-winning film will be screened in the front hall. Interested individuals can catch it later when the film festival is over,” the host announced.

Hearing that The Missing Body was playing in the front hall, Edgar immediately stood up from his seat and went to watch the screening.

Chapter: 444 He had hoped to find some evidence to accuse Jayson of playing dirty. However, he felt depressed after watching the short film.

Meanwhile, when the host was wrapping up the event, Jasper stormed out of the hall and bumped into the disappointed Edgar. “Weren't you confident of winning?

Why did you lose to Jayson Spears?” Jasper demanded coldly. “Well, his short film is indeed better than mine,” Edgar said dejectedly, seemingly in a trance. Jasper was furious and scolded in a hushed tone, “I don’t care about the stupid film.

We must find a way to turn the situation around. Previously, the netizens were so certain that you would win the award. No one had expected Jayson to win. There must be many viewers who aren’t

happy about the results. You can use that to get the judges to review the films again. | can buy you a team of online trolls.”

“It's useless. The netizens know what a good film is. Nothing we do can change that,” Edgar replied dismissively. He was a proud man who didn't want to resort to trickery to win. Besides, he couldn't find a bone to pick in Jayson's work.

Just then, Edgar noticed Jayson and Ariana approaching their direction. He stepped forward and interrupted their conversation. “Congratulations on your win.

Jayson frowned and felt indifferent toward his good wishes. After all, winning the award was just the first step to success. He still had a long way to go.

Edgar continued in a friendly tone, “I suppose this is the incomplete version of your script? | look forward to the day | can watch the entire movie.”

Jayson's guards went up. He didn't expect Edgar to be kind enough to congratulate him. Just then, Ariana interrupted Edgar with a smile, “We definitely look forward to having you enjoy the movie when it's done.”

Edgar turned to look at the petite, beautiful, and gentle woman. “Your performance was good in the short film, although not as good as Tyler's. But still, you were amazing. | look forward to cooperating with you in the future,” he said while softening his arrogance a little.

Ariana wanted to roll her eyes. However, she controlled herself and replied with a polite smile, “I just offered some help. Besides, I'm Tyler's agent. | have no plans to be an actress in the future.”

“We need to go,” Jayson urged Ariana softly as he didn't want to talk to Edgar anymore.

Ariana nodded and left the event venue with Jayson, completely ignoring Jasper in the background.

As Edgar watched the two leave, inspiration struck him, and he suddenly requested, “Mr. Anderson, let's change the lead actress for the new movie. Brielle is not suitable for the role.”

“Edgar Benton, are you hearing yourself? We have already signed a contract. Are you trying to break it?” Jasper scolded furiously.

“I'm the director. I am entitled to decide on my cast. This has nothing to do with the contract,” Edgar argued.

Jasper knitted his brows tightly and said angrily, “Brielle is starring in Mr. Winslow Calderon’s Half of My Country. She’s set to rise to fame quickly. If you don’t cooperate with her now, you wouldn’t have another opportunity like this in the future!”

“We can wait till she’s famous,” Edgar replied with a sneer. To him, Brielle was just a small fry riddled with scandals. There was no way Jasper could help her succeed.

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“Edgar, you'd better not regret your decision. How dare you go against the Anderson family? You must be mad,” Jasper gritted his teeth and warned. His face was sullen.

Edgar was getting impatient and replied, “The Anderson family is not the only one in the entertainment industry. Even if you drop your investment in my film, I still have many other investors I can turn to!”

With that, he left without turning back.

Jasper was so angry that he embarrassed himself by smashing the flowerpots and other amenities in the venue. Eventually, the security guards were called in to drag him away.

By the end of the film festival, all the movie critics and investors were in favor of The Missing Body.

It was the first time anyone had heard of a director named Jayson Spears, and it attracted attention and stirred a heated discussion among professional filmmakers.

An online influencer who had over a million followers started analyzing Jayson's past works. Within a day, his name appeared on the hot search of many search engines.

Meanwhile, Jayson was answering a call in the ward. It was the third investor who reached out to him that day. Although the conditions were good, he still needed to think them over.

"Thanks. I'll think about it and get back to you later," Jayson answered calmly before hanging up. Julissa was lying on the bed, looking at her husband expectantly.

He put down his phone excitedly and immediately shared the good news with his wife. "It's a call from an investor at Grayscale Media. He said that he is interested in investing in our film. I'm finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel after all these years!"

Julissa caressed his cheek affectionately and said gently, "Jayson, I've always believed in you."

"Julissa, we'll finally have enough money to cure your illness," Jayson murmured as he put the back of her hand on his forehead to feel her warmth.

"We can travel around the world and when we have enough fun, we can shoot a movie again. We will always be together. You can't leave me alone."

Although Julissa's condition had improved after the first course of treatment, Jayson was still afraid that there might be complications.

Besides, the treatment process was incredibly painful. He had to give Julissa something meaningful to hold on to.

"I will go with you if you leave me." "Don't be silly." Julissa chuckled as she reached out to rub Jayson's hair.

"We have to live well. No matter how painful, I will endure it for you and me. So Jayson, don't be afraid. I'll give this treatment my all, and you must do the same for your career."

Jayson agreed in a muffled voice, rubbing his cheek against her hand. "Jayson, someone is looking for you," Julissa said as she patted his arm and gestured to the doorway.

Jayson looked up and found Ariana there, holding a basket of fruits. He didn't know how long she had been standing there.

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Embarrassed, he ran his fingers through his hair and stood up to greet her. "Ms. Edwards, please come in and have a seat."

Ariana smiled helplessly, "Please just call me Ariana."

Although Ariana had told him to call her by her name on multiple occasions, he was stubborn and insisted on calling her Ms. Edwards.

Julissa smiled and greeted Ariana, and the three of them chatted for a while before going straight to the point.

"I have been receiving calls from five film and television companies in the past few days. They are all interested in investing in my film. I have already added them to my contacts," Jayson said with a smile. "We can finally enjoy such success, and it's all thanks to you. Ms. Edwards, I don't know how I can express my gratitude."

"Don't mention it. I just came up with the idea. You are the one who did the work," Ariana replied with a smile.

Jayson felt a little embarrassed as he was not used to being praised. He rubbed his nose and said sheepishly, "Since you came, I'd like your opinion on which investor to choose."

"Do you have any preference?" Ariana asked.

Jayson thought for a moment and replied honestly, "These are all excellent investors from big and reliable companies. But I prefer the BRD Group."

“The BRD Group contacts you too?” Ariana asked in surprise. Jayson was also surprised that the BRD Group would reach out to him.

He didn’t expect a big company like the BRD Group to be interested in a small-scale suspense movie. Besides, the amount proposed was far beyond his expectation.

“When I answered the phone, I almost thought it was a scam call. But I checked the number and confirmed it was real. The BRD Group did take a fancy to our script!”

Jayson exclaimed elatedly. He had been so surprised and excited in the past few days that everything seemed surreal.

Ariana smiled, “So I reckon you have decided to cooperate with the BRD Group?”

“Yes, I plan to. But I’m concerned that the company will interfere too much in shooting and casting. The BRD Group is a leader in the industry. With their strong background and capabilities, I’m afraid that there will be disagreements. Besides, I wouldn’t dare to offend them,” Jayson lamented after a short hesitation.

“Ms. Edwards, would you mind if we discuss this again after we meet all the investors?” “I don’t mind. Besides, this is your work. You should have the final say,” Ariana replied understandingly. She knew that Jayson was grateful to her and wanted to respect her opinion.

However, she only lent a hand whenever he needed it. Now that he had won the battle, the time was ripe for her to take a back seat. She had no intention of interfering with the upcoming production.

Chapter: 447 She didn’t want Jayson to feel indebted to her. All she wanted was for Tyler to act in the film.

“To tell the truth, I don’t understand why the BRD Group has taken a liking to this script. The budget is so small that it may not reach as many viewers as they think it would,” Jayson said with a puzzled look.

“Your script and cinematography were excellent. That's why it attracted the BRD Group's attention. Mr. Spears, have more confidence in yourself,” Ariana replied rationally.

She truly believed that the BRD Group's interest was due to his abilities. Holden had been so busy. Where would he find the time to notice such a film? Besides, her name wasn't even on the credits.

Julissa smiled as she peeled an orange for Ariana while listening to their conversation. Although it was Ariana's second time meeting Julissa, she liked Julissa's gentle temperament very much.

“By the way, I haven't paid you and Tyler for participating in the film. I'll pay both of you when I secure the investment. Also, I still owe you for the production cost,”

Jayson said awkwardly. He always felt embarrassed when money was involved. Money makes the world go round. Everything would be challenging without money. The lack of money could tear one's pride and even make one betray themselves. Fortunately, Ariana saved him just in time when he was feeling most desperate.

Ariana knew Jayson, so she didn't directly ask for remuneration. Instead, she proposed a suggestion that would put him at ease. “Consider the production cost as my investment in the film. You can also take Tyler's payment as an investment. You can pay him back with the money you earned from the box office. We can talk about the specific shares later.”

Jayson agreed without hesitation and asked, “Since you are one of the investors in my film, would you like to meet and negotiate with the other film and television companies with me tomorrow?”

Ariana didn't want to run into Adrian or Holden at the BRD Group, so she immediately refused, “I will have to pass. Tyler's soap opera will be aired tomorrow.

I will be busy overseeing it.”

The Sky with Romance was a low-budget soap opera and would only air on two streaming platforms.

Six episodes would be released on the first day, and subsequently, two episodes would be released on Thursday and Friday.

A few hours before the broadcast, the crew and the streaming platforms' official accounts had posted the photos of the hero and the heroine and followed them on their social media accounts.

Selene and Cole shared the news and interacted on Twitter. However, their interaction was largely unnoticed and there was nothing they could do. It was impossible to hype up the drama as there was a lack of investment in publicity during the early phase of production.

If there was any attention at all, it was all Selene's credit. She often showed off her rich lifestyle on social media before entering the entertainment industry. She would post on expensive limousines, jewelry, personal art expos, and private planes.

Moreover, she was beautiful, so she had a lot of fans.

Cole also had some credit for attracting some viewers to The Sky with Romance.

Chapter: 448 He was a good-looking man but very arrogant. He was like a peacock who spread his tail feathers whenever he felt like it. He was the kind of person who could get his way with his handsome appearance.

However, this time, the comments on his post were frivolous and casual. It was obvious that he had hired some netizens to send positive comments about him.

Ariana couldn't find news about Tyler while surfing the Internet. She felt disappointed that Tyler was ignored after he devoted so much effort to the drama.

However, she understood the situation. After all, Tyler was just a new actor, and he was not the main character. The soap opera was his first official appearance in the public's eye. She should take it easy.

After comforting herself, Ariana logged into Tyler's official social media account and left a comment on the post of the crew's official account.

However, Tyler's account was unpopular, and no one paid attention to the comment at all. After a short while, the comment was drowned by others, and the only one who liked it was herself.

Ariana had to ask Betsy, her assistant, and Sonia, her best friend, to help her comment. Ariana felt she could always count on Sonia, who even got her gang of paparazzi, to follow Tyler's account.

Soon, Ariana's phone was vibrating non-stop from the new followers of Tyler's account. His followers increased by nearly 300 within an hour!

Ariana switched back to her account and messaged Sonia, "Awesome! Where did you find so many people to follow Tyler's account?"

Sonia replied with a smiling emoji and said they were her colleagues in the studio and her peers in the industry. After all, she had many connections from being the most popular paparazzo.

Ariana was moved and replied, "Thank you so much. Love ya!"

"Your boy is so handsome. Some of my colleagues are obsessed with him. Where did you find him?"

"[found him on the streets. I'll bring him over to see you later. He's a good boy and a straight-A student in school."

Sonia cheered up immediately and texted back cheekily, "I like young boys. And a straight-A student? He's just perfect! | will definitely have him!"

Ariana laughed and replied, "Okay, okay. The drama is about to be broadcasted.

We'll talk about it later."

At three o'clock in the afternoon, Ariana and Tyler were waiting in front of the computer for the broadcast to start.

“Don't worry. You're not the main character of the drama, and we are not involved in its publicity. There's no need to care about the ratings,” Ariana said calmly.

Despite her calm attitude, she had four phones in her hands. They were all on the streaming platforms to help increase the drama's viewership. She even confiscated Tyler's phone for the purpose.

Tyler was equally nervous. After all, it was his first drama.

Chapter: 449 “Have faith in the post-editing and BGM,” Ariana said encouragingly. However, her heart sank at the sound of the opening theme song.

Ariana didn't know how to react. The opening theme song was terrible and reminded her of an old soap opera she had watched as a child. Everything in that old soap opera looked rustic yet bizarre.

“This is just the beginning. It'll get better later,” Ariana said as she tried to comfort Tyler.

Tyler nodded obediently, still staring at the screen.

Soon, the hero and heroine appeared, and they quarreled for ten minutes.

Afterward, the heroine went to the rooftop to cry and shout some words to cheer herself up.

Before the first episode ended, Ariana was already bored. She even felt sleepy and wanted to yawn.

When she first read the script, she knew this drama would be trash. The rookie performances by the actors and actresses, cheap costumes, and lame editing and music didn't improve the quality of the script.

Ariana read the comments section, and there were only comments from some of Selene's fans praising her. Some comments were even more interesting than the drama.

“I can't stand the hero.”

“Help! Why is the heroine so silly?”

“Is Francis Salazar only capable of directing such silly idol dramas?”

“Don’t make me watch this if you are my buddy. Don’t torture me with such a stupid story.”

“Thank you to The Sky with Romance crew. | finally have more funny videos to watch.”

Ariana didn’t know whether to laugh or cry when she read the comments. Well, at least some people were watching. She was disinterested in the drama until Gifford, played by Tyler, appeared at the end of the first episode.

Although the plot was boring, Gifford’s arrogance captured her attention as soon as he appeared.

In addition, there were several close-up shots of Tyler, allowing the audience to appreciate his good looks up close. Soon, more and more comments came in.

“Oh my Gosh! Who is this guy? So handsome!”

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“He is so handsome, wild, and manly. This newcomer is awesome.”

“If I am the heroine, I’ll choose Gifford.”

“| thought this drama was shit. | didn’t expect a pleasant surprise at the end. Gifford is the only highlight in this shitty drama!”

Ariana was delighted to see the praises. “Look at the comments! They are all praising you. You did a good job,” Ariana mused as she munched on some snacks.

Tyler smiled, and his eyes twinkled like the stars in the night sky. They continued watching the drama on the couch of Tyler's dormitory. Ariana felt so comfortable that she took a nap by accident. She couldn't help herself as the plot was boring, even with Tyler's good looks and outstanding performance.

She wanted to leave when the third episode aired, but perhaps because it was Tyler's first time seeing himself on the screen, his spirits were high, and his eyes were so bright that she couldn't bear to say anything to disappoint him.

Resting her chin on her hand, Ariana tried her best to continue watching it. She scrolled through her social media accounts and couldn't find any news about the drama anywhere.

However, it was understandable. After all, the romance dramas directed by Francis were known to be trashy.

In an era dominated by capital, good scripts were secondary. The more important aspect was the cost of production, as money spoke louder than everything.

Ariana sighed to herself. Although she was disappointed, she also knew it was difficult to climb all the way up in just one step. Tyler still had a long way to go, and they needed to take it easy.

The third episode was about to end, and Tyler, who had been watching intently, was about to talk to Ariana. However, he found that she had fallen asleep.

Tyler paused the episode and turned down the volume.

He then fetched a blanket and gently draped it over Ariana's shoulders. The atmosphere fell silent. Even the sound of rain outside was fading into the background.

Tyler stared at her face and thought about the kiss in the short film.

His heart beat faster, and he subconsciously leaned closer to her, smelling her fragrance. All his happy moments in life were given to him by Ariana.

It was easy for him to fall in love with her. Her beauty was so radiant that he felt like a rat in a ditch seeking the warm light Ariana emitted.

Suddenly, a clap of thunder woke Tyler up from his illusions. He stopped himself in time and smiled bitterly.

How dare he dream about having the bright moon in the sky?